

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

KIMIA ZABIHYAN

Kimia Zabihyan first came to my attention in 1988 when she was a key member of the production team of "Lords of the Golden Triangle", which was an audacious and important film about the world's biggest heroin trafficker, the Burmese Warlord Khum Sa. At that time I was Editor of Granada Television's flagship current affairs programme World In Action and, despite her youth, Kimia impressed me as a journalist and producer of unusual flare and integrity.

I subsequently moved to the ITV Network Centre where I commissioned factual programmes for the UK's most popular channel. Large sections of the channel's programming are produced by established ITV companies, so competition among independent producers for a small number of commissions was intense. In this environment Kimia Zabihyan was one of a very small number of producers who consistently developed imaginative and challenging programme ideas. She was then among an even smaller number whose work was commissioned on a regular basis.

Kimia contributed distinctive and distinguished programmes for ITV's regular weekly documentary slot, Network First. Among these was a programme called "The Yardies" which was shot in appalling circumstances in Jamaica. The difficulties of shooting and delivering this film can scarcely be overstated, and would be a challenge to the most accomplished documentary makers anywhere. That the film was delivered with style and remarkable content was one of the major achievement of the series in that year.

Next Kimia immersed herself in the difficult subject of chemical and biological testing at Britain's top-secret research establishment, Porton Down. While many attempts have been made to uncover the use of human guinea-pigs in dreadful and callous experiments, this film gathered well-deserved praise for the extent of its revelation and its careful judgement.

Overall I have no hesitation in recommending Kimia Zabihyan as a journalist of exceptional talent and ability. She will be an important member of the production community wherever she should choose to work.

Stuart Prebble
Chief Executive

