

## Synopsis

The film begins with a decision making session in Etilaat Roz's yard. Then we see Zaki Drayabi, the editor in chief of Etilaat Roz daily newspaper is listening to the latest video message from fugitive Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, in which he assures everyone that the situation is normal and nothing bad will happen. In less than twenty-four hours, by fleeing, he destroys the basis of all the achievements of Afghanistan.

His fleeing leaves the people of the country stunned, helpless, and defenseless against the Taliban. The fall of Kabul, impacts Etilaatroz with about its 50 employees in Kabul. They try to keep their newspaper working in accordance with the values and principles of freedom of expression. In this way, some journalists manage to leave, but those who remain change little by little. Zaki Daryabi, as the leader of Etilaat Roz team, decided to have a more active coverage of civil protests in the early days of Taliban rule in Kabul. A disaster happens. Five members of Etilaatroz were arrested. Two of them get severely tortured. Zaki proves to the world how far the Taliban's claims and promises are from reality. After about 50 days, Zaki leaves Kabul due to threats from Taliban intelligence units. Leaving all that he has achieved over the years, he carries only a few packages of his newspaper archives in a bag.

## Director Bio

I am Abbas Rezaie. I was born in 1983. I am a Hazara journalist and documentary filmmaker. I am working as a professional documentary filmmaker and video reporter for the daily Etilaat Roz newspaper. I have recently made documentaries on a deadly school bombing in May 2021 in west of Kabul. Iranian refugees in Kabul and an in-progress documentary about girls who were banned from school and work by the Taliban.

## Filmography

The documentary / Barchi / 24 min / 2021

The documentary / Circle of Death / 20 min / 2021

The documentary / Lying in the grave / 36 min / 2021

## Director Statement

I am documenting the fall of Afghanistan and the loss of historic opportunities for the most fundamental sections of Afghan society since 2001. My camera movements, replacements, and framing are amazing to me because they give my people the power to repair their mistakes. I am almost forty, but my recorded images look like the work of a twenty-year-old. I know the Taliban does not allow me, as a local Hazara filmmaker, to get closer to the realities of my country, but I will do my best to help the next generation of my country. They should see more than the other cameras from the camera I am holding.

## **Cast**

### **Director:**

Abbas Rezaie

### **Producers:**

Abbas Rezaie

Zki Daryabi

### **Cinematography:**

Abbas Rezaie

### **Editor:**

Pedram Yar

### **Consulting Editor:**

Kazem Aghaie

### **Colorist:**

Vahid Khoshnevis

### **Music and Sound Design:**

Pedram Yar

### **Post Production Supervisor:**

Vahid Khoshnevis

### **Post Production Adviser:**

Behrouz Sheida