



**FOUNDATION RWANDA'S SHORT FILM "INTENDED CONSEQUENCES"
IS NOMINATED FOR AN EMMY AWARD**

Intended Consequences by Jonathan Torgovnik and produced by MediaStorm.org is among the nominees announced for the 30th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards in the New Approaches to News & Documentary Programming: Documentaries category

Intended Consequences, a new multimedia film created by MediaStorm (www.mediastorm.org) from the photographs of award-winning photographer, Jonathan Torgovnik, and videography by Jules Shell, chronicles the lives of women who were subject to rape during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. During the 100 days of violence, 1,000,000 men, women and children were killed. Rape was used as a weapon of war on a massive scale. As a result of being raped, these women — among the most isolated of survivors — have given birth to an estimated 20,000 children and are often rejected by their surviving family members due to the stigma of rape and HIV, compounding already unimaginable poverty, emotional distress and illness. The *Intended Consequences* short film debuted on Mediastorm.org and can be seen online at: <http://www.mediastorm.org/0024.htm>.

Intended Consequences is a call to action. In the words of Stella, one of the women interviewed, “*The legacy of genocide is too hard to live with. But life continues. Tell the world that the international community has a debt, because they didn't come to our rescue. They should now come to support us, as we deal with the legacy of genocide.*” In the piece, which is viewable both in full and in individual segments dedicated to each of the featured women, their stories are told in their own voices, accompanied by still portraiture and video.

Torgovnik first traveled to Rwanda in February of 2006 on assignment for *Newsweek* magazine with then health editor, Geoffrey Cowley, to work on a story about the 25th anniversary of HIV/AIDS' identification. While there, he met Odette, a woman who had

been brutally raped during the Rwandan genocide and contracted HIV/AIDS as a result of those encounters. Odette described how her entire family had been killed and told how she had become pregnant as a result of the multiple rapes she endured and bore a baby boy. Her horrific story led Torgovnik and Shell to embark on a personal mission to document the stories of women like Odette and to share them with the International Community.

“Many of the women in this film took more than a decade to tell their stories and to start the healing process. For some, this is the very first time they spoke about what happened to them. Unfortunately, victims of sexual violence in Congo, Darfur, and around the world are facing challenges similar to the women in Rwanda. My greatest hope is that in seeing this film and hearing these stories, people will be inspired to act and work toward ensuring that similar acts of violence never happen again and that these families can have a brighter future.” – Jonathan Torgovnik

It is in response to these mothers’ desire that their children have an education and a better future that Torgovnik & Shell co-founded Foundation Rwanda (<http://www.foundationrwanda.org>), an organization devoted to supporting the education of children born from rape during the genocide, linking their mothers to medical and psychological support and using photography and new media to create awareness about the consequences of sexual violence and genocide. Foundation Rwanda’s goal for 2009 is to sponsor the education and holistic needs of 1500 children born of rape during the genocide. To view Foundation Rwanda’s public service announcements, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaJsR05yvl> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3xC9sNiFMU>.

To mark the 15th anniversary of the genocide in April 2009, Torgovnik published a book of photographs and testimonies: *Intended Consequences: Rwandan Children Born of Rape* (Aperture) and created a travelling exhibition in partnership with Aperture Foundation and The Open Society Institute which will travel to 10 universities in 2009.

Photography by Jonathan Torgovnik and video by Jules Shell, co-founders of Foundation Rwanda, who are both available for interviews from NYC

Multimedia created by MediaStorm: <http://mediastorm.org/0024.htm>

Take action at Foundation Rwanda: <http://www.foundationrwanda.org/>

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About the Photographer - Jonathan Torgovnik:

Jonathan Torgovnik (www.torgovnik.com) graduated with a BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. His photographs from various projects and assignments have been published in numerous international publications including *Newsweek*, *GEO*, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Stern*, *Smithsonian* and *Paris Match*, among others.

Torgovnik's award-winning photographs have been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions in the US and Europe and are in the permanent collections of museums such as The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Bibliotheque National De France in Paris. He has been a contract photographer for *Newsweek* magazine since 2005 and is on the faculty of the International Center of Photography School in New York.

About the Videographer - Jules Shell:

Jules Shell is the co-founder and executive director of Foundation Rwanda (www.foundationrwanda.org). She is the co-author of *Bar Mitzvah Disco* (Crown, November 2005), a collection of photographs and essays on the evolution of meaning, style, ritual and music told through bar and bat mitzvah photographs from the 70's and 80's and *Camp Camp* (Crown, June 2008) a collection of photographs and essays about coming of age at summer camp in America. She is currently working on her next book project about the larger than life stories and the blood, sweat and tears behind the family business (www.projectbrandnew.com).

About MediaStorm:

MediaStorm is a New York City-based multimedia production company that focuses on innovative, high-quality storytelling through the use of photography, audio, interactivity, and video. Founded by Brian Storm, MediaStorm's flagship online publication at <http://mediastorm.org>, showcases in-depth contemporary feature stories with an emphasis on photojournalism.

Notable projects include Marlboro Marine, The Sandwich Generation, BLOODLINE: AIDS and Family, and Never Coming Home. In 2008, MediaStorm won an Emmy with the Council on Foreign Relations for Crisis Guide: Darfur, two Webby Awards and Best Use of Multimedia in the Pictures of the Year Contest. In 2007, MediaStorm won an Emmy for Kingsley's Crossing by Olivier Jobard, took first place in both the Best of Photojournalism Contest and Pictures of the Year, and won the Webby Award for the Magazine category.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S STATEMENT**An Unspoken Language: Jonathan Torgovnik**

Rape was really used as a weapon of war during the Rwandan Genocide. And in my opinion, it wasn't about sex, it was about power, and this whole genocide, I think, was a

lot about power. Because a lot of the people can still, the perpetrators, could still not explain almost why they did it...

In Rwanda the wound is still very much open and fresh. It will never go away. The trauma is so severe on everybody - but especially on the women, especially on the women that were raped, especially on these women that were raped and have children from the rapes, especially on the women that were raped and have children from the rapes and have HIV from the rape. I mean these women in this project are dealing with the most severe trauma that any human being I think can deal with.

One of the last questions that I always ask these women is: "How do you see the future? How do you see the future of your children?" And they look at me with this ironic face almost and say, "You ask me about the future? I don't know what's going to happen to me tomorrow. So the word future for me is not really something I understand." But I say to them, "Ok, if you would have means what would you do? How would you see the future of your children?" And all of them say, "Education. Education for our children. If we can get our kids, or keep them, in the school system, we know that they will be able to develop the skills to provide for themselves because we don't know if we're going to live for long." At some point I came back and said from one of the trips and said, "How can I do something going beyond the awareness, beyond creating social change through photography? What is the extra value? What is the extra thing I can do to help these people directly? Not only in creating awareness to the public, but for them personally. How can I help them personally?" And together with Jules Shell, we co-founded Foundation Rwanda, that will provide the funding for secondary school education for these children and support the holistic needs of their families."

You know I think every photojournalist is an activist. I mean I don't think you can separate the two. Never in my career as a photojournalist I worked on a project that I felt so compelled to do something beyond the photography part. It really put me in a different place in my life in my career and my sense of mission to do things. I still think and feel that I have to do it through photography because this is what I do, this is what I feel I'm good at, this is what I feel I'm passionate about. And the whole idea of using photography to create this social change, to help the population you work with, I think is very, very powerful, and it has a lot of potential, not only for me, but for a lot of other photographers out there...

My project is about Rwanda but it's not about Rwanda. You know, these women that were raped and have the children from the rape and have HIV from the rape are you know suffering tremendously from these consequences but the women that are being raped today in Darfur, the women that are being raped today in Congo, in Uganda, in a lot of other countries in conflict right now are going to face the same challenges the women in this project are facing. What I'm trying to do really is to show the consequences and hopefully through this project and through seeing how severe these consequences are people will maybe be a little more active and help people that are going through it now. Yes. Rwanda happened 14 years ago, but it's still happening today. I don't

want these women in Congo, these women in Darfur, and other places to face the same consequences that these women I've been working with in Rwanda are facing.