

# They Call Me Muslim

A film by Diana Ferrero



Documentary, 2005, USA/Italy, 27 min, Color

## CREDITS

Director/ Producer/Editedt: Diana Ferrero  
Camera (France): Jigar Mehta (Iran): Diana Ferrero  
Sound (France): Jason Marsh  
Music Advisor: Daniel Hoffman (Davka)  
Technical Advisor: Jigar Mehta, Kean Sakata  
Cinematography: Diana Ferrero and Jigar Mehta  
Music/Sound: Jason Marsh (sound)



## SYNOPSIS

In popular Western imagination, a Muslim woman in a veil - or hijab - is a symbol of Islamic oppression. But what does it mean for women's freedom when a democratic country forbids the wearing of the veil? In this provocative documentary, filmmaker Diana Ferrero portrays the struggle of two women - one in France and one in Iran - to express themselves freely.

In 2004, the French government instituted an "anti-veil law," forbidding Muslim girls from wearing the hijab to school. Samah, a teenager in Paris who, at 14 decided to wear the veil, explains how the law attacks her sense of identity - and does not make her feel liberated. "Who says that freedom is not wearing anything on your head?" she asks. Half a world away in Tehran, "K," forced to wear the hijab by the Islamic regime, defiantly wears it her own way - and her translucent scarf loosely draped over her hair puts her at risk of arrest. When Ferrero films her at home, K, comfortable in a tank top and shorts, says, "They call me Muslim... But do you see me as a Muslim? What you have in your mind for a Muslim person?" Beautifully shot and finely crafted, **THEY CALL ME MUSLIM** highlights how women still must struggle for the right to control their own bodies - not only under theocratic regimes, but also in secular, democratic countries where increasing discrimination against Muslims and sexism intersect

## SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

For the most updated list, please visit [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com).

- Bellaria Film Festival, World Premiere, WINNER Premio Avanti (Distribution Prize)
- Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, New York, US Premiere
- Boston Human Rights Watch Film Festival
- Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Diana Ferrero is a native of Rome, Italy. She came to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship in 2003 and received a Master's degree from U.C. Berkeley's graduate school of journalism in 2005. She has produced and reported for a variety of Italian and American outlets. Her first documentary, *They Call Me Muslim*, premiered at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in New York. She now works in Washington, DC., for Al Jazeera's new English-language channel.

***"This astonishing and thoroughly enjoyable film is the best I've seen about what it means to be a Muslim woman in the west and in the Middle East."***

-Jon Else, Academy Award-winning filmmaker, Macarthur "Genius" Fellow,  
Head of University of California- Berkeley's Documentary Filmmaking Program

