



# JUSTICE



A film by Ilse van Velzen  
& Femke van Velzen

Congolese lawyer Claudine Tsongo is determined to search for the truth in a rape case in which suspect Masamba has fallen victim to a miscarriage of justice. Without any proof, he has been sentenced to ten years in prison for raping a woman; refusing to accept a plea bargain, he maintains his innocence and Tsongo suspects that corruption is at play.

We follow her as she peels back the layers of Masamba's case, and discovers a judicial system rife with corruption. In one instance, the filmmakers let the viewer witness Masamba's court appearance, a surreal scene that is more like a ritual performance than a thorough discussion of the facts—Masamba's lawyer walks around animatedly, complaining that "this is truly a scripted Hollywood story."

The film also strives to reveal how the present justice system in Congo misses its mark, partly under pressure from local and international NGOs to impart justice, no matter what.

Luckily, Tsongo's elegant interview technique encourages the prosecutor and her fellow attorneys to be surprisingly open—and allows the documentary to make right what the judge did wrong.

JUSTICE FOR SALE completes Ilse and Femke van Velzen's trilogy about rape in the Congo, following on from the acclaimed FIGHTING THE SILENCE and the award-winning WEAPON OF WAR.

2011, THE NETHERLANDS, 83 MINUTES  
COLOR, SUBTITLED (FRENCH, SWAHILI, LINGALA)



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