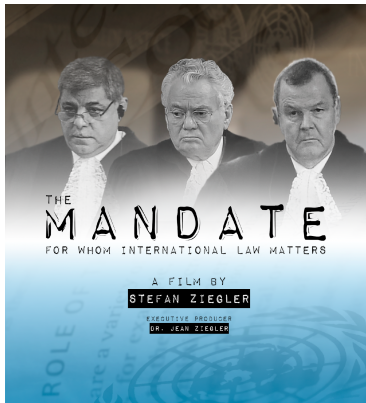


September 2025

PREMIERING *THE MANDATE*

Eight years in the making, filmmaker Stefan Ziegler's latest film *The Mandate* - a deeply personal and philosophical journey, through the lens of Israel and Palestine, into the battle of relevancy for international law - had its World Premiere in August with a sold-out screening and impassioned discussion at the Festival International du Film Amateur de Kélibia (FIFAK), one of the longest running film festivals in the world, now in its 61st year in Tunisia. "Our selection committee felt strongly that *The Mandate's* avant-garde filmmaking - breaking the 4th wall by speaking candidly to the viewer while building a philosophical argument from the filmmaker's lived experience and hands-on involvement and knowledge - was something our audiences needed to experience," says festival director Adel Abid. "By speaking directly to the viewer, the film presented for us an incredible opportunity to inspire and bring hope to the youth of Tunisia and we look forward to including *The Mandate* in our upcoming country-wide tour of universities and human rights organisations."

The film was designed and conceived by Ziegler specifically to spark discussion and debate, with the ultimate goal of broadening the worldwide invigoration of international law. Ziegler has poured his decades of work experience into *The Mandate*; from his 25 years of humanitarian work with the Red Cross, the UN and similar agencies in the Middle East and other conflict zones around the globe. Additionally, he has added substantive experiences as an international election monitor in over twenty countries, as well as sharing his knowledge as Associate Professor of Humanitarian Diplomacy in Geneva. "All of my professional work has focused on striving to understand the great needs of people exposed to conflicts in the world," says filmmaker Stefan Ziegler. "And that has made me deeply aware of the importance of strengthening international law for the benefit of those most vulnerable. Film and teaching with film are my way of creating awareness and positive change."



The film now moves on to its **European Premiere at the International Human Rights Film Festival Albania (IHRFFA)** in September, where it was chosen as one of 40 films in the program from over 3400 film entries. "*The Mandate* speaks strongly to the inability of the international community to manage crises perhaps more than at any point since the Second World War," says Executive Director of the IHRFFA, Kujtim Çashku. "The film is of particular relevance to Albania because the country is undergoing a comprehensive reform of its justice system. We would be glad to consider further screenings and discussions of the film in Albania during the year to come."

Building on these successes, Ziegler has been approached by numerous Swiss Embassies and international organizations to organize an expansive impact campaign for *The Mandate* beginning in November with a two-week rollout of screenings and discussions in Central Asia. "It is imperative that *The Mandate* be showcased in as many countries as possible to have impact internationally," says filmmaker Stefan Ziegler. "People need to know that international law belongs to them and is there to serve humankind and not those who want to hide behind it." Ziegler plans to take the film on

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further tours in Africa, Asia and the Americas before the end of the year, while continuing the film festival circuit.

For more information, please consult our website at: [**https://www.the-mandate.com/**](https://www.the-mandate.com/)