

RETURN TO KIRKUK

PRODUCED BY JOKA FILMS AND VIDEO ONE LTD
DIRECTED BY KARZAN SHERABAYANI & CLAUDIO VON PLANTA
DURATION - 56 MINUTES



Thirty years ago Saddam Hussein's secret police imprisoned and tortured 14-year old Karzan Sherabayani - His only crime was being Kurdish.

Karzan's older brother bribed his guards and helped him to escape the country. He built a new life in Europe, eventually settling in Britain, but Karzan never forgot his homeland, South Kurdistan in Northern Iraq.

In this revealing and sometimes moving film, Karzan returns to his childhood home to participate in Iraq's first democratic national elections. Whilst there, Sherabayani conducts his own poll to mirror Iraq's historical ballot, asking local people if Kurdistan should become an independent state or stay aligned with Iraq.

Karzan also speaks to politicians, government representatives, the US Army and Kurds, Arabs, Sunnis, Shias and Turkomens about the ongoing ethnic and religious conflicts affecting Kirkuk and Iraq as a whole.

Coming to terms with the harsh realities facing the land of his birth, Karzan confronts his own demons in the climax of the film, where he meets the man who turned him over to Saddam's secret police 30 years ago.

Return to Kirkuk offers an emotionally rich and highly informative insight into Kurdistan's troubled history and the difficulties facing its people today in their search for an independent state. It provides a rare, unfiltered view of the complexities of a fractured nation made up of disparate groups striving for their own identity.



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