

## LOKMAN SLIM MURDERED



Lokman Slim was murdered in South Lebanon. He was found on the morning of Thursday 4 February with one bullet in his back and four in his head. Odious disfigurement. This deafening act of violence, which without doubt amounts to political assassination, is ignominious. In December 2019, following death threats against him, he stated in a statement: *«I make the forces of fait accompli, represented by Hassan Nasrallah and President Nabih Berry, assume full responsibility for what could happen to me and I place myself, my family and my home under the protection of the Lebanese army».*

For the film community of denunciation and memory, courage and rigour, for us at GoldenEggProduction, the loss of Lokman Slim marks the beginning of a long period of mourning. We are overwhelmed with sadness and revolt at this execution, which has the dimension of a political, cultural and human, Lebanese and international scandal.

GoldenEgg Production had co-produced *TADMOR / PALMYRE* in 2016, a unique and unmissable film dedicated to the exactions perpetrated in the Syrian prison of Tadmor. This feature film was the result of an intimate collaboration between him and his wife, Monika Borgman. The two filmmakers had used their energy of exemplary intelligence and perspicacity to bring to the collective memory historical facts of striking importance. It was just as much to fiercely combat the recurring dangers of amnesia that they made *MASSACRE* in 2004, selected for Visions du Réel, of which we were directors at the time. The film portrayed with rare courage the stipulated assassins who took part in the massacres in the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila.

This present time is stigmatised by the irreparable loss of a great friend. In our deeply wounded memories we keep alive the presence of a man with a luminous intelligence, an uncommon capacity for work and a generous talent to share his convictions during the public debates we led.

In Beirut, together with students from the Department of Cinema / Cinéma du réel of HEAD Geneva, we visited their NGO, Umam D&R, this documentation and research centre devoted to Lebanon, its civil war and this particularly unstable region of the world. The commitment of Lokman Slim, Monika Borgman and their collaborators was all the more considerable as they were taking a foothold outside the parties and factions, which had long threatened their existence.

An intellectual inspired by political action, a staunch defender of human rights and a great man of the cinema, Lokman Slim was 58 years old: we are in tears, in mourning, and think of Monika Borgman, her family and all those, including the spectators of their films, who had the privilege of knowing this man whose voice, ideas and vision of the world will be missed and who will continue to live within us.

No one trusts a corrupt and enslaved Lebanese justice that has never for too long been able to prosecute the least executors and ordinarators. Therefore, his friends and close collaborators wished to launch this appeal for an independent international investigation.

**Our press release since last night can be found on [Change.org](https://change.org)**

**<http://chnng.it/KWr82RKjp7>**

**We invite you to sign it and circulate it among your acquaintances and networks.**