

## For Some Who Served, an Awful Betrayal of Trust

The documentary filmmaker Kirby Dick has become one of the indispensable muckrakers of American cinema, zeroing in on frequently painful stories about how power functions in the absence or failure of accountability. “Twist of Faith” (2004) was about a young man seeking some measure of justice after being sexually abused, as a child, by a priest. “This Film Is Not Yet Rated” (2006) focused on the secretive, often inexplicable workings of the Motion Picture Association of America’s ratings board. “Outrage” (2009) pointed a finger at the sexual hypocrisy of the political class.

The issues explored in those films are of the sort that hover around the edges of public awareness without always commanding the full measure of attention they deserve. Mr. Dick, a careful interviewer and a brilliant generator of indignation, does his best to make them unavoidable. His new film, “The Invisible War,” made in collaboration with Amy Ziering, addresses the shockingly common, profoundly distressing problem of sexual assault in the United States military. The problem is not exactly a secret. Every now and then a scandal erupts that generates headlines, hearings and pious declarations that such conduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. You may remember the outcry over what happened at the Tailhook Association meetings in 1991, at Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1996 and at the Air Force Academy in 2003. But as Mr. Dick and Ms. Ziering show, these high-profile incidents are far from exceptional, and the fallout from them has changed very little.

The Defense Department estimates that 22,800 violent sex crimes were committed in the military last year alone, and the filmmakers calculate that 1 in 5 women in military service has been the victim of sexual assault. “The Invisible War” presents other numbers, mostly from the military’s own records, that make the picture of pervasive abuse even more alarming. Many crimes are never reported — this is true of rape in civilian life as well as in the military — but among those that are, only a tiny fraction are dealt with in any meaningful way. A culture of impunity has flourished, and the film suggests that the military has mostly responded with pathetic attempts at prevention (through posters and public service announcements) and bureaucratic rituals of self-protection.

Mr. Dick and Ms. Ziering interview retired and active service members — like Capt. Greg Rinckey, who was a lawyer for the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, and Capt. Anu Bhagwati, a former Marine and the executive director of the Service Women’s Action Network — who have spent years trying to change the way the military deals with sexual assault. (The Pentagon has recently developed new rules about the reporting of sex crimes, which seem intended to address some of the concerns raised by this film). Scholars and legal experts are also heard from, as are Defense Department officials and members of Congress from both parties, but the heart of the film resides in the testimony of a handful of survivors, most but not all of them women.

Their stories are difficult to hear, though the candor and bravery displayed in the telling is admirable. Trina McDonald speaks of being drugged and raped while she was stationed at a Naval operating station in Alaska. Elle Helmer, assigned to a prestigious posting in Washington, was assaulted after enduring months of harassment by her fellow Marines. Kori Cioca's jaw was broken when, she says, she was raped by a Coast Guard commanding officer. To say that none of them, or the others interviewed, are satisfied by the military's response would be a gross understatement. In some cases charges were hastily dropped, never filed or allowed to drift into administrative limbo. A few assailants were charged with adultery, and sometimes, astonishingly, the victims were too.

Several of the survivors interviewed in the film have husbands or fathers who are also soldiers, sailors and Marines. Military service is often a family tradition, and the military itself, with its customs of loyalty, solidarity and shared sacrifice, can be a kind of family for its

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members."LITERALLY THE BEST MONEY I EVER SPENT!!!! The USAF charged my son with Article 92, Violate General Order and Article 128, Simple Assault. I spoke to many attorneys who said to me, "Your son will be convicted of the Simple Assault because putting lotion on someone's face is considered an assault as it is an unwanted touch." They all wanted me to work on a plea deal with the government that ended with my son being discharged, spending time in the brig and having a federal conviction for the rest of his life. Knowing that this just didn't warrant a federal conviction, bad conduct discharge and time in the brig, I was on a search to find an attorney who would look at this case for what it was: a couple of 19-21 year-old immature young men horse playing. I was looking for someone who would say something different; someone who would be able to look at the case from more than one view. When I spoke to Mr. Rinckey, I thought I was going to get the same ole speech, but to my surprise, I IMMEDIATELY felt at ease and I knew right then that he was going to be my attorney (not sure if he knew it at this time). He took on this case with vigor and ZERO FEAR of the government! He wanted them to know that this was NOT going to go away with any plea deal! And he went to work! Then, LITERALLY 2 DAYS BEFORE trail the government added an additional charge, which was Article 134, Unlawful Entry. Mr. Rinckey stayed focused, developed a plan, and off to trail we went. He was so prepared, calm and at ease. I remember him saying to me, "I am ready to try this case." And yesterday – 14 APR 2016 – my son was found NOT GUILTY on ALL CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS!!! Yesss!!! You know, it's always hard to find money for an attorney, but I learned one thing with this case. Although I thought we couldn't afford an attorney, the truth of the matter was that we couldn't afford NOT TO HAVE an attorney. I only wish I had found Mr. Rinckey sooner, but that's okay. I have found my ATTORNEY for life," Y.W. on Founding Partner on Greg Rinckey, Esq.

Prior results do not guarantee similar outcomes.

"Well Informed Legal Advice" – G.C.

Received sound and well informed legal advice. Responses were timely and extremely relevant. – G.C. on client relations attorney Derrick T. Hogan

&#8220;Great Service&#8221; &#8211; E.S.

I want to thank you all for the great service rendered [to] myself and family. - E.S. on Client Relations Attorney Derrick Hogan

"High Regard" – R.E.M.

"Your firm held my best interests with high regard... I thank you for your efforts." - R.E.M.

&#8220;Prompt and Efficient&#8221; – K.B.

"Prompt and efficient in processing claim, all correspondence handled in prompt and efficient manner." – K.B.

&#8220;Impressed&#8221; – W.W.

"As a retired heavy user of attorneys, I'm impressed with your concerns and your efforts to stay in touch with your clients. Its damned good management aligned with top notch expertise." – W.W.

"Excellent Service" – J.R.

"Excellent service, very professional, and understanding and considerate of clients needs. Attorney was very approachable and there was a very good comfort level." – J.R.

"Full Service" – K.M.

"I like the fact the office is close enough to where I work and live and that it is a full service practice, not just estate planning." – K.M.

"Professional and Informative" – J.H.

"Professional and informative... I was pleased with the handling of the case. I was treated as a person, and kept abreast of all aspects of the case. Thank you all." – J.H.

"Thanks So Much" – J.D.

"Without your firm, I would not have known of my claim. Thanks so much!" – J.D.

"Gets Results" – F.P.

"Most certainly – The firm gets results!" – F.P.

"Outstanding" – M.P.

“Results are outstanding.” – M.P.

“Quite Satisfied” – R.W.

“I am quite satisfied with the services your office has provided.” – R.W.

“Exceptional Legal Services” – A.S.

“Your firm, Tully Rinckey, has provided and continues to provide me with prompt, keen, exceptional legal services. After the initial consult, I felt relieved that I had the representation from Tully Rinckey... I have found a new found hope with Tully Rinckey...” – A.S.

“Absolute Best” – R.H.

“My attorney was the absolute best I could ever have hoped for. A pure professional in every sense of the word. She was very mindful of my financial expenditure and still was able to represent me very well in my court case.” – R.H.

“Outstanding Service” – A.R.

“Outstanding service, true professional.” – A.R.

“Top Notch” – V.W.

“My attorney was top notch. Very pleasant and helpful.” – V.W.

“Very Thankful” – C.P.

“Very thankful for the help and guidance I received from your law firm. Because of your law firm I was able to return to work with all my back benefits.” – C.P.

“Ideal Choice” – D.H.

“My attorney knew exactly the approach to take and was the ideal choice. She was extremely responsive. She was clear, balanced, and open to our views and feelings. She made it clear she was there for us and ready to answer questions.” – D.H.

“Very Satisfied” – D.D.

“I was very satisfied with the services provided which were completed in a very timely and professional manner.” – D.D.

“Excellent” – B.M.

“Your firm provides excellent & free service to federal workers and NG/USAR members.” – B.M.