



THE  
MARTYR

A Documentary Feature Film

Treatment by Elliot C. Rosen

In April of 1988, my mom saw the front page of the Chicago Tribune.

The headline was:



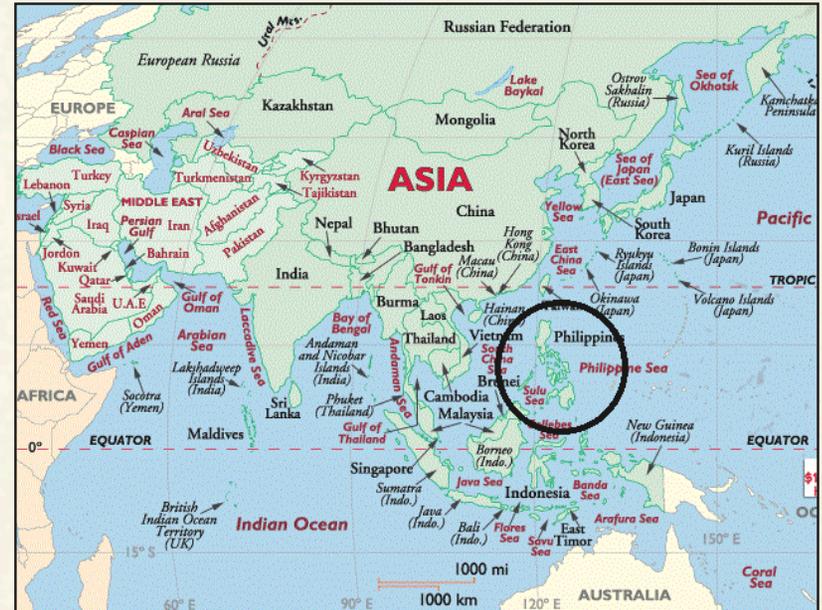
"Funeral for Father Carl Schmitz"

That was her uncle.



# THE SETTING

Mindanao, Philippines - 1988



# Father Carl Schmitz

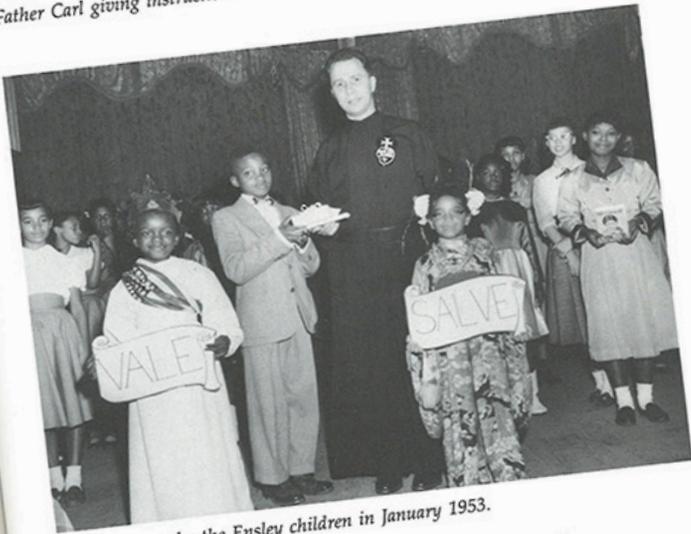
## An American Missionary

Father Carl was a missionary stationed in Mindanao, Philippines.

He was an extremely outspoken environmental defender protecting the indigeous lands of the indigenous people.



Father Carl giving instructions in an Ensley home, 1951.



Farewell party by the Ensley children in January 1953.

During the 80s, multinational-  
al lumber corporations targeted  
valuable lands in Mindanao. Any-  
one who resisted became victims of  
genocide by the Philippine army.  
10,000-100,000 were murdered by  
the regime. Tens of thousands more  
were tortured or disappeared.

Father Carl was one of those killings.

# THE KILLER



Father Carl was assassinated by his closest student with a highpowered US rifle at close range

The kiler was a devout Catholic, awarded a UNICEF scholarship, and Father Carl even presided at his wedding

He was sentenced to 30 years in jail.



But the story

does not end there.

A key eyewitness was  
suspiciously killed just  
before the trial...

The killer confessed  
immediately, but after just  
three months he walked  
free...

..and was never seen again



Why was Father Carl assassinated?

This documentary seeks those answers.

# US INVOLVEMENT BACK THEN

During martial law from 1972-1986, US aid averaged 145% of the Philippines' state revenues and paid 15% of the military budget of the Philippines

There were significant U.S. business interests there, the protection of which is important to the USG

After just the first two years of martial law, US funds to the Philippines increased 5.5x

AND NOW...

# MODERN DAY CRISIS

In the past five years, the Philippines has been the world's deadliest country for environmental defenders due to US-backed illegal mining

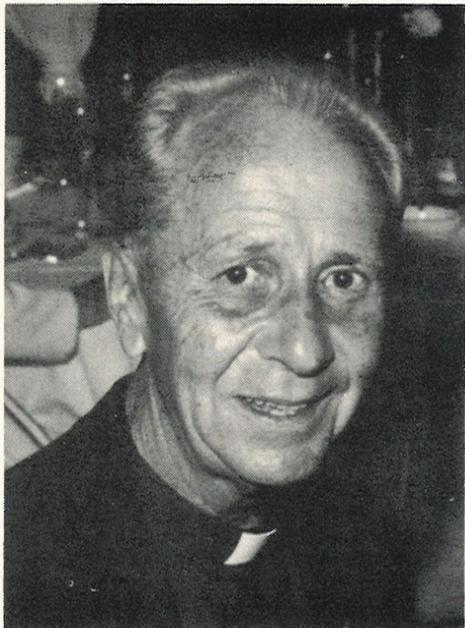
500,000 indigenous Filipinos have been displaced or forced into concentration camps by the Philippine army

The US operates 17 illegal armed bases in the Philippines, waging a secret war against indigenous Filipino land defenders



It's urgent we  
tell this story now.

# SAINTHOOD BLOCKED?



Reverend Carl Schmitz, C.P.

To honor his legacy, the Passionist Order and a Filipino Bishop petitioned the Vatican for Father Carl's Sainthood.

But as of August 2019, his Sainthood process is blocked for being...

**"TOO POLITICAL"**

**NEW UPDATE!**

The next slide contains very  
sensitive information.

We respectfully ask for your  
utmost discretion.

# WE FOUND THE KILLER

BUT HE'S NOT DEAD OR IN JAIL LIKE WE THOUGHT...



1988



FEB, 2020

# HE'S THE MAYOR

Could this be why Father Carl's  
Sainthood was deemed  
"too political"?

# STORY OUTLINE

## ACT 1

- The 1988 Assassination
- Father Carl's background
- Corrupt murder trial

## ACT 2

### PLOT TWIST

- The Killer is the Mayor!
- Modern day crisis in Mindanao

## ACT 3

- Genocide of indigenous Filipinos
- The US illegal covert warfare
- Call to action



**10+ INTERVIEWS**

# OUR PROGRESS



**EXCLUSIVE ACCESS  
IN MINDANAO**



**SIZZLE REEL**



**ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE**



**ida** international  
documentary  
association



**PARTNERSHIPS**



# SCHEDULE

Complete US filming: 1 months

Philippines Filming: 2 months

Edit: 3 months

Distribute Online

Impact Tour: 1 year

# The Team



**Elliot C. Rosen**  
Director/Producer/Writer



**Colleen C. Rosen**  
Researcher



**Luke Terrell**  
Producer



**Grace Simbulan**  
Producer



**Nerissa N Allegretti**  
Consultant Producer



**Victor Tan**  
Cinematographer



**David Ling**  
Production Intern



**Nick Rekenhaller**  
Consultant Producer

## Director's Statement

It has been over 30 years since my great uncle, Father Carl, was brutally assassinated in the Philippines; however, for my entire family, the memory is all too fresh. As a child, I grew up hearing many stories of Father Carl's amazing deeds.



Although robbed of the chance to meet him, he is someone I will always look up to.

When I started interviewing my family members about Father Carl, I was shocked at how much of the mystery behind his assassination remains unresolved. I realized it was my duty as a family member and a filmmaker to uncover the truth.

While making this documentary, we will safely confront Father Carl's killer, continue his mission of defending indigenous land rights for the people of Mindanao, and restore his Sainthood with the Catholic Church.

# TARGET AUDIENCES



True Crime  
Fans



Environmental  
Activists



Filipino  
Community



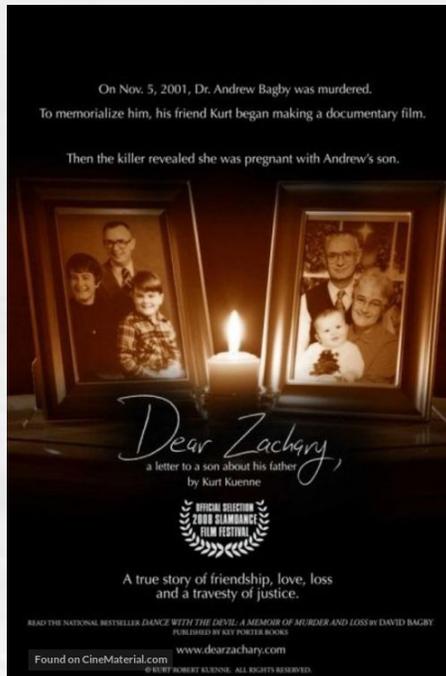
Catholics

Top 10 in the U.S. Today

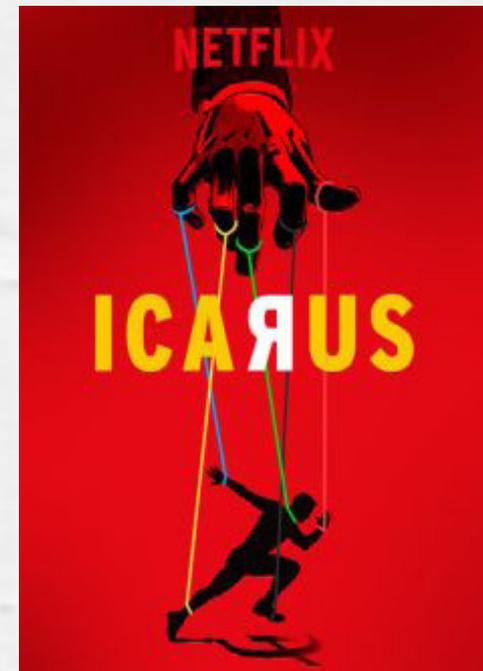


Documentaries are one of the hottest genres on Netflix right now.

# DOCUMENTARY COMPARABLES

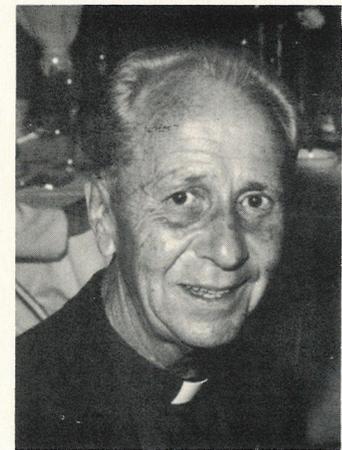


MEETS



# LARGER IMPACTS

- Raise international awareness of the untold environmental and human rights abuse in Mindanao, Philippines
- Save indigenous Filipinos from genocide
- Resume Father Carl's Sainthood process



Reverend Carl Schmitz, C.P.