

## **STOLEN**

### Long Synopsis

What originally started out as a documentary about a family reunion, became a story about modern slavery.

In 2006 the filmmakers Daniel Fallshaw and Violeta Ayala were drawn to the cause of the Polisario Liberation Front who represent the Saharawi people and have long fought for control of Western Sahara against the competing interests of Morocco. They spent several weeks in a refugee camp controlled by the Polisario. Inside the camps, there is a complex hierarchy between the white and black Saharawis. The filmmakers focused on a black woman in her 30s, Fetim, who had a noticeably servile relationship to an older white woman named Deido. As filming continued, persuasive testimony emerged that slavery continues to be practiced.

The Polisario staunchly maintains that it forbids slavery. When the filmmakers raised the topic in the camps, they soon found themselves unwelcome. Fearing their tapes would be seized the filmmakers buried them in the desert. **Stolen** becomes a tale of suspense and political intrigue as the filmmakers struggle to recover their tapes. Placing themselves in the story, they document their own moral quandaries. The film is a fascinating study of the perils of documentary filmmaking. They don't purport to have all the answers, but they do raise important questions.

Link to [www.thetruthaboutstolen.org](http://www.thetruthaboutstolen.org)