



TO
BULGARIAN AND EUROPEAN MEDIA

OPEN LETTER
BY THE BOARD OF
THE UNION OF BULGARIAN FILM MAKERS

The Board of the Union of Bulgarian Film Makers (created 80 years ago in 1934, with nearly 900 members nowadays) states officially that the authors of the documentary film "Uncle Tony, Three Fools and the Secret Service" Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova propagated falsehoods about the BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY 2014 for months.

Their announcements in Bulgarian printed and electronic media, on the web sites of authoritative European organizations, at the Official Ceremony of the BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY 2014 directly broadcasted by the Bulgarian National Television and at the special Press conference in Bulgarian News Agency, organized by Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova, are groundless and devoid of ethics.

The facts are the following:

- I. On the evening of the 20th of January 2014 Vesela Kazakova announced that the film "Uncle Tony" is not allowed to enter the competition for the awards of the Bulgarian Film Academy" which was untrue allegation. Because their application was accepted with a signature by the administration of UBFM on the same day, 20th of January 2014.
- II. On the 31st of January 2014 Mileva and Kazakova announced that they "overcome" and the film is accepted – also untrue allegation. Because the RULES of the BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY does not include any preliminary selection for the competition or any kind of censorship.
- III. Also untrue was their statement that in the Section "Film Directors" of the Bulgarian Film Academy was accepted a ballot-paper after the end of its meeting, received with 3 hours' delay. Because Vesela Kazakova herself refused – as one of the two counters of the ballot-papers at this meeting – to calculate it for the Record of proceedings. So this ballot-paper was dropped out.
- IV. At the Press conference was said also the untrue thing that another, handed at the meeting of the Section "Film Directors" ballot-paper was not counted up. Because Vesela Kazakova personally counted it up as one of the 30 ballot-papers in this Section.
- V. The announcement by Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova that the Board of the Union of Bulgarian Film Makers discussed their film "Uncle Tony" is also untrue.
- VI. Their statement that the film "Uncle Tony" was nominated by the Section "Film Directors" for the Best Documentary Award is also untrue. Because of this untrue statement by Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova the Board of the Union of Bulgarian Film Makers took a decision to count up at its meeting all the 30 ballot-papers from this Section. And again the result was that namely in the Section "Film Directors" the film "Uncle Tony" has not received enough votes to be nominated for this award (*in this Section for this film voted 7 people from 30 and it received 18 points; and in the 10 Sections of the Bulgarian Film Academy from totally voted 123 people only 24 voted for the nomination of this film for this*

award). Behind this Decision of the Board of UBFM about the results of the second count up of the 30 ballot-papers stand in written form the Presidents of the 10 film organizations that compose the BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY, with the exception of only one because he was not in Bulgaria at that time - <http://filmmakersbg.org/reshenia-US.htm>. (Note: UBFM has all the documents that prove all the above explained Mina Mileva's and Vesela Kazakova's falsehoods. Besides there are eyewitnesses that Vesela Kazakova shot with camera the ballot-papers which she counted up personally as one of the 2 counters in the Section "Film Directors". And this can be interpreted as a "controlled vote".)

The Board of the UNION OF BULGARIAN FILM MAKERS declares that the propagated falsehoods by Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova in Bulgarian media and on the web sites of European organizations are wholly devoid of foundation and calumniate the UNION OF BULGARIAN FILM MAKERS, the BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY and our country BULGARIA in the world.

With this Declaration we want to give voice to the truth about the scandal around the film "Uncle Tony, Three Fools and the Secret Service" both on national and European level.

We do this with some delay because we wanted and expected that the movie authors Mina Mileva and Vesela Kazakova will realize all the dishonesty of their actions, and their responsibilities for all their manipulations, compromises and lies namely about BULGARIAN FILM ACADEMY 2014 - <http://www.filmmakersbg.org/awards-2013-eng.htm>.

With this Open Letter we stand behind the position of the National Cinema Council at the Bulgarian National Film Centre about the film "Uncle Tony, Three Fools and the Secret Service", expressed in NFC's letter to the Bulgarian Minister of Culture - http://www.nfc.bg/en/za_nas/ekspertno-konsultativni_organ/nacionalen_savet_za_kino.

18.07.2014

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