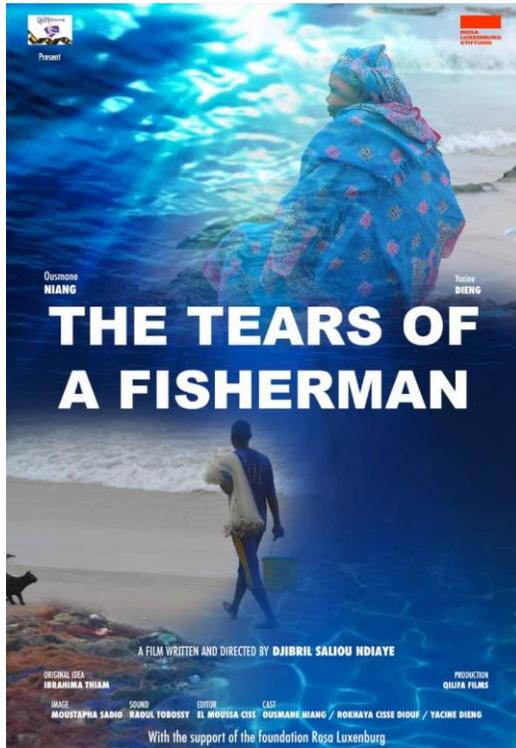


About the Film *"The Fisherman's Tears"* A Beautiful tool for Awareness and Advocacy



In a world where climate change continues to wreak havoc on our most vulnerable communities, the small village of Bargny Senegal has stood out for the constant challenges their citizens face because of global warming. The ways in which humans continue to neglect and destroy the planet regardless of the impacts it has on others, is an urgent problem for which we desperately need to find a solution. With the upcoming Conference of the Parties taking place in Egypt in November, and happening on African soil for the first time, we hope to draw attention to the problems plaguing these communities and find solutions to combat the effects of climate change.

Through the seventh art, a documentary film session at the Municipal Library Abass Ndione has allowed an audience of prominent community figures such as leaders of fisher's organizations, women processors of seafood,

activists and environmentalists of this community to watch on a big screen the extent of the damage climate change would cause if prevention measures were not put in place. The film session was set to happen at 7 pm on Saturday October 1st and the event was organized by RAPEN and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

A diagnosis without concession

Congratulations should be given to the director and everyone involved in the making of the documentary. It was spectacular. The audience was entranced, totally immersed in everything happening on screen, captivated by the fisherman's story. By the end of the screening, the audience felt as though they had truly experienced the life portrayed in *The Fisherman's Tears*, as the film managed to brilliantly portray and reflect the daily struggles a fisherman faces. The daily hardships Bargny faces as a community composed mainly of fishermen are thoroughly explored and well explained in this film. It really allows the audience to empathize with the fisherman's struggle. Scene after scene, no part of the fisherman's life was left out. The audience could celebrate with the fisherman during the most joyous times when fish were abundant, because it felt as though they were actually there. Feelings of sadness and anger were evoked within the hearts of viewers during the *times of "skinny cows"*, when years of structural adjustment and a plethora of unforeseen changes, led to a drastic increase of fishing licenses to foreign boats, factories and trawlers, most of whom were of Chinese or European origin. The arrival of these new fishing boats and foreign companies led to overfishing and brutal exploitation of the fishing resource. The actors in the film revealed the seabed has

been totally scraped due to this merciless extraction of sea products and natural resources. This documentary explains how only 10 km from the coast in a place called Kassaw, precisely where Total Energies installed its oil- and gas-drilling platform in Rufisque offshore preford, there used to be an abundance of marine life and tons of fish were caught by local fishermen on pirogues every year. Now, despite traveling hundreds of kilometers on motor boats, and using up enough fuel to reach places like Guinea or Sierra Leone, fishermen still can't catch enough fish. Consequently, more than 400 pirogues are moored on the shore. The youngest fishermen grow evermore tempted by the chimeras of a Spanish, Italian or English Eldorado. The adventure called irregular emigration of the famous "Barsaa or Barzax" (Barcelona or death) continues to haunt the nights of the youth who want so desperately to provide for their families. Desperation has gotten to the point where more and more young men are willing to sell their motors valued at millions of cfa. This has sadly become commonplace in the village. As expressed in the title, most of the fishermen have only their eyes to cry unless the fishermen are given new jobs. In addition to these social and economic problems, the citizens of Bargny also have to worry about coastal erosion caused by the extraction of marine sand. The corruption, social, and economic problems have gotten to the point where many inhabitants are no longer content with the lives they are living here. In addition to this, the soil and water in the area are being polluted by SOCOCIM, a cement factory in the area. The coal-fired power station, the dumping of solid and plastic waste into the sea, the lack of financial resources to provide for family, education and well being of the children, the constant construction of other polluting industries that will threaten the livelihood of fishermen and processing of fishery products excluding the multinational corporations/companies that not only destroy the nurseries in the artificial reefs but also continue to destroy marine life and disrupt the natural ecosystem.

The tragedy that the people of Bargny are experiencing is well documented in the film. It exposes the despair and struggles they are facing, especially those within the fishing community.

Whoever you may be, anyone who has watched the film can agree and attest to the fact that the film is a timeless contribution to the awareness and advocacy already initiated by the Network of Associations who are fighting for the protection of the environment and nature. In doing so, they are accompanied by their partner the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

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