



Pamela Yates

Pamela Yates is an American documentary filmmaker and human rights activist. She has directed films about war crimes, racism and genocide in the United States and Latin America, often with emphasis on the legal responses.

In 1982, a young first-time filmmaker, Pamela, used her seeming naiveté to gain unprecedented access to Ríos Montt, his generals and leftist guerrillas waging a clandestine war deep in the mountains. The resulting film, *When the Mountains Tremble* (1983) revealed that the Guatemalan army was killing Mayan civilians. As Yates notes in her extraordinary follow-up, **Granito: How to Nail a Dictator**, "Guatemala . . . never let me go." *When the Mountains Tremble* had re-entered her life 30 years later when a Spanish lawyer investigating the Ríos Montt regime asked for her help. She believed her first film and its outtakes just might contain evidence to bring charges of genocide under international law.