

on the streets we were not stopped where others might have been.

A law that allows anyone in the security forces to shoot, arrest or kill people on suspicion alone has been imposed in Manipur. In the film, we also meet a woman who is raising her voice to change the situation in the region. Irom Sharmila has been on a hunger strike since 2000, when the Assam Rifles, an Indian paramilitary force, shot and killed ten civilians.

## Not passive victims

Even if the women in the film have experienced a lot of suffering, it was especially important for the team to show the complex reality of their lives.

- These women struggle daily for survival, look after their families, feed their children, earn a living, fight for justice, organise and protest. To reduce them to a uni-dimensional identity, that of a victim is not only a stereotype but a grave injury. For us, the women were agents of change, and not the passive victims of conflict as they are often portrayed, Joshi states.

The documentary has been shown at film festivals in 30 cities across the world, and has won several international awards.

