



# THE LAST GHOST OF WAR



International

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CONTACT

**Tom Koch, Director**  
**WGBH International**  
One Guest Street  
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL 617-300-3893  
FAX 617-779-7900

tom\_koch@wgbh.org  
wgbhinternational.org

What is a chemical weapon? And who should be held accountable in the wake of what is arguably the largest chemical warfare operation in American history? A former US ambassador to Vietnam referred to Agent Orange as “the last ghost” of war and the last issue of contention yet to be addressed by the United States and Vietnam.

At Tu Du Hospital in Saigon, children and infants in a special unit have enlarged heads or are missing limbs. One girl, born without arms, writes with her feet. A boy with a shrunken leg and a winsome smile careens around in a wheelchair as if he were driving a racing car. Thirty years after the end of the Vietnam War, they are among several million victims of Agent Orange.

*The Last Ghost of War* introduces viewers to four of these victims—plaintiffs in a class action suit against 32 US chemical companies. These Vietnamese victims are seeking compensation and justice. Their lawyers battle in a federal court in Brooklyn against a phalanx of lawyers for the chemical companies. Retired chemical workers and American Vietnam veterans, who were exposed to the same toxic herbicides, bolster the claims of the Vietnamese victims. A letter to the American people from Vietnam explains, “the use of toxic chemicals is in brazen violation of international law and is thus a war crime.” Now the deadly dioxin has worked its way into the food chain and some argue, the gene pool, in Vietnam with tragic results.

Vietnamese victims, their attorneys, scientists, social activists, and a military historian take us to a new battlefield in this startling documentary, where the absence of moral responsibility of the government who engaged in chemical warfare and corporate accountability are heavily present. A Dow Chemical Co. attorney argues that the company acted merely as a government contractor, and “there is no evidence that Agent Orange actually injured people.” Attorneys for the Vietnamese charge that the chemical companies knew about the toxicity of their product but put profit before precaution.

Filmmakers now present both sides of the story, and it is for viewers of *The Last Ghost of War* to weigh the evidence and decide whether these dioxin-laden herbicides were used as chemical weapons.

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CREDITS

*Director:* Janet Gardner

*Producers:* Pham Quoc Thai and Janet Gardner

*Narrator:* Kevin Kline

A presentation of the Center for Asian American Media

*Photo Credit:* ????????



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