

The Headman
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ENTERING ULU BARAM

1

EXTREME WIDE SHOT: FROM PLANE, SCARRED LANDSCAPE, FLYING INTO THE ULU BARAM

Ulu Baram, Sarawak, West Malaysia The heavily logged home of the indigenous Penan

INT: PLANE

Nick looks out of window to his right, looks out over the Ulu Baram.

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

I'm Nick Kelesau. I am the son of Kelesau Naan, the late Headman of Long Kerong.

INT: COCKPIT

Pilots adjust controls. Forest is seen through their windows.

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

We are Penan from Ulu Baram and we have lived here for many, many generations.

EXT: AIRFIELD

Plane lands, camera pans right following plane.

CUT TO

LONG BOAT TO LONG KERONG

2

POV: FROM REAR LONG BOAT

Nick and oarsman push long boat into river and enter it. Nick looks around.

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

My father led our people to defend our rights and our land from logging and the Samling Timber Company that have been trying to enter our forests for more than thirty years.

CUT TO

ENTERING LONG KERONG

3

WIDE: ENTRANCE TO VILLAGE

Nick stands at welcome sign, "Selamat Batang Kampong Kerong"

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: NICK

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

We have faced threats, violence, arrests, intimidation and a Government that does not recognise our customary native title to the land we have lived in and protected for hundreds of years.

CUT TO

TITLES - SARAWAK GONE / THE HEADMAN

4

Sarawak Gone, The Headman

CGI: MAP, SARAWAK, ULU BARAM, LONG KERONG

PROTECTING LONG KERONG

5

MEDIUM: INT, SIA'S HOUSE

Sia's plays guitar, sings.

MONTAGE: Photos, Kelesau Naan.

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

Kelesau Naan was born around the 1930s and lived all his life in the forest around our village, Long Kerong. He was very much loved by his people and his family.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: NICK

Stands in front of house.

Nick Kelesau, Son of the late Kelesau Naan, Long Kerong

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)

(to camera)

I believe my father lost his life because he protected from the logging company and from... to protect his people from the loss of their rights on the land. He

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
disappeared on the 23rd of
October 2007. His remains were
found on the 17th of December
2007.

MONTAGE: PHOTOS, KELESAU WITH VILLAGERS JUXTAPOSED AGAINST
HIS REMAINS.

CUT TO

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY NYELING

6

WIDE: EXT, PAN ACROSS RIVER.

HENRY NYELING
(v/o)
Our life changed the day our
headman went missing.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: INT, HENRY

Henry Nyeling, Long Kerong community leader

HENRY NYELING (cont'd)
(To left of camera)
Kelesau was very motivated to
fight against the company because
all the trees, all the land, all
the good things we had have been
destroyed. Our people's future is
no longer secure.

MONTAGE: PHOTOS, PENAN LOGGING BLOCKADE

Penan logging blockade, Near Long Sebatu, Ulu Baram, 1994

NICK KELESAU
(v/o)
He taught us to never surrender
our rights and to protect the
forest.

WIDE: EXT, FOREST

Nick walks through forest.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(v/o)
He loved and respected the forest
and tried to build good
relationships with all the people
in the Ulu Baram.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: INT, HENRY

(CONTINUED)

HENRY NYELING

(To left of camera)

KWe cannot explain how he died.
His death was not natural. Not
the kind of death resulting from
getting lost or swept away by the
river or things like that.
We have the feeling that
something else caused his death.
His death was not natural.

CUT TO

VILLAGE

7

MONTAGE: VARIOUS SHOTS OF VILLAGE

Dog leans on railing, children stair from doorway, two
women sit at window.

CLOSE UP: KELESAU'S WIFE'S FACE

She looks down, concentrating, busy.

NICK KELESAU

(v/o)

Since my father goes missing
there's no one who... looks after
my mother and she has to stay
with my brother.

MEDIUM: INT, WEAVING

Mother crouches on floor weaving a basket. Extremely
detailed work.

MEDIUM: INT, KELESAU'S KITCHEN

Nick's brother is skinning a small deer.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)

(v/o)

Who is also ill.

PAN: EXT, RIGHT ACROSS TO KELESAU'S HOUSE

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: EXT, NICK

Nick on landing points to forest.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)

(to camera)

My father and my mother going
this direction there...

TILT-UP: FROM BELOW AND UP FOLLOWING PATH OF TRAIL TO
FOREST

(CONTINUED)

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(to camera)
Trail going that way going to
Segita River... to the hut where
he goes missing.

MONTAGE: VARIOUS PENAN FROM LONG KERONG

Coconut pulled from tree, elderly woman, man returns from
hunting.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(v/o)
After many blockades between 1997
and 1998 my father, along with
along with Headmen from Long
Sepigen, Long Sait and Long
Ajeng, filed a lawsuit against
the Samling Timber Company and
the Government of Sarawak.

CGI: PAN ACROSS LAWSUIT DOCUMENT

CROSS-FADE TO

ENTERING THE FOREST

8

CLOSE UP: EXT, NICK

Nick points to distant mountain and a barely visible
clearing. We intercut with POV shot of forest.

NICK KELESAU
This is where... where the
Company tried to enter Long
Kerong's area before where the
Field Force and the Army comes
there and they just want to...
They fire their gun in the air...
and the Penan people from Long
Kerong they go and stopped them
from enter the area.

WIDE: EXT, VARIOUS SHOTS, FOREST,

Nick walks into and through forest.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(v/o)
From 2006 through to 2007 my
father intensified efforts to
have the case heard in court. One
month before my father
disappeared two Samling
employees, Ms Sarah, and Ms Susan
Pulut, Penan from Long Muboi,
went to Long Kerong to record my
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
father's daily movements. They
wanted to know where and when we
went to his farm for hunting, how
long he stayed away and which
river would he go to.

WIDE: EXT, PAN OVER RIVER

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(v/o)
Penan use the rivers to walk
through and to fish from. The
rivers connect us to our farms,
our hunting grounds and our
village. One month later he went
missing.

CUT TO

SEGITA RIVER

9

Segita River, Kelesau's remains found scattered along
river-bed

River shots, arrival, interviews.

NICK KELESAU
(to camera)
The bones just spread from that
area until here. The watch was
still there. All the bones are
just spread out. Why the watch is
still...? Even the necklace
also... still there.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
What happened to him here, or...
Because we find the remains here.
Whether he gets trouble here or
just some where else? The parts
of the, the legs, this part, they
found it here. The other parts of
the body they found them down
there. ...and the [skull], down
again.

Shots of where log had been, deepest part of the river.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
Attempts have been made to have
the investigation into my
father's death withdrawn through
bribes, intimidation and forgery.

Kelesau's death sees a return to
the tactics that were common

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
through the 1990s. These are the
acts of desperate people.

23 October 2007 - Long Kerong Headman, Kelasau Naan is last seen by his wife, leaving to check a trap. He heads towards Segita River and never returns.

19 / 21 November 2007 - Mr Kho Thien Seng, or Sio, arrives in Long Kerong offering bereaved villagers financial support. He is followed by Samling employees who offer to assist with funeral arrangements, yet Penan search parties have yet to find any trace of The Headman.

12 December 2007 - Sio informs Nick he need not inform the police about his fathers disappearance. Without the family's knowledge, Sio registers Kelesau as deceased at the Registration Dept., Baram / Marudi District Office, Sarawak.

17 December 2007 - After flood waters recede along Segita River, Kelesau Naan's remains, including a broken arm bone, his watch and necklace, are found scattered across the river-bed.

18th January 2008 - A letter dated 5th January 2008 arrives at Miri Police Station. It claims no foul play in the death of Kelesau Naan. It bears the name and signature of Nick Kelesau. Nick immediately files a report denying involvement in the letter now allegeded to be forged.

October 2010 - Three years after Kelesau's disappearance Police have yet to visit the alleged crime scene at Segita River.

NICK KELESAU (cont'd)
(v/o)
Kelesau's commitment to our
struggle and the sacrifices
he made have inspired a
stronger wave of resistance
to anyone that denies our
rights to customary land.

Kelesau will not be
forgotten by our people and
we hope, the Penan and our
struggle will not be
forgotten by you.)