Rai

IL FATTORE UMANO



DENTRO L'UNIFORME

Under the Uniform

When duty and conscience no longer align.

A DOCUMENTARY BY LUIGI MONTEBELLO



LOGLINE

Across American military towns, active-duty soldiers, veterans and advocates confront an ideological battle unfolding inside the armed forces. As Christian nationalism gains influence, transgender troops are forced out and service members begin to question the legality and morality of the orders they are asked to carry out.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Across New Mexico, Colorado, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., Dentro l'Uniforme enters the private spaces where obedience begins to fracture. Anonymous service members describe the pressure of serving under commanders who invoke Scripture and within a political culture that increasingly equates patriotism with one religious vision of America.

Kara, an Army officer, faces expulsion despite being declared fully fit for service. Videl, after more than seventeen years in the Air Force and nineteen awards, is pushed out of the institution that defined her life. Around them, veterans, activists and counselors try to protect those trapped between duty and conscience.

Without an external narrator, the film allows these voices to collide: soldiers who still believe in the Constitution, Christian nationalists who seek to reshape the country, and the people answering the phones when military service becomes a moral wound.





FAITH, POWER AND OBEDIENCE

A battle over who the military serves

At the Pentagon, monthly Christian prayer services become a model for commanders throughout the chain of command. At a mass gathering in Washington, believers call for America to be rededicated to God. A pastor close to the movement argues that secular and Christian visions cannot coexist and that government should submit to divine law.

Inside the ranks, the effect is intimate and immediate. Service members report mandatory Bible readings, religious pressure and fear of retaliation. Many of those seeking help are themselves Christians, targeted because they are judged not to be Christian enough.

The documentary does not ask whether faith belongs in military life. It asks what happens when one faith begins to define loyalty, authority and who is allowed to serve.

"Who does a soldier ultimately answer to?"

The film moves from public spectacle to private consequence: prayer services, political rallies, military shops and confidential calls from inside the armed forces.

THE MAIN STORIES

The people behind the conflict



Kara training in the Colorado mountains.

KARA

Ready to serve. Ordered to leave.

An Army officer, climber and ultrarunner, Kara is brought before an involuntary separation board because she is transgender. She is told that she is fully fit and that her character is impeccable - but that none of it matters.

As she trains in the Colorado mountains, Kara holds on to the oath she swore to the Constitution and rejects the idea that transition made her less capable. For her, the contradiction is simple: the military says it prizes readiness while expelling people who are ready to serve.

VIDEL, JESSICA AND FAYE

A life rebuilt after the uniform

Serving in the Air Force was Videl's lifelong dream. After more than seventeen years and nineteen awards, she is placed on administrative leave, isolated from colleagues and denied the retirement she had expected. The loss is not only professional. It breaks her sense of belonging and nearly costs her life.

In a new home with her partner Jessica and their friend Faye, ordinary gestures - unpacking records, tending the garden, sitting by the lake - become part of rebuilding a life after the institution they loved turned against them.



Videl and Jessica at home.

THOSE WHO LISTEN - AND THOSE WHO RESIST

From confidential calls to public dissent



MIKEY WEINSTEIN / MRFF

For more than two decades, Mikey Weinstein has warned that Christian nationalism was taking root inside the U.S. military. From his home in New Mexico, he answers calls from service members who feel unable to challenge their commanders. The work has brought daily threats, armed protection and a family life lived under surveillance.



THE GI RIGHTS HOTLINE

At Quaker House in Fayetteville, Lenore Yarger and Steve Woolford listen to soldiers who feel trapped between orders, family, conscience and the law. They do not tell callers what to believe. They explain that they are not alone, not irrational, and that conscientious objection remains a possible path.



ABOUT FACE: VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

Veterans from About Face take that message back to the street. After protesting the war in Iran in military formation in Washington, they travel through military towns to remind active-duty personnel that they have the right to refuse illegal and immoral orders. Their dissent comes from inside the institution.

FORM AND APPROACH

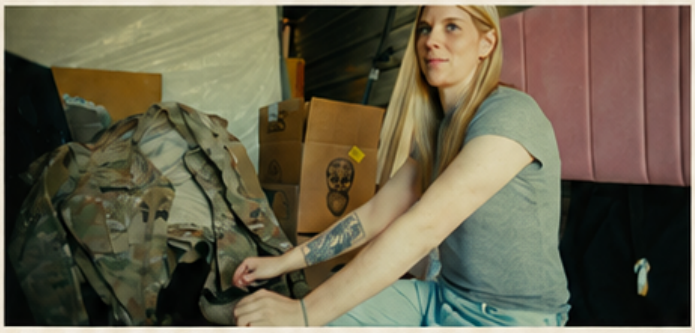
No narrator between the viewer and the testimony

Shot across U.S. military towns, the broadcast version of Dentro l'Uniforme is built from direct testimony, observation, archival footage and confidential calls. The absence of an external narrator places the viewer inside the conflict. The film moves between public spectacle and private consequence: prayer services and protest rallies; desert roads and military shops; a bedroom where a uniform is folded away; a hotline where the phone never stops ringing.

KEY THEMES

- Christian nationalism and the U.S. military
- The transgender military ban
- Conscientious objection and moral injury
- Veterans, dissent and illegal orders
- Faith, patriotism and constitutional duty

SELECTED PRESS STILLS



A service member's hand resting on a folded uniform.



Videl at home, after being removed from service.



Mikey Weinstein at his home in Albuquerque.



A Christian nationalist gathering in Washington, D.C.

CREDITS AND BROADCAST INFORMATION

The broadcast, the film, and the people behind it

FILM INFORMATION

FORMAT
TV documentary

YEAR
2026

COUNTRY
USA

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
English

TV BROADCAST VERSION
53 minutes

DIRECTOR'S CUT
78 minutes - October 2026

BROADCAST

PROGRAM
Il Fattore Umano

NETWORK
Rai 3

FIRST BROADCAST
4 August 2026

TIME
23:25 (GMT+1)

AVAILABILITY
RaiPlay

MAIN CREDITS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
LUIGI MONTEBELLO

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Luigi Montebello & Tommaso Javidi

EDITED BY
Duilio Francioli

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Patrizia Vacchio

MUSIC
Filippo Manni & Massimo Perin

SHOWRUNNER
Raffaella Pusceddu & Luigi Montebello

PRESS CONTACT
info@luigimontebello.com

IMAGE CREDITS
Images courtesy of Rai / Il Fattore Umano.