



The director Michael Moore says that a federal judge's ruling to allow Chevron to subpoena footage from the documentary "Crude" could have dire consequences on the documentary filmmaking process, and urged that film's director to resist the subpoena if he can.

On Thursday, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan of United States District Court in Manhattan said that Joe Berlinger, the director of "Crude," would have to turn over more than 600 hours of footage from that documentary. The film chronicles the Ecuadorians who sued Texaco (now owned by Chevron) saying an oil field contaminated their water. Chevron said that Mr. Berlinger's footage could be helpful as it seeks to have the litigation dismissed and pursues an international treaty arbitration related to the lawsuit.

In a telephone interview on Thursday night, Mr. Moore, whose films include "Bowling for Columbine" and "Capitalism: A Love Story," said that he had never heard of such a ruling.

"If this isn't overturned, it would make a lot of documentary filmmakers afraid," Mr. Moore said. "People are going to have to start getting rid of all their extra footage now, right?"

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