ABSTRACT: During the summer course two films will be screened by Anand Patwardhan. 'In the Name Of God' (1991) focuses on the campaign waged by the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) to destroy a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya said to have been built by the Mughal Emperor Babar. Filmed prior to the mosque's demolition, 'In the name of God' examines the the drastic actions of the militants, as well as the efforts of secular Indians - many of whom are Hindus - to combat the religious intolerance and hatred that has seized India in the name of God. The second movie, 'War and Peace' was filmed over three tumultuous years in India, Pakistan, Japan and the USA, this is a documentary journey of peace activism in the face of global militarism and war. Triggered by macabre scenes of jubilation that greeted nuclear testing in the Indian sub-continent, the film is dramatically framed by the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. Fifty years after his death memories of Gandhi are a mirage created by our thirst for peace and our very distance from it.

BIO: Anand Patwardhan has made landmark documentaries in India for over four decades. More often than not his films have invited the wrath of ruling elites as well as religious fundamentalists. His films have won over 30 international awards and deal with a wide range of political and social issues, including protest movements against the caste system, the development of nuclear arms and inter-communal violence. In several films, Patwardhan has explored the role of religious rhetoric and identity in episodes of violence between Hindu and Muslim communities, and additionally, between Hindu castes. His most recent documentary is Jai Bhim Comrade (2012).

ORGANIZED BY CEU SUMMER UNIVERSITY COURSE ON
RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE