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Media Contact:
Meghan Hurder, Publicist
meghan@unaff.org

OPENING NIGHT

18th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) KICKS OFF WITH THE THEME *RUNNING OUT OF TIME* ON OCTOBER 15 AND THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO THE 18th UNAFF AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PURELY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVALS IN THE USA WHICH EDUCATES AND ENGAGES LOCAL COMMUNITY

Palo Alto, CA (September 15, 2015) The 18th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) will begin **THURSDAY, October 15** in historic downtown Palo Alto at the **Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson Street** with four films: **XBOUNDARY (USA)** at 6:45pm; **EDDIE ADAMS: SAIGON '68 (USA/Vietman)** at 7:00pm; **UNFAIR GAME: THE POLITICS OF POACHING (Swaziland/USA/Zambia)** at 7:30pm; **DRIVING WITH SELVI (Canada/India)** at 8:20pm.

XBOUNDARY (USA), directed by Ryan Peterson. Many large-scale open-pit mines are proposed on the Canadian side of rivers that flow into Alaska, where salmon fishing and tourism are worth \$2 billion annually. Meanwhile, the August 4, 2014 Tailings dam failure at the Mt. Polley Mine, just south of the transboundary region, validates the fears of many who view mining of this type as unsafe and incongruous with healthy salmon rivers.

EDDIE ADAMS: SAIGON '68 (USA/Vietman), directed by Douglas Sloan. In 1968, photojournalist Eddie Adams captured the most iconic image of the Vietnam War: a point blank execution of a Vietcong prisoner on a Saigon street. This film explores the untold story behind this image and raises pertinent questions regarding our lack of visual literacy and the power of images to affect human rights agendas. **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

UNFAIR GAME: THE POLITICS OF POACHING (Swaziland/USA/Zambia), directed by John Antonelli. Through the inspiring stories of two activists, this feature-length documentary explores the disastrous results when wildlife takes priority over indigenous people's land rights, human rights, and their very survival. These two markedly different

African countries have taken radically different approaches to their one shared, grim reality. *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

DRIVING WITH SELVI (*Canada/India*), directed by Elisa Paloschi. Selvi, like so many girls living within India's patriarchal culture, is forced to marry at a young age, only to find herself in a violent and abusive marriage. This is the ten year journey of a charming and courageous young woman who becomes South India's first female taxi driver, defies expectations and creates a new life.

The Mayor of the City of Palo Alto Karen Holman will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers present. Opening Night is generously sponsored by FACT and Judy's Breadsticks.

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit www.unaff.org

The award winning UNAFF (the United Nations Association Film Festival) held annually in October at Stanford, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, now in its 18th year has grown to be one of the oldest and most respected documentary film festivals in the United States. UNAFF was originally conceived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic with the participation of the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.

In 2014 the ICFT (International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication of UNESCO) presented the UNESCO Fellini Medal to Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director of UNAFF, in recognition of her exceptional contribution in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the art of documentary film.