



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) CELEBRATES 18 YEARS OF GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARIES WITH 60 FILMS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD**  
*5 WORLD PREMIERES AND 10 US PREMIERES TO BE SCREENED OCTOBER 15-25 WITH THE THEME OF "RUNNING OUT OF TIME"*

PALO ALTO, CA (September 15, 2015) The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is delighted to announce its program for the 18th year. Established in 1998 to honor the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF stands out as one of the most reputable film festivals in the US, exclusively dedicated to documentary filmmaking. Throughout the years, UNAFF has earned the respect of audiences and filmmakers alike for its courageous independence and integrity. In addition to providing advance outlets for films, many of which have gone on to win major awards and accolades including Academy Awards, UNAFF prides itself in creating a community forum for discovery and dialogue about different cultures, issues and solutions.

The theme for this year ***RUNNING OUT OF TIME*** continues the ongoing celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and focuses on time-sensitive aspects of the Millennium Development Goals. In 2000 all UN member states and at least 23 international organizations committed to help achieve these Millennium Development Goals by 2015: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

In the eleven days UNAFF will present an overview of what was and was not achieved by the MDG, bringing stories from the streets of Afghanistan, Cuba, Ecuador, France, India, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Nairobi, Nepal, South Africa, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, US, Yemen and other countries. Other topics include the politics of poaching in Africa; rape in India and across American college campuses; drones as a tool of modern warfare; the fastest winter-warming place on earth; the global waste crisis; individuals with Parkinson's staging a dance performance; art overcoming

violence, poverty and isolation in Oakland, California; the history of Libya; the Greek financial crisis; an inside look at the girls of the Taliban; finding loopholes to perform abortions at sea; and a remarkable journey by twelve teens to confront racism and have the conversations most of us are too afraid to attempt.

From October 15-25, the films will be screened in various Bay Area locations: Palo Alto, Stanford University, East Palo Alto and San Francisco.

The Festival's 5 WORLD premieres include:

Driving with Selvi (Canada/India)

Good Muslim Girls (Iraq/USA)

Libya: An Impossible Nation-state? (France/Libya)

Norma's Story (Canada)

Yellow Stars of Tolerance (France/USA)

10 documentaries will have their US premieres in the Festival including:

Australia's Marine Protected Areas Documentary 2: The Sea & Me (Australia)

Circus Without Borders (Canada/Guinea/USA)

David & Me (Canada)

Dorothea Lange: Grab A Hunk Of Lightning (USA)

The Girls of the Taliban (Afghanistan/UK)

Land Grabbing (Ethiopia/Romania/Saudi Arabia/USA)

Manislam – Islam and Masculinity (Bangladesh/Indonesia/Kuwait/Norway/Turkey)

A New Path (India)

Omo Child: The River and the Bush (Ethiopia/USA)

Pirates and Slaves (Thailand/UK)

UNAFF is committed not only to presenting films, but also creating spaces where audience members can engage in ongoing dialogue about the subjects at hand. **Eight FREE panel discussions** will take place during the course of the Festival covering climate change, the quest for health, the impact of social media and arts, how dance can transcend barriers of language and race, the elimination of violence against women, hate crime and LGBT issues, the perils of inequality, the justice of reconciliation, philanthropy and social change and the passion for producing human rights documentaries.

UNAFF's mission has expanded to broad, year round programs that augment its reach. In addition to the annual film festival, UNAFF organizes panel discussions, initiates programs that engage children, students, seniors, veterans, hosts a traveling festival which keeps the films alive well beyond their initial festival showings and opens its doors to documentary film students and researchers.

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit [www.unaff.org](http://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.*