



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AN INDEPTH LOOK AT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SIKH –
IN THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA WERE TWELVE AMERICAN POWS
- MARTYDOM SEEKERS IN SYRIA BEFORE THEY PUSH THE BUTTOM
– IMPACT OF THE MILITARIZED DRUG WAR IN MEXICO - GUN CONTROL IN
AMERICA – SEARCH FOR JUSTICE IN GUATEMALAN MASSACRE - ARE THE
STORIES UP NEXT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd
AT THE 19th UNAFF AT
THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER IN PALO ALTO**

THE ODD COUPLE: A STORY OF TWO TRIATHLETES (USA)

Jeff is a below the leg amputee and is a mentor to Parvin, who thinks that adhering to the appearance of his Sikh faith is inherently disadvantageous and holds him from competing as a triathlete. Ironically both chose their challenges— Jeff is an amputee by choice and Parvin is Sikh by choice. The movie is an attempt to bring to light Jeff and Parvin's inspiring friendship and their positive attitude to achieve their dream of being a triathlete despite their daily struggles. Directed by Harleen Singh. 1:00pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

UNDER THE TURBAN (Argentina/Canada/India/Italy/Singapore/UK/USA)

A young, modern Sikh family travels the globe meeting with diverse communities of Sikhs to explore their roots and identity in Sikhism, the world's fifth largest religion. 'What makes me a Sikh?' This question posed by nine-year-old Zara Garcha starts a family's journey to learn about their religion. The Garcha family explores Sikhism, by visiting diverse Sikh communities around the world. Visiting with maharaja's, cheesemakers, fashionistas, farmers and scholars to glean a better understanding of the world's fifth largest religion. Directed by Satinder Garcha and Michael Rogers and Meghan Shea. 1:30pm *FILMMAKERS PRESENT*

DUGMA – THE BUTTON (*Norway/Syria*)

When al Qaida in Syria are up against a seemingly impenetrable enemy position, they send in the Martyrdom Seekers—volunteers who drive a truck or an armored personnel carrier loaded with tons of explosives towards the enemy and detonate the load. These operations are simply known among the Jihadis by the Arabic word for button—Dugma. In the film *Dugma* we follow four Martyrdom Seekers in their daily lives waiting for their turn to go on the final mission.

Directed by Paul Refsdal. 3:15pm

EL POETA (*Mexico/USA*)

Renowned Mexican poet Javier Sicili ignited mass protests and an ongoing international movement after the brutal killing of his 24-year-old son Juan Francisco—collateral damage in a drug war that has left more than 100,000 dead or missing since 2006.

Sicilia called on the Mexican people to protest and demand that the government address the devastating impact of the militarized drug war. Directed by Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega. 4:25pm

UNDER THE GUN (*USA*)

Despite a growing body count at the hands of guns, and an outpouring of shock and outrage that comes with it, America has failed to respond with meaningful action. What is keeping the two sides of this debate—those favoring stricter gun control laws and Second Amendment purists like the NRA—from finding common ground? Powerful with never-before-seen footage of the shooting in Aurora, *Under the Gun* ultimately gives a human face to a crisis that is scaring the conscience of a nation. Directed by Stephanie Soechtig. 5:40pm

7:20pm Panel "**Guns and Society**" (FREE Admission)

PAPER LANTERNS (*Japan/USA*)

On August 6th 1945, among the tens of thousands that lost their lives in the bombing of Hiroshima were twelve American POWs. Shigeaki Mori witnessed the blast and survived, but was forever changed. *Paper Lanterns* tells the story of Shigeaki Mori and his lifelong calling to tell the story of not only the many Japanese victims of the bomb, but of Normand Brissette, Ralph Neal and the ten other US airmen caught in the hell on earth of that day. The film shows how the war impacted families in both countries, and how one man can rise above the hatred of war and heal the wounds of those terrible days. Directed by Barry Frechette. 8:20pm

FINDING OSCAR (*Guatemala/USA*)

Finding Oscar is the story about the search for justice in the case of the Dos Erres massacre in Guatemala. That search leads to the trail of two little boys, Oscar and Ramiro, who were plucked from a nightmare and raised by the soldiers that committed the atrocity. These boys offer the only living evidence that ties the Guatemalan government to the massacre. The film profiles the young Guatemalan prosecutor who took on her own government, and the US immigration agents who began rounding up

war criminals found living in the States. Directed by Ryan Suffern. 9:30pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

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 19th 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.

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.