



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Meghan Hurder, Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

**THE YOUNG STUDENTS IN HONG KONG, A RAPPER IN POST-ARAB SPRING
TUNISIA, COMEDIANS OF BOLLYWOOD, A SECRET PRISON MASSACRE IN IRAN
THROUGH THE EYES OF FIVE SURVIVORS AND SYRIA'S DESCENT INTO THE
RISE OF ISIS –
ARE A FEW OF THE TOPICS BEING SHOWN
AS THE 20th UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL CONTINUES ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th at FREEMAN SPOGLI INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES at STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

ODE TO LESVOS (*Greece*)

Ode to Lesvos is the inspiring story about a small group of fishermen and old ladies from the town of Skala Sikamineas on Lesvos, who received hundreds of thousands of refugees with open arms during summer of 2016. It is a moving tale of ordinary islanders who went out of their way to welcome those who had nothing, despite not being rich themselves. As a result of their selfless efforts the villagers were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Directed by Talal Derki. 11:30am

HELL ON EARTH: THE FALL OF SYRIA AND THE RISE OF ISIS (*Syria*)

Chronicling Syria's descent into unbridled chaos and the rise of ISIS, this gripping and insightful work captures the Syrian war's harrowing carnage, political and social consequences, and—most importantly—its human toll. Academy Award-nominated filmmakers Sebastian Junger and Nick Quested untangle these complex issues to create an informative and compelling documentary, edited from almost 1,000 hours of footage. Co-directed by Sebastian Junger and Nick Quested. 11:50am

THE SECRET FATWA (*Iran*)

The film recounts the unfolding of the 1988 secret prison massacre through the eyes of five survivors, from the day of the lockdown to the day they were released. It follows them as they learn about the lockdown. Their first reaction is confusion and disbelief, but unusual events escalate. Televisions and newspapers are taken away. They are not allowed out of their blocks. Friends are taken. And finally it is the turn of the survivors. They are blindfolded, lined up, and walked through the dark corridors of Evin and

Gohardasht prisons. After hours of waiting, one by one they are taken for questioning by a three member committee. Directed by Delnaz Abadi. 1:40pm. **Filmmaker present.**

FREEDOM FOR THE WOLF (*China/Germany/Japan/Kuwait/India/Tunisia/USA*)

Democracy is in crisis. A new generation of elected leaders are dismantling freedom and democracy as we know it. Filmed over three years in five countries, *Freedom for the Wolf* is an epic investigation into this new regime of illiberal democracy. From the young students of Hong Kong, to a rapper in post-Arab Spring Tunisia and the viral comedians of Bollywood, we discover how people from every corner of the globe are fighting the same struggle. They are fighting against elected leaders who trample on human rights, minorities, and their political opponents. Directed by Rupert Russell. 2:50pm. **Filmmaker present.**

REMAND (*Uganda/USA*)

Henry, a Ugandan boy, is losing hope, languishing in prison, awaiting trial for two murders he didn't commit. Jim's comfortable life as a Los Angeles lawyer and law professor nearly ensured he and Henry would never meet. *Remand* tells the true story of how Tumusiime Henry and Jim Gash, separated by an ocean, thousands of miles, and differing cultures, worked together to inspire justice reform for an entire country. Directed by Craig Detweiler. 4:30pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

INCARCERATING US (*USA*)

With 2.3 million people behind bars, the US has the largest prison population in the history of the world. Through dramatic first-hand accounts, expert testimony, and shocking statistics, *Incarcerating US* asks fundamental questions about the prison system in America: What is the purpose of prison? Why did our prison population explode in the 1970s? What can make our justice system more just? The film begins with a brief overview of US prisons and the flawed policies that fueled unprecedented over-incarceration. In many cases, these laws exacerbate problems they were designed to solve. Through both empirical evidence and moving personal stories, we see the failures of two major policies: the War on Drugs and mandatory minimum sentences. Directed by Regan Hines. 5:20pm. **Filmmaker Present.**

Panel discussion to follow "Prisons – Punishment or Rehabilitation"

MEETING SNOWDEN (*Russia/USA*)

Moscow, December 2016—Edward Snowden, Larry Lessig and Birgitta Jónsdóttir, are gathered for the first time in an undisclosed hotel room. As rumors of Russia interference in the US presidential elections come out; as Russia mourns its ambassador killed in Turkey; as Snowden carefully picks interviews and hardly appears in so-called "real life," as the world gets ready for Christmas, they come together to discuss the only issue that matters, their common fight: how to save democracy? Directed by Flore Vasseur. 8:10pm. **Filmmaker present.**

THE EVIL WITHIN (USA)

This documentary focuses on social psychology tools that could illuminate reasons into the unthinkable possibility of a holocaust ever happening again. It presents theories of human social behavior with the objective of creating an awareness of the underlying conditions that may have led a society under the influence of a group of high-functioning individuals to establish an unstoppable killing apparatus. Were they all Nazi psychopaths or were they ordinary human beings whose behavior was determined by the dynamics of institutional power? By means of historical footage, photos and interviews with scholars, this documentary answers to these questions and others, fostering a re-evaluation of an aspect of the Nazi movement and the Holocaust that has been avoided by films in general due to its sensitive nature, namely, the psychological investigation of Nazism and its perpetrators. *The Evil Within* chronicles the forces at play in a society and in the human mind that can enable these atrocities to occur. It stands as a testament of the human capacity for evil and a contribution to help deter future genocides, thus strengthening human rights and promoting social change. Directed by Eduardo Rufeisen. 9:10pm. **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 20th 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.