



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 19th

AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER IN PALO ALTO WITH FILMS COVERING THE EMPOWERED WOMEN OF A DANGEROUS SLUM IN NAIROBI, LEGAL CASES FOR YOUNG SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS IN KENYA, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, A MUSLIM IMMIGRANT FROM SOMALIA RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN THE US, AND FEMALE CHEFS

ENOUGH | THE EMPOWERED WOMEN OF KOROGOCHO (*Kenya*)

Beatrice Nyariara lives in Korogocho. It's widely considered to be Nairobi's most dangerous slum. More than 150,000 people are packed into the shanty town which is less than two square kilometers. Crime is high. Gangs are active. Addiction is rampant. A while back, men in her community started to attack the "grandmothers" of Korogocho at night. Most of the women attacked are sexually assaulted, and some have been killed. The men believe that the elder women were less likely to be HIV positive. They also saw them as vulnerable. A few years ago, Beatrice decided enough was enough. It was time to fight back. It was time to develop a community. Directed by Brent Foster. 4:00pm.

THE GIRLS OF MERU (*Canada/Kenya*)

Over five years, acclaimed filmmaker Andrea Dorfman follows the heartbreaking yet uplifting story of the girls of Meru and their brave steps toward meaningful equality for girls worldwide. In Kenya, one in three girls will experience sexual violence before age eighteen, yet police investigations are the exception. In *The Girls of Meru*, a multinational team led by Canadian lawyer Fiona Sampson and Tumaini Shelter head Mercy Chidi Baidoo builds the case of eleven girls to pursue an unheard of legal tactic. Together they created legal history. Directed and produced by Andrea Dorfman. 4:20pm.

62 DAYS (*USA*)

62 Days is an urgent examination of a growing trend of laws that seek to control a pregnant woman's body. It tells the story of a brain-dead pregnant woman whose family was forced to keep her on life support against their will. Marlise Muñoz was thirty-three years old and fourteen weeks pregnant with her second child when she suffered a pulmonary embolism and was pronounced brain-dead in a hospital in Texas. Marlise had been clear about her end-of-life wishes: she did not want to be on mechanical support under any circumstances. But Marlise was kept alive because of a little-known law that states "a person may not withdraw or withhold life-sustaining treatment... from a pregnant patient." The film reveals that this is not an anomaly: there are currently thirty-two states (and counting) with similar or identical pregnancy exclusion policies. *62 Days* follows the Muñoz family as they journey from private loss, to unwanted media attention, and finally towards activism as they fight to change this law. This timely short film powerfully addresses critical issues surrounding bodily integrity and women's health and needs to be seen by anyone studying or engaged in activism around reproductive rights. Directed by Rebecca Haimowitz. 6:30pm.

TIME FOR ILHAN (*Somalia/USA*)

Ilhan Omar is a woman; Ilhan Omar is an immigrant from Somalia; Ilhan Omar is muslim and wears a hijab; Ilhan is running for elected office in the US. If you think she doesn't have a chance to win, that just means that you have not yet encountered this smart, charismatic, determined, savvy community organizer and politician. This film, thanks to its incredible access, tells her unforgettable story of battling to make a difference in the face of bigotry, sexism, nativism and yes, even personal scandal. This is must see viewing for anyone interested in the changing the status quo and/or witnessing the rise of national and even international political force. Directed by Norah Shapiro. 7:15pm.

THE GODDESSES OF FOOD *(France/Italy/Spain/UK/USA)*

In the male dominated food universe, discover the women changing the game on all levels. Presenting the best female chefs, including multi Michelin star chefs Dominique Crenn and Barbara Lynch, and introducing rising new stars and those making incredible food in all corners of the world. A global journey exploring the female strength in gastronomy. Prominent chefs and journalists investigate on what holds women chefs back in the modern mediated world of cuisine and what needs to be done to change the way women in the food industry are viewed. Featuring Michelin chefs, sommelier from USA, France, Italy, UK, Spain. Co-directed by Verane Frediani. 9:00pm.

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 21st 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.