

PRESS RELEASE November 1, 2021 MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Indig, UNAFF Publicist, <u>publicist@unaff.org</u>, 415-577-3656

24th UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) OCTOBER 21 – 31, 2021 WRAPS WITH AWARDS AND CLOSING NIGHT PARTY ON OCTOBER 31 WINNER OF UNAFF GRAND JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY: IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF), in its 24th year, held its closing day of documentary films on October 31, 2021, finishing 11 days of in-person film screenings and panel discussions. Following three sessions of film programs, UNAFF presented its closing party and ceremony, including announcement of its juried film awards, and bestowing the previously announced UNAFF Visionary Award.

The annual UNAFF Visionary Award was presented to two extraordinary leaders in the community dedicated to human rights: unique public servant, Congresswoman Barbara Lee; and legendary singer, songwriter, musician and activist, Harry Belafonte. The award was bestowed to each of them in recognition for their life-long unwavering commitment to human rights; and their leadership, persistence, and vision, which inspired several generations to promote economic, racial and social justice, peace and move us forward to a better and more just society.

The following films received this year's UNAFF juried awards:

Best Documentary: IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Best Short Documentary: <u>THE SEED</u>

Best Cinematography: Vicente Franco BARBARA LEE: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER and THE BROTHERS (LOS HERMANOS)

Best Editing: Walter Murch COUP 53

Youth Vision Award: YOUTH V GOV

For more information: <u>www.unaff.org</u> Press photos are available at <u>http://www.unaff.org/2021/press.html</u> The award-winning United Nations Association Film Festival 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 addition to providing early outlets for films, many of which have gone on to win major awards and accolades, UNAFF takes pride in creating a community forum for discovery and dialogue about different cultures, social issues and solutions. Over the years UNAFF has screened some of the most awarded and talked about documentaries in the industry, including eight that went on to win Academy Awards and thirty two that were nominated. 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.

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.