

# Press release

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## Tragic disappearance of photographer Leila Alaoui, FIFDH's poster's featured artist



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Despite an originally favourable prognosis, French-Moroccan photographer and video artist Leila Alaoui died two days ago following her injuries sustained during the attacks in Ouagadougou on January 15th.

She was responsible for the photograph featured on the poster for the upcoming edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), revealed the day before the attacks. She was due to arrive in Geneva in 10 days time, on February 1st, to begin an artist's residence at CAIRN in Meyrin, as part of the Festival, alongside migrant women of the Feuillasses foyer.

"We are overwhelmed. Our thoughts are with her family and friends. We mourn her, as do all those who had the opportunity to meet and appreciate her. She was a unique and radiant woman, brimming with talent and profoundly committed. Camera in hand, she roamed through North Africa and the Middle East. She had the unique capacity to grasp the viewer with every image, without ever resorting to artifice. She looked at people straight and offered us their story, the story of us all. The 14th edition of the FIFDH will pay tribute to Leila. Natreen, the latest exhibition she had prepared before heading to Burkina Faso, will of course remain scheduled at la Maison des Arts du Grütli", declared Isabelle Gattiker, director of FIFDH.

Born in 1982, photographer and video artist Leila Alaoui had recently exhibited her work at the European House of Photography in Paris. She was on mission in Burkina Faso for the NGO Amnesty International. Natreen, the exhibit dedicated to her work with Syrian refugees in Lebanon will take place as part of the upcoming edition of the FIFDH, from the 4th to the 13th of March.

<http://www.leilaalaoui.com/>