

# international film festival and forum on human rights

geneva 4-13 march 2016

[www.fifdh.org](http://www.fifdh.org)

14<sup>th</sup>

FIFDH



## PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

### let's open the debate !

It is under this slogan that will open the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH). From March 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, in **37 locations** all through Greater Geneva, **200 filmmakers and international personalities** are expected to present their films and participate in **16 high-level public** debates facing the UN's Human Rights Council.

This edition is dedicated to the memory of our artist of honour, **Leila Alaoui**, a victim of the terrorist attacks in Ouagadougou last month. In the face of this tragedy, the Festival reaffirms more than ever before its desire to open up to new locations, new audiences, new themes and new artistic forms. "*The ambition of this festival is to be a time of experimentation, in which we meet and transform. A place in which we erase fear and dare to be courageous. A place of resistance. A living place, in spite of everything*", affirms its director Isabelle Gattiker.

This edition will open in the presence of the UN's High-Commissioner for Human Rights **Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein** with *Sonita*, Iranian director **Rohksaerh Ghaem Maghami's** ode to creative women. The film is a Swiss co-production that won multiple awards at Sundance. The young protagonist, **Sonita Alizadeh**, will also be present. The edition's closing film will be **Nicolas Boukhrief's** *Made in France*, achilling plunge into the heart of a jihadi cell.

### Barbara Hendricks and Nabil Ayouch head the juries of two highcaliber competi- tions

Singer **Barbara Hendricks** will preside over the "Creative Documentary" jury alongside press illustrator **Plantu**, author **Philippe Djian**, Turkish journalist **Ece Temelkuran** and filmmaker **Daniel Schweizer**.

The "Fiction and Human Rights" jury will be presided by filmmaker **Nabil Ayouch**, surrounded by director **Marcela Zamora Chamorro**, scriptwriter **Aude Py** and lawyer **Philippe Cottier**.

They will award several prizes to a particularly striking **official selection of 19 films** (fiction and documentary), with committed films that bear unique artistic visions on the state of the world. Two films amongst these have been nominated for the Oscars (M. Heineman' *Cartel Land* and T. Lindholm's *Krigen*), and seven are world premieres.

The Prize awarded by the World Organisation Against Torture (WOAT) **will support the writing of the upcoming film** of a filmmaker who proves particularly committed in favour of human rights.

Half of the films in this year's official selection and thematic selection have been directed or co-directed by women (23 out of 46). They were filmed in 42 countries.

## Attendance by personalities of world cinema

23 filmmakers will be in attendance, as well as a number of actors and protagonists. Filipino filmmaker **Brillante Mendoza** will give a Masterclass / Talking Heads on his film *Taklub*, co-presented with the HEAD – Genève. **Amos Gitai** will present *The Last Day of Yitzhak Rabin*, in partnership with the Swiss Film Institute. The Belgian filmmaker **Joachim Lafosse** will meet with the public at the end of his film *Les Chevaliers blancs*, for a screening co-presented with the ECAL. Iranian filmmaker **Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami** will present *Sonita* and **Nabil Ayouch** will participate in a discussion at the end of *Much Loved*, banned in Morocco. Finally, **Gael Garcia Bernal** will make a surprise visit!

Two major figures of international film financing will be attending: **Cara Mertes**, head of **JustFilms** (Ford Foundation) and **Beadie Finzi**, head of **Britdoc**, will participate in an encounter with 150 film professionals and NGO representatives, from the world of philanthropy, from the WEF and other international organisations during the **Window to a Good Pitch**, a unique event organised with the support of the Federal Office of Culture.

## A film, a subject, a debate: we honour the defenders of human rights

The Festival will offer 16 “a film, a subject, a debate” evenings and several thematic evenings in which 100 international personalities will confront their points of view during debates that will be streamed directly on the internet. One hashtag **#fjfdh16** will allow spectators to ask questions from anywhere in the world. These free and public debates will take place parallel to the UN Human Rights Council: they uncompromisingly denounce all violations and, this year, are putting particular recognition on human rights defenders.

**Ensaf Haidar**, wife of blogger Raif Badawi, will intervene during the opening debate, focusing on Saudi Arabia. Journalist **Zhanna Nemtsova**, daughter Boris Nemtsov, will be attending the evening devoted to Russia. Palermo prosecutor **Roberto Scarpinato**, a colleague of judges Falcone and Borsellino, will talk about mafias and cartels. Activist **Vandana Shiva**, recipient of the 1993 alternative Nobel Prize, will participate by Skype to defend the climate. **Eritrea** and its massive repression will also be subject to a debate. **Nareen Shammo** and **Seivan Salim**, who fight to free and support Yezidi women, will also be present. **Doctor Denis Mukwege**, recipient of the 2014 Sakharov Prize, will demand justice for women raped en masse in RDC.

For the first time, a Festival guest **will officially address the UN Human Rights Council**: Doctor Mukwege will intervene the day after his appearance at the FIFDH, alongside the High-Commissioner for Human Rights.

The theme of **migration** will make a profound impression on this edition, with a high-level debate and several films, amongst them the poignant, *Non Assistance*, directed by **Frédéric Choffat**, presented in its world premiere in partnership with the RTS and Le Temps. To reveal the reality of the tragedy, we will also present a video by artist **JR**, a theatre performance by Maya Bösch, *Tragedy Reloaded*, co-presented with the Flux Laboratory, a **participatory installation**, a **drawing exhibition** by Olivier Kugler offered by MSF, and *Natreen*, a **photo exhibit** by Leila Alaoui.

## 2016 news: the FIFDH goes to the country! free screenings in 37 locations and 18 communes of the greater geneva

For the first time, to open the debate to new audiences, the FIFDH offers films and debates as well as exclusive and surprising encounters, totally free of charge, throughout the Greater Geneva area.

In partnership with the Bureau de l'intégration des étrangers, **the four main homes for migrant people** of the Geneva Canton (Anières, les Tattes, Feuillasse and Saconnex) will open their doors to film screenings followed by discussions and meals. The residents of the civil defense shelters are associated with the screenings in Versoix, Bernex and Vernier.

Because **sport** is a universal language, the Festival will offer screenings focused on football and hockey in partnership with the Service des Sports de la Ville de Genève. The highlight of the program, **Geneva's velodrome track** will host a screening of *Les Rebelles du Foot*, produced by Eric Cantona, in the presence of protagonist footballers.

Thanks to CinéGlobe, the FIFDH makes a stop at CERN, the cradle of the Web, to speak about the web and its intricacies, an important step of **a vast mediation program in Meyrin**. The festival will also screen a film in **audiodescription** in Chêne-Bourg, in partnership with numerous associations for visually impaired people. The **Hospitals of Beau-Séjour** and **Belle Idée** will also offer screenings open to the public.

## Next stop: lausanne

This year, the FIFDH will screen **Amos Gitai's** *The Last Days of Yitzhak Rabin* in Lausanne at the **Swiss Film Institute**, the day after its premiere in Geneva. **Amnesty International** will also present the film *Sonita* at the Maison de quartier Sous-gare, on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Leila Alaoui, artist in honour

The face of a young shepherd. In his eyes, the *Hrag*, the fire which burns in the hearts south of the Mediterranean. This image has a power: it tells a story and, through it, a tragedy. Our poster is a photo taken in Tangier by Leila Alaoui. The Festival had been preparing for her arrival in Geneva for 8 months, as our artist of honour.

It is with deep emotion that we will present the exhibit that she had prepared and finalised for the FIFDH: *Natreen*, a work completed in the Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon. In parallel, Meyrin, in which she was to set up an artist's residence, will host a **discussion** surrounding her work, in the presence of curator Gabriel Bauret, artist Mounir Fatmi and filmmaker Bruno Ulmer.

## Chappatte and Widmann exhibit Fenêtres sur les couloirs de la mort

The project *Windows on Death Row* (Fenêtres sur les couloirs de la mort) was born on the initiative of press illustrator **Patrick Chappatte** and journalist **Anne-Frédérique Widmann**. After Los Angeles, the exhibit is presented at the Maison du Dessin de Presse de Morges and at the Bibliothèque de la Cité in Geneva, in the context of the FIFDH and with the support of the DFAE. This exhibit of *Plumes croisées* is composed of works created by American press illustrators and by prisoners awaiting execution.

Anne-Frédérique Widmann und Patrick Chappatte will present their project during an exceptional evening at the Festival co-presented by Amnesty International and the European Union delegation in Geneva, in the presence of **Ndume Olatushani**, former death row convict, and **Ruth Dreifuss**, former President of the Swiss Confederation.

## School program: migrations and citizenship

More than **2000 students of secondary school** are expected to think about two primary axes: migrations and citizenship. In this context, and for the first time, Geneva State Councillor **Antonio Hodgers** and Geneva Chancellor **Anja Wyden Guelpa** will debate citizenship with students from Meyrin and Geneva.

For the second consecutive year, a cycle of screenings is also organised in the **Centre de Détention de La Clairière**. The young people from the center will award the Jury of La Clairière Prize during the Festival's official closing ceremony.

In parallel to the screenings, **pedagogical itineraries** will be organised at the Geneva Ethnographic Museum, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and at the Bibliothèque de la Cité. **The Young Reporters** Contest will again allow a group of young people to live the Festival from the inside.

## An expanding festival

This year, **116 international partners** support the Festival, of which 30 are new financial partners, both public and private. The Festival has also concluded 24 new editorial partnerships with the Swiss Film Institute, the Britdoc Foundation in London, New York's JustFilms, the film branch of the Ford Foundation, and the Festival Ambulante, one of the most important festivals in Latin America. Its visual design was created by the Geneva-based agency Superposition. The Festival is also collaborating for the first time with the Bibliothèques municipales of Geneva, the Galpon theatre, the POCHE/GVE theater and the Comédie de Genève.

## The FIFDH in summary

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), in Geneva, is the most important international event dedicated to cinema and human rights. It is built on a unique concept: to present great films followed by international public debates, streamed on internet, that freely tackle any subject, opposite the United Nations Human Rights Council, which takes place at the same time in Geneva, and during which many violations are ignored.

It is organised in collaboration with the UN's High-Commissioner's Office for Human Rights, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), several NGOs (Amnesty International, the WOAT, the FIDH, MSF), the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute and important international media (RTS, Le Temps, Euronews, TV5 Monde, the Huffington Post, France Culture). Following its creation in 2003, it has welcomed over 230,000 festivalgoers. Extremely popular, it is packed full every year and reaches many young people: 40% of the audience is younger than 35.

Its budget of 1.6 million francs is made up of 45% of public contributions (City and Canton of Geneva, ACG, DFAE, OFC, Francophonie), 42% of patronage and sponsoring. 11% of the budget is covered by receipts.

Download our new application from March 4<sup>th</sup>!

You can request your accreditation at <https://vp.eventival.eu/fifdh/2016>

You can buy tickets from February 23<sup>th</sup>.

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