

# International film festival and forum on human rights

Geneva  
10-19 march  
2017



## Press release

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Geneva, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## FIFDH 2017, one day to go Invited guests of the festival's 15<sup>th</sup> edition

*They are filmmakers, photographers, prosecutors, lawyers, mayors and journalists. They are all committed activists, each in their own way, and will make the trip to Geneva tomorrow for the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the FIFDH. Here is an overview of the personalities expected at the Festival.*

### From the fight against racism to that for social justice: An engaged cinematic program

Haitian director **Raoul Peck** will be in Geneva to present his documentary and take part in two debates on racism and the different ways of countering it, both in the United States and Geneva. The writer and activist **Rokhaya Diallo** will also be one of the panelists.

French director **Bertrand Bonello** (*Saint-Laurent*) will participate in a discussion after the screening of *Nocturama*, while the Italian filmmaker **Michele Placido** will present *7 Minuti* in the presence of Swiss actress **Sabine Timoteo**, one of the protagonists of this ensemble film. Filmmaker **Deeyah Khan** will be president of the Documentaires de création Jury. Actors **Sakari Kuosmanen** and **Sherwan Haji** from the latest film by Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki, *The Other Side of Hope*, will make the trip to present the feature film, recently awarded at the Berlinale.

Longtime friends, singer **Barbara Hendricks** (as well as patron of the Festival) and director **Amos Gitai** will be at the FIFDH to lead a fundamental conversation about the artist's role in the world.

Beginning on Saturday, the Cambodian director **Rithy Panh** will be presenting his first artistic installation in the courtyard of Pitoëff Maison communale de Plainpalais. It is a work that resonates with his latest feature film, *Exil*, which will also be presented at the Festival.

## Committed to Justice

In Syria, jurists and documentary filmmakers gather evidence and testimony of possible war crimes. The FIFDH will welcome the former prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, **Stephen J. Rapp** and lawyer **Almudena Bernabeu**. The Festival will screen the world premiere of Sara Afshar's documentary, *Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad*, which collects testimonies of survivors of torture in Syrian prisons. **Annie Sparrow**, a humanitarian doctor and human rights activist, will come to testify on the health situation in Syria.

In Syria, as in many conflicts, women's bodies have become a battlefield. The journalist **Manon Loizeau**, winner of the Albert-London Prize, will present the world premiere of her documentary *Silent War* at the FIFDH, which gives a voice to Syrian women who have been raped in Bashar al-Assad jails. Rape as a weapon of war, will also be the theme of the film *The Uncondemned*, by Michele Mitchell and Nick Louvel. Screened as a prelude to a debate on the International Criminal Court with the "dictator hunter" **Reed Brody**, this film looks back at the fight of young lawyers to have rape recognized as a war crime before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

The fight against impunity is also taken up by Mayan people in Guatemala, who succeeded in condemning former President Efraín Ríos Montt for genocide and crimes against humanity (unfortunately overturned shortly afterwards for procedural reasons). Director **Pamela Yates** will be presenting her film *500 Years*, which recounts the years of battle for justice.

The struggle for human rights is also undertaken by local activists, invited to take the floor at the FIFDH. In Papua New Guinea, **Joe Moses** fights alongside the residents of the Paga Hill community against building a hotel on their land. **Mutang Urud**, an acolyte of former activist Bruno Manser, commits himself, against a backdrop of the 1MDB scandal, against corruption and deforestation in Borneo. In Uganda, **Cleopatra Kambugu** advocates for the rights of LGBTI people in one of the most repressive countries in the world with regard to gender and sexual minorities. In the south-east of France, the farmer **Cédric Herrou** offers assistance to migrants passing through the Roya valley. He will be in Geneva to tell his story, alongside the mayor of Palermo **Leoluca Orlando**.

*For the full list of guests, please see the attachment.*

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Programme complet sur  
[www.fifdh.org](http://www.fifdh.org)

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