

International film festival and forum on human rights

Geneva
10-19 march
2017



Press release

Geneva, January 24th, 2017

Three themes at the heart of current events at the 2017 FIFDH Forum



With only a few weeks before the 15th edition of the FIFDH (March 10th-19th), three themes among the 15 debates proposed by the Forum resonate strongly with current events: the systematic collection of users' data from social networks and the threat that it represents to the right to privacy; the working conditions of mobile phone factory employees in China, at a time when President Xi Jinping has recently completed his visit to Switzerland; and the new feminist mobilization, reflected by the Women's Marches, which took place the day following the inauguration of Donald Trump last weekend.

Once upon a time there was something called private life – Wednesday March 15th

The 15th edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights will be held throughout the Canton of Geneva, Orbe and Lausanne from March 10th to the 19th, 2017.

We look forward to welcoming you to the **PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST** at 11am at the Fonction:Cinéma, 16, rue du Général Dufour (Geneva).

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Global monitoring devices, revealed by Edward Snowden and other whistleblowers, as well as the systematic collection of personal data shared on social networks show that the private sphere has shrunk sharply. By sharing our intimate thoughts, personal information and affinities, delivered shamelessly to these networks, are we not all contributing to the weakening of private life? For **Max Schrems**, the Austrian lawyer behind the criminal proceeding against Facebook, this is not an inevitability however. His lawsuit put an end to the *Safe Harbour* agreement that allowed American companies to transfer data from their European customers to the United States. Schrems, the main protagonist of the documentary *Facebookistan* (presented at the Festival), will be in Geneva to discuss these issues.

Phones and tablets: fingers of shame – Friday, March 17th

Just as Xi Jinping has recently completed his visit to Switzerland, marking the first participation of a Chinese President at the Economic Forum in Davos at which he praised the merits of unbridled globalization, working conditions in China have been passed over in silence. Especially for workers polishing the screens of phones and tablets with benzene, a toxic and highly carcinogenic substance, responsible for the death of 100'000 people. Among the guest speakers is Chinese activist **Yi Yeting**, a victim of benzene poisoning himself.

Women's rights: a continuous struggle – Sunday, March 12th

Feminism is not a unified struggle, but a multitude of local and international collectives working on specific themes such as the world of labor, the fight against violence and the rights of sexual minorities. Yet in recent years there has been a clear decline of women's rights, particularly regarding reproductive rights issues. The election of Donald Trump, debates in the Polish parliament, initiatives in Spain and Switzerland... the right to abortion which belongs at the very core of the rights of women to control their own bodies, fought so hard for since the 1970s, seems threatened today. **Laure Adler**, presenter on France Inter, will lead the debate with a high-level panel, including **Rokhaya Diallo**, essayist and co-founder of the anti-sexist association Mix-Cité.

Full program on February 21 on www.fifdh.org