

# International film festival and forum on human rights

Geneva  
10-19 march  
2017



## Press release

Geneva, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### **All the protagonists involved in the first case ever mounted against officials of the Syrian regime at the FIFDH in Geneva on March 13, 2017**

Full program on [www.fifdh.org](http://www.fifdh.org) on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

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For the first time since the beginning of the Syrian war in 2011, as reported by Swiss daily *Le Temps*, charges have been brought against officials of the Syrian regime. The case was filed today in Madrid by a Syrian exile whose brother was tortured to death in a Syrian jail. The FIFDH will have a special day dedicated to Syria on March 13.

*Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad* by Sara Afshar and Nicola Cutcher will have its world premiere at the Festival. The film denounces the torture and murder of civilians on an industrial scale in the Syrian regime's detention facilities. It follows the work of renowned war crime prosecutor Stephen Rapp, and international investigator William Wiley as they build the 3600-page-long case against the regime filed today in Madrid. According to Rapp, "the Syrian jails are torture chambers, full stop." He and Wiley will participate in the panel discussion following the screening of *Syria's Disappeared* alongside a Syrian torture survivor and human right defender Almudena Bernabeu, the lawyer for the plaintiff.

The World premiere of *Syria's Disappeared* will be preceded by the screening of *The War Room* by Andreas Dalsgaard and Obaidah Zytoon. The film follows a group of friends as they joined the peaceful opposition protest against the regime in 2011 until their disappearance, torture, and murder at the hands of the Syrian security forces. A discussion with Annie Sparrow, health activist and academic engaged in the prevention of epidemics in war-torn countries will take place.

The next day, *Syria: Imagine A Peaceful Future* a two-day panel organized by Geneva University, an FIFDH partner, will take place at UNI Dufour.  
More at [unige.ch](http://unige.ch)

For more information *Le Temps*:  
<https://www.letemps.ch/monde/2017/02/01/premiere-historique-une-plainte-penale-deposee-contre-regime-syrien>