



FIRST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Geneva, 28 March - 3 April 2003
www.fifdh.ch

PRESS RELEASE - 3 April 2003

The first edition of the FIFDH has encountered an enormous public success. From an idea, a festival is born and turned out a relevant event.

The concept of the festival, a film, a subject, a debate, allowed for a real dialogue between directors, NGO members, academics and the public, all concerned with the active defense of human rights. Geneva, as an international city, obviously needed this kind of space for discussion and action. Based on this first edition's crowded screenings, animated debates and harrowing statements, the organisation of the festival is now able to announce that for a week, thousands of people attended the projections and participated in the discussions.

PRIZE LIST

The members of the jury were :

Rony Brauman, former president of Doctors without Borders

Laurence Deonna, reporter, photographer, writer and president of Reporters without Borders

Dalibor Matanic, Croatian director whose films were awarded in many international film festivals

The Jury awarded the following prizes

FIFDH GRAND PRIZE OFFERED BY THE STATE OF GENEVA (10'000 Frs) to

***Joginis* by Sejal Shah and Manoj Jadhav, India, 2002, 30'**

For the quality of direction, for the richness of the image and editing, for its commitment to human rights made with respect and full awareness of the complexity of the subject.

THE OMCT PRICE (5'000Frs) to

***Against my will* by Ayfer Ergün, Netherlands/Pakistan, 2002, 50'**

For having exposed the necessity of fighting for the woman rights by shedding light on a particularly painful situation with force, tenderness and courage.

As this first edition closes after arousing huge interest, we will be happy to see you next year from 12 to 18 March 2004.

The festival was co-organised by Fonction Cinema, the CAC-Volatire and the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival.

This initiative emanates from the representatives of Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Geneva University, the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), the International Committee of the Red-Cross, Fonction: Cinema and the CAC Voltaire.