

## THE FIFDH 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION CLOSES ON A GREAT SUCCESS AND ANNOUNCES NEXT YEAR'S EDITION FROM 1-10 MARCH 2013

During 10 days over 21,000 people attended the FIFDH. This figure reflects the commitment of a large population for human rights. A strong presence of young people and a very active participation to the debates characterized this edition whose 46 films and 11 debates and round tables were driven by high quality rebellious cinema and renowned personalities from around the world. The FIFDH pays tribute to their commitment to the defense of universal rights and freedoms, their spirit of resistance and their mobilization in favor of dignity. Particularly noteworthy of this 10th anniversary edition was the luminous intelligence of the exceptional panel composed of four women from countries of the "Arab Spring": Mansoureh Shojaee from Iran, Sondos Asem from Egypt, Maryam Al Khawaja from Bahrain and Lina Ben Mhenni from Tunisia; and that of Edgar Morin and Stéphane Hessel, of Elias Sanbar and Roberto Lavagna. Emblematic of the FIFDH and of its concept "A film – A subject – A debate" was the evening organized around the filmmaker Rithy Panh – a master of subtlety – and his film *Duch, le maître des forges de l'enfer*. This film of rare artistic quality led to a remarkable confrontation of ideas and a discussion free from any jargon. Another highlight of this year's edition was *Sri Lanka's Killing Fields*, whose production team was nominated for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize; a screening of this film at the UN Human Rights Council had led directly to the creation of a UN Commission of Inquiry; yet another highlight was the appeal for Hungary launched during the FIFDH evening dealing with populism. The FIFDH would like to thank all film directors who attended the Festival and generously gave their time to meet with the public.

The international jury, presided over by famous Mauritanian film-maker **Abderrahmane Sissako** and composed of **Tarun J. Tejpal, Shumona Sinha, Michale Boganim, László Rajk** and **Nicolas Wadimoff**, awarded the following prizes:

**FIFDH Grand Award – Offered by the State of Geneva**  
SFr 10.000.-

### **DUCH, LE MAITRE DES FORGES DE L'ENFER**

by Rithy Panh

*The jury pays tribute to a cinematographic process marked by sobriety, distance, strength and a brilliantly constructed narrative that moves implacably towards an inevitable paroxysm of horror. The film is constructed like a symphony; it offers a permanent dialogue between words and images. By unanimous decision.*

**Barbara Hendricks Foundation Prize for Peace and Reconciliation. In memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello**  
SFr 5.000.-

### **BETTER THIS WORLD**

by Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega

*The film brilliantly and decisively denounces the US judicial system via a painstaking narrative that combines idealism, courage and emotion.*

### **Special mention**

### **HEART OF SKY – HEART OF EARTH**

by Frauke Sandig and Eric Black

*A free and poetic film about memory and the connection between human beings and nature, marked by questions on the disappearance of a people fallen victim to globalization.*

## PRIZEWINNERS

### OTHER PRIZES

#### **Grand Prize of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)**

Awarded to a film-maker whose film shows their commitment in favor of human rights.

#### **BELARUSSIAN DREAM**

by Ekatarina Kibalchich

*The film's director reminds us that human rights violations are a reality here in Europe; a reality that must not escape our attention and needs our solidarity. Those who struggle to defend human rights in Belarus and elsewhere, including those who today are in prison because of their legitimate efforts to defend human rights, deserve our support more than ever.*

#### **Youth Jury Award**

This honorary prize is awarded by a jury of five post-obligatory school students to one of the films competing for the creative documentary prize.

#### **THE AMBASSADOR**

by Mads Brügger

*The personal commitment of a director, who himself incarnates evil the better to denounce it, gives the film the original and provocative form that awakens the spectator's critical sense.*