

Record attendance for the FIFDH in 2013.

Six films granted awards.

Embargo : Saturday March 9th, 6.00 p.m.

The 11th edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, which took place from the 1st to the 10th of March 2013 in Geneva, ends with a record high of 23,000 viewers attending.

Never before had the FIFDH met with such success and welcomed as many viewers, debators, activists, cinephiles, and citizens. An unprecedented success which demonstrates the unique place that the festival now holds in Geneva's cultural life, as well as the public's enthusiasm, regardless of age, for artistic creation and debates on human rights.

Highlights

The FIFDH as continued growing this year : nearly 100 speakers, 15 debates, and special screenings have made for a festival filled with powerful emotions. We draw particular attention to the tribute paid to Stéphane Hessel, a friend of the festival, as well as to welcoming Ziauddin Yousafzai, the father of Malala, to whom the festival was dedicated. The ambassador of Palestine, Leïla Shahid, and the israeli colonel, Shaul Arieli, have issued a joint call to resume negotiations for peace. The festival has also provided a platform to denounce sexual violence directed against women worldwide, opened up the debate on freedom of expression in Russia with a member of the Pussy Riot collective, and has tackled such topics as Mali, Syria, and Tunisia. Chinese activists have managed to draw attention to the darker aspects of modern China. As for the Uzbek militant Mutabar Tadjibaeva, she has shown that tyrants can be made to shake by audacity and determination.

The commitment of artists, more than ever obvious in our selection of films, was a central theme of these ten days. The Chinese dissident and contemporary artist Ai Weiwei, president of the jury, is a masterful example. Forty films, twenty of them in the competition section, have once again shown that the creative work of filmmakers is an essential vector and plays a central role in the transmission of rights worldwide.

The 2013 edition of the FIFDH proves that cinema can be an agent of change. *No Fire Zone : The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka*, a documentary produced by Channel 4 about war crimes in Sri Lanka, was presented to the UN Council for Human Rights, thus forcing the international community to break with its current inertia.

Awards

Presided by the chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei – denied a passport – and composed of the syrian actress Fadwa Suleiman, the french filmmaker Romain Goupil, and the swiss cartoonist Patrick Chappatte, the Jury for the Creative Documentary Competition has decided to award its prizes to the following films:

- **FIFDH Grand Prize for the Best Creative Documentary Competition** – Awarded by the state of Geneva, CHF 10'000.-

CAMP 14 : TOTAL CONTROL ZONE, by Marc Wiese

This film is unique for the nightmarish testimony of a young man who was born in a North Korean concentration camp. He talks of totalitarian folly and of the pain of his destiny.

- **The Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation Prize**

In memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello, CHF 5000.-

THE ACT OF KILLING, by Joshua Oppenheimer

Moving between grotesque and tragedy, a particularly striking portrait of mass killers who proudly claim to have committed crimes, in full impunity, in the 1960s in Indonesia, with the complicity of the current regime.

- **Best Fiction Prize** – Awarded by the Hélène and Victor Barbour Foundation, CHF 10'000.-

The *Fiction and Human Rights Prize*, composed of Elena Hazanov, filmmaker, Russia/Switzerland, Rada Sestic, filmmaker and curator, Croatia/Bosnia/Netherlands, Andrew Cohen, filmmaker and journalist, USA, and Philippe Cottier, secretary of the Barbour Foundation, Switzerland, has awarded its prize to:

SHARQIYA, by Ami Livne

Among its many strengths, perhaps Sharqiya's finest quality is understatement. The film highlights human rights issues without sensationalism. It uses a minimalist structure steaming with narrative tension, unstated truths as omnipresent as the desert winds. Using a semi-documentary style and brilliantly unobtrusive performances of its leading actors, the film spotlights an issue too often in the shadows. The subject matter and story's payoff show us once again that standing up for human rights is an unending commitment.

Other Awards

- **World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) Grand Prize** - CHF 5'000.-

Awarded by the OMCT, to a director whose film is testimony to his or her commitment in favor of human rights.

The OMCT Competition jury is honoured to grant its award to

OUTLAWED IN PAKISTAN by Habiba Nosheen and Hilke Schellmann

This documentary tells of the damage done by archaic customs, in conjunction with an absence of protection on the part of the state and a dysfunctional judiciary system : the victim of an abject collective rap finds herself doubly criminalized by her own society's denial. Nevertheless, a ray of hope remains, as the victim resists, supported by her family and pakistani civil society. The undeniable cinematographic quality of the film reinforces its content.

- **Young Jury Awards – Creative Documentaries**

Awarded by a jury of five young high-school students to one of the films in the Creative Documentary competition (honorary prize).

The Young Jury is honoured to award this prize to an innovative film, characterized by a true intellectual position :

IN UTERO SREBRENICA, by Giuseppe Carrieri.

Through testimonies revealing the neglected consequences of the war, the film honours all women who have been separated from their children by faceless conflicts. The exceptional framing and the black and white images create a specific link between the aesthetic of the film and its theme, confronting hope and truth, reality and illusion with

humility. For if there is a word to designate children who have lost their parents, there is none to designate the pain of a lost child.

- **Young Jury Prize – Fiction and Human Rights Prize**

Awarded by a jury of five young high-school students to one of the films in the Fiction and Human Rights competition (honorary prize).

We are honoured to award this prize to a film which denounces, with great accuracy and subtlety, the reality which the Roma community must daily face in the heart of Europe. This story, which follows the events of a single day, kept us on the edge of our seats thanks to a growing tension, to the beauty of its images, and to remarkable mise-en-scène.

*We have named **JUST THE WIND (CZAK A SZEL)** by Bence Fliegauf, a disturbing film which will leave no one unmoved.*

The 2014 FIFDH

On the basis of this exceptional success, the International Film Festival and Forum for Human Rights announces that it will be held again from March 7th to March 16th 2014.