

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) was inaugurated in 2003. The inspiration and impetus behind the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights came from human rights defenders active in NGO's, filmmakers, media representatives and the University of Geneva. The FIFDH coincides with the UN Human Rights Council's main session. This simultaneous event makes the Festival a Free Platform for discussion and debates on a wide variety of topics concerning human rights.

AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS

As a genuine Forum on Human Rights, the Festival informs and firmly denounces violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights wherever they occur. In the heart of Geneva, the « human rights' international capital », the FIFDH is a relay for human rights defenders active on the ground. It offers debates as well as unscreened films and solidarity actions.

CULTURAL APPROACH

With its concept « A film, A subject, A debate », the FIFDH aims to underline human rights violations **through films** and debates, in the presence of filmmakers, human rights defenders, politicians and recognized specialists.

Its programme is designed to increase public awareness and inspire people to reinforce their commitment to universal values. In 2010, more than 18'000 visitors attended the screenings and debates of the Festival.

THE PATRONS

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights tragically murdered in Baghdad in 2003, was the FIFDH's first patron along with Robert Badinter, Barbara Hendricks, Jorge Semprun and Ken Loach. Louise Arbour joined them in 2004, along with Ruth Dreifuss, Hubert Nyssen and William Hurt in 2005.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee is composed of the two directors of the Festival, the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), Amnesty International (AI), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the University of Geneva, as well as Jean-Christophe Rufin, Abderrahmane Sissako and associations of filmmakers and media representatives.

PERSONALITIES PRESENT AT THE FESTIVAL

Invited to take part in the precedent editions: Anna Politkovskaïa, Shirin Ebadi, Carla del Ponte, Juliette Binoche, Samantha Power, Axelle Red, Zainab Gashaeva, Leila Shahid, Joseph Stiglitz, Robert Badinter, Elie Barnavi, Michel Rocard, Vladimir Bukovsky, Rony Brauman, Hocine Aït-Ahmed, The General Roméo Dallaire, Miguel Angel Estrella, Ariel Dorfman, Andreï Nekrasov, Tom Hayden, Milan Kucan, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Manfred Nowak, Robert Ménard, among others.

AWARDS

The International Jury awards three Prizes: the « Grand Prix du FIFDH » offered by the State of Geneva, the Award of the "Foundation Barbara Hendricks for Peace and Reconciliation in tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello" and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) Award.

Jurys: Vanessa Redgrave, Nancy Huston, Sapho, Manon Loizeau, Philipinne Leroy-Beaulieu, Ariel Dorfman, Russel Banks, Stéphane Hessel, William Hurt, Hubert Nyssen, Rony Brauman, Ousmane Sow, Florence Aubenas, Louise Arbour, Slimane Benaïssa, Tony Gatlif, Hina Jilani and Golshifteh Farahani.

SUBJECTS

The subjects raised by the FIFDH underline civil, political, economical, social and cultural human rights violations., such as: women rights violations, precarity, torture, international justice and climate changes. Countries are also brought under the spotlight, e.g.: Iran, Russia, Irak, China, Israël-Palestine, Europe.

MEDIA PARTNERS

Le Temps and the RTS (swiss radio and television) are our national partners.

The FIFDH welcomes (direct)"Thema" / Arte Tv. Libération, Arte, Tv5Monde, Euronews, Rue89 are some of our international partners.

THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva, from 4 to 13 March 2011

Directors: Léo Kaneman and Yaël Reinharz Hazan

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