



CINEMA FOR PEACE FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER JULI/AUGUST 2010

DEAR FRIENDS, PARTNERS AND PATRONS OF CINEMA FOR PEACE,

It is our pleasure to let you know about our latest activities. Again, the last month turned out to be very productive. As always, we will supply more detailed information on selected issues upon your requests. Please feel free to contact our office at + 49 (0)30 76 77 525 11 or via email info@cinemaforpeace.com

We look forward to your comments, ideas and thoughts.

Best regards,

Jaka Bizilj and the CINEMA FOR PEACE team

GRAND OPENING OF CINEMA JENIN

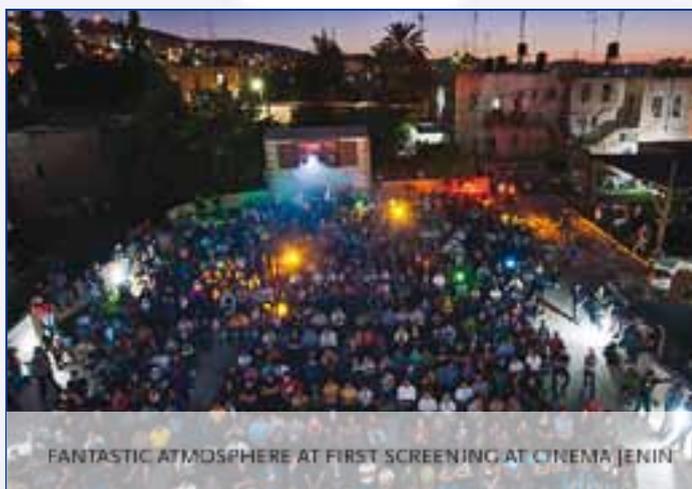
After two years of restoration works, the international cultural project Cinema Jenin opened its doors on August 5th with an impressive opening ceremony. On behalf of our foundation, Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador and CINEMA FOR PEACE Ambassador Bianca Jagger spoke at the event.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad cut the ribbon to officially open the cinema. Bianca Jagger said in her welcome speech: "When I was in Jenin in 2002, I was shocked by the destruction of the city. Now I can see that Cinema Jenin gives the people new hope. I wish that the cinema will provide culture and education not only here in Jenin, but also in other cities throughout Palestine".

CINEMA FOR PEACE founder Jaka Bizilj also expressed our strong belief in the reconciliation power of film and culture: "We hope Cinema Jenin will bring back to this formerly very dangerous place film and culture, and will build a bridge of understanding between Palestinians and Israelis".

A symbol of this goal was the appearance at the opening of Samah Gadban, the 17-year-old girl from Israel who had received her donor heart from Palestinian boy Ismail Khatib. This emotional story is told in the movie "The Heart of Jenin" by Marcus Vetter; honoured at the Cinema for Peace Gala 2009 – the starting point for Cinema Jenin and the successful cooperation with the foundation.

CINEMA FOR PEACE supported the opening of Cinema Jenin and the Film Art Centre, where young people will learn to create their own movies on issues such as peace, reconciliation and justice. Furthermore, movies will be shown here to school classes and lectures on filmmaking will be held.





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SCREENING AND PRESS CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF SAKINEH ASHTIANI



Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, the 43-year-old Iranian mother of two convicted in May 2006 of having an “illicit relationship”, despite already having been punished with a sentence of 99 lashes, was recently further convicted of “adultery” and sentenced to death by stoning. Due to massive international protests, her execution was delayed, but is still feared to take place anytime. In support of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani and all women in Iran facing the same cruel destiny, the CINEMA FOR PEACE Foundation organized a press conference and a special screening of ‘The Stoning of Soraya M.’ by Cyrus Nowrasteh, winner of the CINEMA FOR PEACE Award for Justice 2010. The press conference took place on August 18th 2010 in attendance of Sakineh Ashtiani’s attorney Mohammed Mostafaei, Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador Bianca Jagger, and Markus Löning, German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights.



SAKINEH
MOHAMMADI ASHTIANI



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND HUMANITARIAN
AID MARKUS LÖNING

Mohammad Mostafaei was forced to flee Iran at the end of July due to serious threats to seek asylum in Norway. The trip to Germany to speak at the press conference organized by CINEMA FOR PEACE in Berlin was his first travel abroad since his arrival in Norway. All participants jointly expressed their concerns about the deterioration of human rights in Iran and demanded to repeal the death penalty against Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, to abolish the barbarous penalty of stoning and the death penalty in general, and to establish a democratic legal system in Iran, giving women their human and democratic rights. These demands have been supported by members of all political parties in Germany, e.g. by Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul (SPD) and Gregor Gysi (DIE LINKE). The petition and appeal to save Sakineh’s life was also signed by German Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle (FDP), Annie Lennox, Bob Geldof, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Robert Redford and many more.



DEFENCE ATTORNEY
MOHAMMAD MOSTAFAEI



THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE FOR THE ABOLITION
OF THE DEATH PENALTY BIANCA JACGER



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Our press conference and “urgent action” received broad national and international media attention – and showed almost immediate effects: Following a suggestion of CINEMA FOR PEACE, Serkan Tören, member of the German Government, offered asylum to Mrs. Ahtiani. We are currently discussing with him possibilities for a screening of “The Stoning of Soraya M” for the German parliament. The Iranian government has contacted Mr. Mostafaei shortly after the press conference and offered him to return to Iran. At the same time French First Lady Carla Bruni contacted the attorney in exile to offer her support on behalf of France. Mr. Mostafaei is currently not pursuing any requests, until his family, who is still in Iran, is allowed to leave the country. He is positive that under the international pressure, Sakineh Ashtianis life may be saved. As a matter of course we will continue action till this goal will be hopefully reached.

The Washington Post

AP Interview: Iranian may be spared execution

Iranian lawyer Mohammad Mostafaei briefs the media at a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010. Mostafaei fled Iran for Turkey after defending his client, Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, who was convicted of cheating on her husband and sentenced to death by stoning in Iran. Human rights lawyer Mohammad Mostafaei told The Associated Press in Berlin on Wednesday he thinks there is too much international pressure for the Iranian justice system and government to carry out Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani's execution. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber) (Markus Schreiber - AP)

By VERENA SCHMITT-ROSCHMANN
The Associated Press
Wednesday, August 18, 2010; 12:27 PM

BERLIN — The international outcry over the death sentence against an Iranian woman convicted of adultery might be enough to save her from execution, the lawyer who defended her told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a 43-year-old mother of two, was sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. After international protests, Iran last month lifted the stoning sentence, but she could still face execution by hanging.

“The current situation is that the chief of the Iranian justice system has ordered the stoning not to be carried out,” human rights lawyer Mohammad Mostafaei told the AP during a visit to Berlin.

“I think currently, because of international reactions and because of the international attention, the Iranian justice and, more importantly, the Iranian government will not decide to follow through with the death penalty against Ms. Mohammadi Ashtiani,” he said through an interpreter.

It would even be within the power of Iranian officials to set Ashtiani free, he said. Clemency was granted to seven other women he represented who had been sentenced to stoning, he said.

“The same is possible in the case of Mohammadi Ashtiani as well,” Mostafaei said.

He said he publicized the case in a blog in June and talked to international media because he was not able to get anywhere in his efforts to have the sentence lifted or have Ashtiani granted clemency.

He recently fled Iran, however, after being questioned by the government about his efforts to have Ashtiani freed. He now lives in exile in Norway.

He spoke to the AP after a press conference by the German government's Human Rights Commissioner Markus Loening, human rights activist Bianca Jagger, and others who urged Tehran to lift Ashtiani's death sentence and abolish capital punishment altogether.

“The death penalty is not warranted for any reason,” Loening said, adding that Tehran has recently stepped up pressure on the country's opposition and “it is a shame that in a civilized nation such as Iran human rights are trampled.”

Jagger appealed the Iranian authorities to abolish the death penalty and to stop Ashtiani's execution.

“Her case is an egregious denial of justice,” she said.

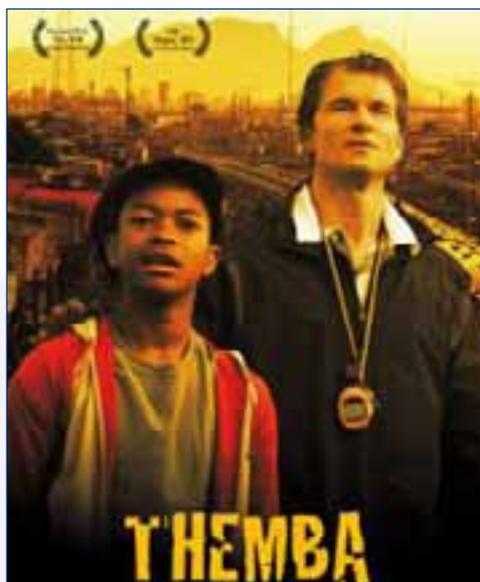


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GERMAN PREMIERES OF THEMBA - A BOY CALLED HOPE

In our last newsletter we reported on our successful activities in support of the movie “THEMBA- A Boy called Hope” such as the screening for kids from townships in Capetown with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu. This month, Cinema for Peace co-presented the premieres in Germany. THEMBA is now showing in German and South-African movie theatres. Especially in South Africa, where 10% of the population is HIV infected, this film can be a real means of surviving because of its educational value.

In the meantime, we are concluding our conceptual work on our grassroots campaign for THEMBA which aims at showing the movie in townships and rural areas. We will report on the implementation of this in our next newsletter.



CINEMA FOR PEACE OPEN SKY SUMMER SCREENINGS

We changed location for our first OPEN SKY SCREENINGS: from Berlin to Jenin. CINEMA FOR PEACE was deprived from official permission for use of the Bebelplatz in Berlin, the historic square, place of Nazi book burning ceremony. The reason given was a recently implied restricted official regulation for the use of the Bebelplatz, which only allows events to take place there in accurate accordance with its historic context. Cinema For Peace however notes ongoing fashion shows and upcoming Christmas markets on Bebelplatz, while the proposed screening of “films for freedom” like THIS PRISON WHERE I LIVE has not been allowed. We will therefore continue our efforts and hope for a positive reaction of the authorities for 2011.



The screenings will now take place in September in the West Bank. “Themba – A Boy Called Hope” by Stefanie Sycholt and “This Prison Where I Live” by Rex Bloomstein will be screened at Cinema Jenin, with German star comedian and co-producer of the movie Michael Mittermeier as well as directors Sycholt and Bloomstein in attendance, who will share their expertise by giving workshops and lectures for young people in Jenin in the Jenin Cinema & Art Center.



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“This Prison Where I Live” is a film about two comedians in very different circumstances: While Zarganar, Burma’s greatest living comic has been jailed for this outspoken criticism and sentenced to 59 years behind bars (now reduced to 35 years), Michael Mittermeier is free to practise his art of humour and provocation as one of Europe’s leading stand-up comedians.

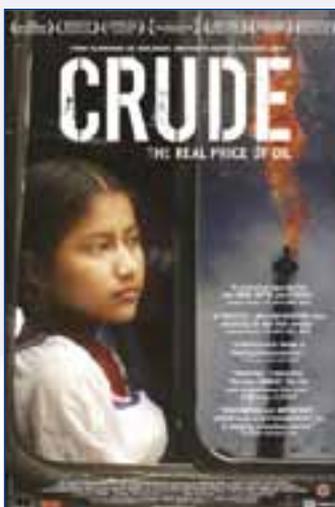
The financing of this movie had collapsed shortly before shooting. The CINEMA FOR PEACE FOUNDATION contacted comedians all over the world and was able to bring Michael Mittermeier into this project, which ensured the making of the film.



Cinema for Peace fights for independent journalism and protection of documentary filmmakers

A CFPF urgent action took place in July in support of Joe Berlingers’ outstanding film CRUDE, winner of this years’ CFP International Green Film Award. We set up an urgent petition with prominent subscribers such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert Redford and Mikhail Gorbachev to support Berlinger in his legal battle against the Chevron oil company.

A United States court had ruled that Berlinger should surrender all 600 hours of outtakes from his documentary to Chevron. CRUDE depicts a case of devastating environmental pollution in Ecuador and the ongoing lawsuit between the indigenous people of Ecuador and the oil company. We published our support petition in the International Herald Tribune. A victory was achieved: the US Court of Appeals ruled that Berlinger will have to turn over only very limited footage shot for his film.





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INTERNATIONAL **Herald Tribune** THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM AND FIRST AMENDMENT UNDER ATTACK U.S. COURT AND CHEVRON GO AGAINST WINNER OF GREEN FILM AWARD "CRUDE"

The film CRUDE presents a case of devastating environmental pollution in Ecuador and «Cinema for Peace» independently supports Joe Berlinger's film which deals with the ongoing lawsuit between the indigenous people of Ecuador and the oil company Chevron. Some 30,000 indigenous residents of the region are seeking 27 billion dollars in damages and reparations from Chevron for contamination to their rainforest home.

Recently, Mr. Berlinger's film has been the subject of its own legal battle with Chevron: On May 6, the Honorable Judge Lewis A. Kaplan upheld the oil company's request to subpoena the CRUDE filmmakers to officially present the nearly 600 hours of raw footage accumulated during the production and to turn it over to Chevron. This ruling represents a direct threat to the US First Amendment and any journalist's and filmmaker's ability to guarantee trust with their sources. As a consequence, independent documentary filmmaking in the US and the work of investigative journalists everywhere will be endangered. The future of journalism through documentary filmmaking is at stake!

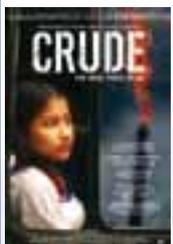
The filmmakers and their attorneys have argued that the footage is protected by the journalist's privilege, and being forced to hand it over to any third party (either Chevron, the plaintiffs' lawyers, or anyone else) is a violation of their First Amendment rights. In ruling in Chevron's favor, the US District Court's decision creates a frightening precedent that could have a chilling effect on the future of all investigative journalism and documentary filmmaking. In an effort to protect the footage, his sources, and his process, CRUDE director Joe Berlinger immediately appealed the decision, and on June 8th, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that Berlinger will receive a full appellate hearing on July 14th. We urge the higher courts to overturn this ruling to help ensure the safety and protection of journalists and filmmakers and their subjects and to ensure freedom of the press in the US and around the world.



Joe Berlinger receives the «Green Oscar» from Mikhail Gorbachev and Leonardo DiCaprio

WE ASK FOR

- to honour the First Amendment Right
- to protect free journalism, documentary filmmakers and their sources
- all oil corporations to take full responsibility for verified pollution, damage and costs, in the Gulf of Mexico same as in the Amazon or other parts of the world



CINEMA FOR PEACE and we, the undersigned, strongly support the award-winning filmmaker Joe Berlinger in his efforts to resist Chevron Corporation's subpoena for all of the unused footage from CRUDE and express our sincerest hope that the appeals court will overturn this decision:

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV (NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE), **AWARD NOMINEE**, **BARBARA KOPPLE** (TWO TIME ACADEMY AWARD WINNER), **LEONARDO DICAPRIO** (GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER, ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE), **DAVIS GUGGENHEIM** (ACADEMY AWARD WINNER), **NICK BROOMFIELD** (SUNDANCE AND EUROPEAN FILM AWARD NOMINEE), **LUCY WALKER** (SUNDANCE AND BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL AUDIENCE AWARD), **STEVEN REICH** (EMMY NOMINEE), **OLIVER HIRSCHBIEGEL** (ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE), **NASTASSJA KINSKI** (GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER), **SUSAN SARANDON** (ACADEMY AWARD WINNER), **MARC WIESE** (CINEMA FOR PEACE AWARD), **MOHAMMED REZA KAZEMI** (CINEMA FOR PEACE AWARD), **SANDRA SCHULBERG** (INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARD), **RALF SCHMERBERG** (UNESCO AWARD NOMINEE, CINEMA FOR PEACE AWARD), **BILL NIGHTY** (GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER) AND **FROM OPEN LETTER IDA** (EXCERPT) **D.A. PENNEBAKER** (ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE), **ROB EPSTEIN** (TWO TIME ACADEMY AWARD WINNER), **KEN BURNS** (ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE), **JAMES LONGLEY** (ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE), **ROBERT GREENWALD** (EMMY NOMINEE), **PAMELA YATES** (SUNDANCE NOMINEE), **MICHAEL MOORE** (ACADEMY AWARD WINNER)



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CRUDE

www.crudethemovie.com

www.cinemaforpeace-foundation.com

info@cinemaforpeace.com



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COMMITMENT IN BOSNIA – THE GENOCIDE FILM LIBRARY

SARAJEVO/BOSNIA. At the Sarajevo Film Festival in July CFP committee member Danis Tanovic' new movie "Circus Columbia" won the AUDIENCE AWARD for the best feature film. Tanovic' outstanding artistic work has received two CINEMA FOR PEACE AWARDS, for "Triage" in 2009 and "No Men's Land" in 2004. Both of these impressive films depict the horrors of war.

The most horrific genocide after World War II is that of Srebrenica in 1995. More than 8000 Bosnian people were killed – with UN forces based in Srebrenica, there to actually protect the inhabitants, in front of the eyes of the world and despite the promises of all world leaders that no genocide will ever take place again. We visited the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, a cemetery complex in Srebrenica commemorating the victims of Srebrenica.

In collaboration with the Bosnian government and with the support of, among others, Hasan Nuhanovic, CINEMA FOR PEACE is currently developing a Genocide Film Library in Bosnia. Inspired by the audiovisual library of the Shoah Foundation we intend to collect over the next five years 10,000 interviews with victims of the genocide in Srebrenica and the witnesses in Bosnia in a virtual library accessible for everyone. The Genocide Film Library Bosnia Project is meant to raise people's awareness, to enable future generations to get a profound picture of the horror that took place, and to work against disre-membrance. Moreover, educational material for universities, museums and schools shall be provided.

As a quotation in Hasan Nuhanovic' book "Under the UN Flag.- The International Community and the Srebrenica genocide" says: "Having in mind the loss of lives of more than 8,000 men and women, primarily the story of the Srebrenica citizens and refugees should be heard all across the world. Regrettably, reality shows that this is not the case.'





SAFEKEEPING DARFUR

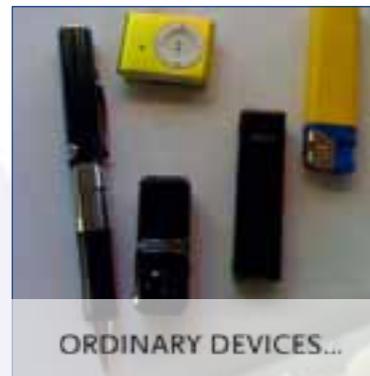
More than 2.5 million people have been uprooted in the process of the severe Darfur conflicts. They now live in refugee camps in which violence is a sad reality. In particular children and women fall victim to violations. Furthermore, Darfur is still facing an almost complete media blockage, so the events that take place there are not being covered.

But finally there might be a way to stop violations in Darfur and even prevent the outbreak of new massacres and genocide next January after the end of the current ceasefire agreement:

The „Cinema for Peace Foundation“ plans to distribute small cameras and satellite transmission systems all over Darfur in order to:

- protect civilians from attacks
- gather evidence for the International Criminal Court
- transmit attacks live and online in order to force UN, EU and politicians to act immediately.

The public will not accept pictures of attack, rape and murderer without action being taken against it. The first cameras have been installed already. Our aim is to establish a full safekeeping-network with thousands of cameras and numerous satellite stations that shall e.g. enable fulltime access by everyone via internet.





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LIFE BALL VIENNA

Cinema for Peace committee member and Golden Globe winning actress Nastassja Kinski presented the “Crystal of Hope Award” at the Life Ball Vienna on July 21st which opened the World AIDS Conference.



Nastassja Kinski submitted the award endowed with 100.000 Euros to the Odessa Charity Fund and the Elton John Foundation, which was honored for its pioneer work in the field of HIV/Aids. The Life Ball Vienna is the biggest AIDS charity event in the world. Further speakers at the Ball included Bill Clinton and Whoopi Goldberg.

COMMITTEE & MEMBERSHIP

The last meeting of the CINEMA FOR PEACE Committee took place on August 30th at the Hotel “Amano” in Berlin. All members agreed that the foundation should be able to acquire larger financial support, e.g. in order to enlarge its team professionally over the course of the next year. In this regard the members of the committee have decided to support CINEMA FOR PEACE with 1000 Euros per year and suggested the following further means of support.

CINEMA FOR PEACE thanks the committee members for their active participation. Special thanks go to Ariel Schiff for generously providing the CINEMA FOR PEACE Foundation the opportunity for meetings, press conferences, and the use of bigger office space at Friedrichstrasse 131 free of charge.

LAST- BUT NOT LEAST.....

- Congratulations to IRIS BERBEN, one of our long time supporters, who just celebrated her 60th birthday!

Her humanitarian commitment is exemplary. Especially her untiring campaigning against anti-Semitism and right wing extremism commands our deep respect. Her ties to Israel have continually grown over the course of years and she is a valuable ambassador for the Israeli–German relations. CINEMA FOR PEACE is congratulating Ms. Berben with two special presents: a screening of



“Menachem and Fred” in the presence of Menachem and director Ronit Kertzner at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem, and a special screening of “Heart of Jenin” in the newly opened Cinema Jenin, with Ismail Khatib, Palestinian father who donated his son’s heart, attending.

- Congratulations also go to MARCUS VETTER: “The Heart of Jenin” is nominated for an International Emmy Award!

- Cinema For Peace is establishing a soccer team to play in the Media League

If you are interested to participate, kindly contact our office by mail at info@cinemaforpeace.com