

Connecting

human rights

film festivals

around the world

## LATEST NEWS

Welcome to the Human Rights Film Network (HRFN) newsletter. In an effort to better communicate across the network and beyond, we work toward sending periodic updates about network and festival member news.



### HRFN BOARD MEMBERS

We are happy to announce the current composition of the HRFN board, formed by 5 members who dedicate time and effort to coordinate together the general actions of our Network.



**BETH SEYMOUR**  
ACT HUMAN RIGHTS  
FILM FESTIVAL



**FLORENCIA SANTUCHO**  
FICDH



**MARIA CARRIÓN**  
FISAHARA



**KHALIL ALMOZIAN**  
RED CARPET HUMAN  
RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



**BISHNU KHATRI**  
NEPAL HUMAN  
RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



### THE LATEST WEBINARS

Last month, the online webinar about Commercial Partnerships took place. Member festivals from Lithuania and Ethiopia shared their expertise and experiences among the network.

This is a short wrap up:

- 📌 Private sector funding is very beneficial but very time-consuming at the same time.
  - Biggest opportunities: new audience, free money, extra space in the media and public sector, bigger impact.
  - Biggest threads: lot of time, danger to your reputation (hidden greenwashing etc.), high expectations from the partners side.
- 📌 What can help: cooperation with marketing agencies who already have an extended databases of clients from the private sector, creating a quality pdf presentation of your festival with the offer of partnership packages.

# FESTIVAL'S MOST OUTSTANDING FILMS

Hundreds of human rights films from around the world have been screened during HRFN festivals that took place in the first period of 2023. Below are the most relevant of them that have been awarded or featured in the editions held during the first half of the year. They are all films with a strong commitment to make visible, share and denounce the violation of human rights worldwide. Seeing them becomes an act of resistance too.

## HUMAN

Oslo - Norway



The Human Rights Human Wrongs Award 2023  
**MY NAME IS HAPPY**  
Nick Read, Ayse Toprak  
UK

## ONE WORLD

Prague - Czech Republic



International Competition Jury Award for Best Film  
**APOLONIA, APOLONIA**  
Lea Glob Monies  
Denmark, France

## MOVIES THAT MATTER

The Hague - Netherlands



Grand Jury Documentary Award 2023  
**THEATRE OF VIOLENCE**  
Lukasz Konopa, Emil Langballe / Denmark

## FIFDH

Geneva - Switzerland



Grand Geneva Award 2023  
**AURORA'S SUNRISE**  
Inna Sahakyan  
Armenia, Germany & Lithuania

## ACT

Fort Collins - USA



Favorite Film 2023  
**THE DADS**  
Luchina Fisher  
United States

## CENSURADOS

Lima - Peru



Best Censored Film 2023  
**ETERNAL SPRING**  
Jason Loftus  
Canada

## FESTIVAL DE CINE Y DERECHOS HUMANOS

Donostia



Premio del Público 2023  
**LAS BUENAS COMPAÑÍAS**  
Silvia Munt  
Spain

## MEMORIA, VERDAD, JUSTICIA

Guatemala



Película inaugural  
**MI PAÍS IMAGINARIO**  
Patricio Guzmán  
Chile

2023  
FESTIVALS MEETING FESTIVALS

## **AN ITALIAN TOUR FOR TANYA HATSURA YAVORSKA**

By Maurizio del Bufalo (Coordinator of Naples HRFN)

Tanya Hatsura Yavorska's Italian tour started on May 25th and ended on June 6th. Tanya was invited to Italy by the Naples Human Rights Film Festival and by the "Rete del Caffè Sospeso" (Suspended Coffee Network), two interconnected organizations that act for the protection of human rights, the protection of persecuted intellectuals and the dissemination of political cinema.

The invitation arose from the story of which Tanya, director of the WATCH DOCS Human Rights Film Festival, was a victim in Belarus, her country of origin. In 2021, Tanya organized a photographic exhibition in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, to denounce the conditions in which the city's hospitals were found following the Covid19 pandemic. The exhibition was suspended by the police, and Tanya's authors and collaborators, including the doctors who had testified, were fired and arrested, and the NGO of which Tanya was president, Zvyano, was dissolved. After a collection of signatures from 200 European festivals Tanya was released after a few days, but her husband and her son were expelled from the country and sent to Ukraine. Tanya joined them after almost a year, fleeing her city, while, in the meantime, the Russo-Ukrainian war had broken out. The WATCH DOCS festival was suspended and Tanya now organizes the new editions in Ukraine.



PHOTO / NAPLES HRFN



PHOTO / NAPLES HRFN

After her release in 2021, the Naples Film Festival promised Tanya to host her in Italy to tell her story and offer her a "media escort" to defend her from persecution by the Belarusian police. The "media escort" is the service offered by the Suspended Coffee Network (a network founded in 2010 by the Naples festival and other Italian festivals) to persecuted intellectuals who could disappear into prisons in their own country or in other countries where the police can act secretly.

Tanya accepted our invitation and, with the help of the supporters of the "Rete del Caffè Sospeso", an Italian tour was organized in six cities: Salerno, Naples, Trieste, Trento, Rome and Cagliari. Numerous events have been created to facilitate her meeting with high school and university students, but also with associations, NGOs and institutions interested in learning about the living conditions in Belarus and also having an update on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Tanya, who has a solid journalistic culture, answered the questions asked very decisively and clarified the state of democracy in Belarus and her current condition of life in Ukraine. She showed very interesting short films about the protests of the Belarusian people after the 2020 elections and explained her personal story in which she was deprived of her liberty. In addition to the many interviews received from journalists and experts, Tanya was interviewed by RAI, the Italian national television, in the "Pomeriggio24" program of the RaiNews24 network. It was a journalistically very important event which was broadcast several times on the same day on the national network. In Rome, Tanya also met journalists and commentators close to the positions of Pope Francesco and explained her opinion on the attempts that the Vatican is making to bring peace to Ukraine.

For us at the Naples Human Rights Film Festival who strongly wanted Tanya in Italy, the most important thing is to defend Tanya from the accusations made against her by the Belarusian police and return her role as director of the WATCH DOCS festival to her because we believe that the Cinema of Human Rights is an instrument of continuous dialogue between civil society and institutions and also a voice of the free Belarusian people towards the rest of the world that cannot be silenced, as demonstrated by the immediate reaction following the his arrest which led to his release in a few days.

The Naples Human Rights Film Festival thanks Tanya and all the friends and colleagues of the "Rete del Caffè Sospeso" who contributed to this trip to Italy and to the many events in which our colleague Tanya was the guest of honour. We also invite the other Festivals of the Human Rights Film Festival network to follow the example of Naples and to trigger solidarity with other persecuted intellectuals, ensuring the "media escort".

We have established contacts with Tanya for future collaborations, but our wish is to see soon in Minsk, guests of WATCH DOCS, with Tanya back in the role she deserves and which is rightfully hers.

## CAPTIVATING FILMS AND INSPIRING RECOGNITION AT MTM

At Movies that Matter, I had a truly transformative experience. Surrounded by colleagues from diverse backgrounds, we immersed ourselves in captivating films that left a lasting impact. Engaging in post-screening discussions, we faced the challenging task of choosing just one film from a multitude of touching stories and thought-provoking themes. Our conversations sparked lively debates and offered different perspectives.

As jury members, including Dewi van de Weerd, Alex Pritz, Martijn Herrmann, and Peter Mudamba, we grappled with the difficult decision of selecting the winning film. The choice was unanimous, as the film deeply touched and even disturbed us. The prestigious Activist Award was rightfully bestowed upon Steffi Niederzoll's "Seven Winters in Tehran," a poignant documentary depicting Reyhaneh Jabbari's fight for justice against a threatening man. Despite facing limited resources, the film immersed us in their story, leaving an indelible mark. Additionally, we recognized the exceptional work of directors Joseph Curran and Dominic Aubrey de Vere, who received a Special Mention for "A Story of Bones," shedding light on the enduring legacy of colonialism.



PHOTO / MOVIES THAT MATTER / EELKJE COLMJON

Movies that Matter served as a powerful reminder of the profound impact of film in addressing global issues. It inspired empathy and action, urging us to reflect on our shared humanity.



### BOLIVIA

## FIRST MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVALS IN SUCRE

The 19th International Human Rights Film Festival "The Seventh Eye Is Yours" (FESTIMO) in coordination with the Human Rights Film Network (HRFN), with the support of the French Embassy in Bolivia, French Cinematheque, UNESCO, Cultural Center of Spain in La Paz and in agreement with the San Francisco Xavier University, Cinema Development Agency, Ombudsman and the Municipal Autonomous Government of Sucre, is preparing the First Meeting of Human Rights Film Festivals of Latin America to be held in the city of Sucre, Bolivia, at the end of August 2023.

The 19th FESTIMO will program a maximum of 70 films from the last two years. The theme of reflection will be "memory, truth against impunity" and the Republic of Chile will be the guest country for the 50th anniversary of the Coup d'état. The actions include a tribute to the filmmakers who disappeared during the Condor Plan, the presentation of the Ibero-American Audiovisual Panorama 2022 and the dissemination of the UNESCO world report on rethinking policies for creativity, among others.