



**EMBARGO UNTIL  
SATURDAY 14 MARCH - 23H59**

**International Film Festival and Forum  
on Human Rights**

## **The FIFDH closes its 2.0. edition and unveils its prize list**

Link to photo file: <https://www.swisstransfer.com/d/16ad1393-1a04-44a0-bec3-5d08d6b17e98>

*Geneva, 14 March 2020* – For ten days, the FIFDH's 2.0. programme brought together activists, artists, journalists and filmmakers for debates and interviews broadcast live on the internet. A reinvented Festival that will have given a voice to civil society and human rights defenders, despite the cancellation of public events. At the same time, the Festival's juries watched the films in competition from a distance and delivered their prize list.

*«I have a voice, I want to talk, I'm not invisible. Don't take away the only thing we have left: the opportunity to testify,»* said Abdul Aziz Muhamat, refugee activist and winner of the 2019 Martin Ennals Award, on the stage of the Festival. Hatice Cengiz, fiancée of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Kashoggi, for her part denounced the international community's passivity towards the Saudi regime and called for a boycott of the G20 summit in Riyadh as part of a debate on violence against journalists.

*«Public opinion must speak. When we silence ourselves, we weaken our society.»* The FIFDH has adopted this motto by Agnès Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, who was present in Geneva for several debates. During 10 days, the FIFDH 2020 debated the climate emergency with, in particular, the author Pablo Servigne, highlighted the scandal of the privatization of prisons with the journalist Ruth Hopkins and the directors Ilse and Femke Van Velzen, discussed the Covid-19 epidemic with Professor Didier Pittet or the former president of MSF Rony Brauman or received the cartoonist Joe Sacco for an interview around art and activism.

*«The coronavirus pandemic highlights issues similar to those raised by the climate emergency or citizen revolts. The need to rethink the common elements of our societies has emerged as one of the conclusions of this edition of the Festival»* underlines Caroline Abu Sa'da, editorial manager of the FIFDH Forum. The nearly 30 debates and interviews broadcast generated more than 55,000 video views on YouTube and Facebook in ten days. This redesigned FIFDH format also enabled the creation of new formats, such as Utopia3, a series of podcasts produced with the Festival's guests to be discovered from April onwards. All the debates and interviews conducted during these ten days can now be viewed on demand on the FIFDH website.

## The FIFDH 2020 prize list

**The FIFDH juries watched the films in competition, from a distance, and handed over their prize lists.**

The Geneva Grand Prix for the best creative documentary, offered by the City and Canton of Geneva, was awarded to *Colectiv*, by Alexander Nanau. A film to be discovered soon on RTS, which traces a relentless investigation into a network of corruption after a nightclub fire in Bucharest, when 37 teenagers died as a result of the diluted disinfectants used by Romanian hospitals.

The Gilda Vieira de Mello Prize in honour of her son Sergio Vieira de Mello, offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation, is awarded to *Silence Radio*, by Juliana Fanjul. The documentary retraces the career of journalist Carmen Aristegui, one of the few voices in Mexico to express herself freely on the airwaves in front of millions of listeners, despite death threats.

The Fiction and Human Rights Grand Prize, offered by the Hélène and Victor Barbour Foundation, is awarded to *Maternal*, an Argentinean film by Maura Delpero, which portrays three women in an Argentinean convent: while abortion is illegal, some became mothers against their will, the third will never be.

The OMCT Prize for the Best Documentary in the Grands Reportages section goes to *Délit de solidarité / Assistance to persons in danger: a crime*, directed by Pietro Boschetti and Frank Preiswerk, devoted to Swiss policy on illegal migration. «This documentary goes to the heart of what human rights are all about. It asks a simple question: What do we do as human beings when the law prevents us from showing humanity to those who need it most?» said the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT). Broadcast by RTS as part of Temps Présent, this documentary can now be viewed online.

### Several films from the selection to discover in cinemas

*Information valid prior the recently-announced closing of the cinemas. The FIFDH will communicate on the dates of theatrical releases of the films in the selection as soon as new information becomes available.*

Numerous films from the official FIFDH selection will be released in cinemas in French-speaking Switzerland in the coming weeks. They are :

- *Midnight Family*, by Luke Lorentzen, in cinemas on 11 March
- *Sous la peau*, by Robin Harsch, in theatres since March 11<sup>th</sup>
- *Egoïste*, by Géraldine André and Stéphane Santini, release in French-speaking Switzerland on 13 May (and from 18 March in German-speaking Switzerland)
- *Silence Radio*, by Juliana Fanjul, released on May 27<sup>th</sup>
- *Nuestras Madres*, by César Díaz, released on April 15
- *Yalda*, by Massoud Bakhshi, released May 13
- *Balloon*, by Pema Tsenden, released in summer 2020

### The following films will soon be available on the Swiss Public Television (RTS) or on ARTE

- *Maisonneuve*, à l'école du vivre ensemble, by Nicolas Wadimoff, on March 15 at 9:50 pm on RTS Deux
- *Numéro 387 – Disparu en Méditerranée*, by Madeleine Leroyer, on 18 March at 11.40 pm on RTS Un
- *Colectiv*, by Alexander Nanau, soon on RTS
- *Gaza*, by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell, soon on ARTE

**The FIFDH will continue throughout the year with special screenings at eleven Swiss film festivals. The public will be able to discover films from the FIFDH's 2020 selection at:**

- Visions du Réel, Nyon (April-May)
- Locarno Film Festival, Locarno (August)
- Numerik Games, Yverdon (August)
- Festival Cinémas d'Afrique, Lausanne (August)
- Salon du Livre, Geneva (October)
- Film Festival Diritti Umani, Lugano (October)
- Geneva International Film Festival GIFF, Geneva (November)
- Castellinaria, Bellinzona (November)
- Filmar in Latin America, Geneva (November)
- Human Rights Film Festival, Zurich (December)

**The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the FIFDH will take place in Geneva from 5 to 14 March 2021.**

# AWARDS LIST

## CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

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### CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

The international jury of the creative documentary competition was composed of: **Pamela Yates (President of the jury), Nora Philippe, Adelina von Fürstenberg, Badiucao, Reza and Burhan Sönmez**

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### GRAND PRIZE OF GENEVA (CHF 10'000)

Offered by the City and State of Geneva

#### **COLECTIV** by *Alexander Nanau*

“*Colectiv* is a spectacular political thriller that details a team of sports journalists who investigate the Colectiv nightclub fire in Romania and in doing so uncovers high level government corruption in the Ministry of Health itself. The film centers the story of the victims and survivors in an unusual and profound way, and asks the question, “When we know the truth of what happened, how are we going to act?”

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### GILDA VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE IN TRIBUTE TO HER SON SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (CHF 5'000)

Offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation

#### **SILENCE RADIO** by *Juliana Fanjul*

“*Radio Silence* delves deeply into the brave spirit of journalist Carmen Aristegui, and explores all of her complexity, generosity and intelligence in one of the most dangerous countries to work as a reporter uncovering corruption – Mexico. The feminist solidarity and long term commitment on the part of director Juliana Fanjul to making sure the world knows about this human rights heroine will inspire audiences everywhere.”

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### SPECIAL MENTION

Creative Documentary Competition

#### **GAZA** by *Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell*

“*Gaza* is artistically a beautiful movie that pictures the plurality of life against a singularity that can be called violence. The hope out of desperation and the beauty out of ugliness are the promise of this rich movie. That knife blade pushes people to make a moral choice: which one is better, a life with simple expectations or violence with aggression. That is the question of “Gaza” as well as the age we live in.”

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The Youth Jury Creative Documentary Competition: **Theophano Chraïti, Lucie Dene, Karin Diaper, Terry Hemecker, Maxime Monney**

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### YOUTH JURY PRIZE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION CREATION (CHF 1'000)

Offered by Peace Brigades International (PBI)

#### **OVERSEAS** by *Sung-A Yoon*

“We decided to award the Youth Jury Prize to *Overseas* from Sung-A Yoon. This creative documentary highlights a little-known and inhuman issue: the condition of Filipino women working as domestic workers around the world. The film treats this subject with finesse and originality thanks to a process of *mise en abîme* where these women train to play their future role in a school preparing them to be enslaved by their employers and removed from their families. The treatment in pastel colours brings a softness that contrasts with the harsh reality they are confronted with.”

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### MENTION SPÉCIALE du jury des jeunes

#### **I AM NOT ALONE** by *Garin Hovannisian*

“We chose to give a mention to a film that gave us an extraordinary experience: *I Am Not Alone* by Garin Hovannisian. This truly optimistic documentary inspires hope and shows the impact that one can have, as an individual, on the world around us. We are happy to have seen this film which speaks particularly to young people and gives us strength and courage.”

# FICTION COMPETITION

## FICTION COMPETITION

The International Fiction and Human Rights Jury was chaired by **Claudia Bluemhuber**, along with **Nadia Ben Rachid**, **Claude Barras** et **Philippe Cottier**.

## GRAND PRIZE FOR FICTION (CHF 10'000)

Offered by the Hélène and Victor Barbour Foundation

### **MATERNAL** by *Maura Delpero*

"I would like to be different, but I can't..." the sentence of Lu (Agustina Malale) to her friend Fati (Denise Carrizo) summarizes the dilemma the teenage mothers face in *MATERNAL*. These young mothers and their children can turn to no other place than a religious convent. So their world clashes with the strict moral codes of the nuns that provide shelter for them and their children. Maura Delpero's debut film is a sensitive portrayal with layered performances and a lot of subtext. It never relies on stereotypes or tries to suggest an easy solution. As the story unfolds, the audience is slowly drawn into the life of Paola, Lu and Fati and the children. The acting by the three lead actresses is superb, authentic and convincing and the child actors leave you with a lasting image of urge, understanding that they are the ones suffering the most from the situation. It interrogates a system that on one hand prohibits abortion but on the other hand does not really provide support to the teenage mothers. The directing, cinematography, dialogue and pace make this directorial debut a genuine discovery."

## SPECIAL MENTION

Fiction Competition

### **KUESSIPAN** by *Myriam Verreault*

"Myriam Verreault's *Kuessipan* shows us a world seldomly portrayed on screen. An intimate moment in time in the life of two young Innu women and their families. It is joyful, dramatic as well as tragic and hopeful at the same time. A skillfully-crafted film, *Kuessipan* is beautiful in its simplicity and originality."

The Youth Jury Fiction Competition: **Eulalie Félix**, **Emma Grau**, **Dounia Lafkiri**, **Raphaël Probst**, **Marie Wagneur**.

## YOUTH JURY PRIZE COMPETITION FICTION (CHF 1'000)

Offered by the Eduki Foundation

### **BALLOON** by *Pema Tsedon*

"For its beautiful shots and aesthetics, for its attachment to the characters, for its original approach to sexuality still taboo in today's world, for its subtle and complex treatment of the issue of abortion and women's rights, for its relevant use of traditional music, its actor's game and the power of its symbols, we, the Youth Jury, award the prize of the Fiction Competition to *Balloon* directed by Pema Tsedon."

## SPECIAL MENTION

of the Youth Jury

### **KUESSIPAN** by *Myriam Verreault*

"We would like to give a special mention to the film *Kuessipan* by Myriam Verreault. The connection between the characters, the determining role of writing and poetry, and the question of belonging to a community, a culture and a territory moved us enormously. In addition, this film deals with the issues of the youth who represent us."

# GRANDS REPORTAGES COMPETITION

## PRIZE OF OMCT (CHF 5'000)

Offered by the World Organization Against Torture

### **DÉLIT DE SOLIDARITÉ / ASSISTANCE À PERSONNE EN DANGER: UN CRIME** by *Pietro Boschetti et Frank Preiswerk*

"Congo Lucha is a film full of humanity, very rich artistically, which combines poignant moments and humour, to show a different image of a country overwhelmed by more than 20 years of conflict. It shows a young generation of human rights defenders who fight, through peaceful means and in spite of all risks, against repression and systematic torture. The holding of a presidential election in January this year, which saw a first alternation – certainly contested but also peaceful – owes a lot to the courage of these young people. This award is also a tribute to the commitment of this new generation of defenders, and an encouragement to their future actions."

# CARCERAL CONTEXTS

## JURY PRIZE IN CARCERAL CONTEXTS CHAMP-DOLLON

Women Unit, Offered  
by the City and State of  
Geneva

### THE CLEANERS by Hans Block and Moritz Rieseewick

“This film allowed us to discover how powerful and untouchable big social networks like Google and Facebook are. The moderators who work there have not received adequate training and we were affected by the lack of psychological support they receive and their meagre salaries. However, without them, there would be chaos on the social networks. Hans Block and Moritz Rieseewick had the courage to introduce us to this unknown world. Thanks to them!”

## SPECIAL MENTION

### CEUX QUI TRAVAILLENT by Antoine Russbach

“We would like to give a special mention to Antoine Russbach’s «*Ceux qui travaillent*». This film has made us understand how important communication is in our societies and how important it is not to take decisions alone that have serious consequences. Whatever the problem, not to choose money in front of a human life... Hats off to the director!”

## PRIX DU JURY DE LA BRENAZ

Offert par la Ville et  
l’État de Genève

### THE CLEANERS by Hans Block and Moritz Rieseewick

“We, the jury of the Brenaz, award the prize for the best film to «the cleaners» by Hans Block and Moritz Rieseewick. We were particularly aware of the different points of view discussed around the same theme, social networks and their moderators. We were touched by the frankness of the moderators, their suffering and the lack of supervision they are subject to and by the connections the film makes with questions of morality, politics and personal values around the big social networks such as Facebook or Google. Thank you and keep up the good work!  
Choukrane – Danke – Diarama – Muchas Gracias”

## SPECIAL MENTION, CARCERAL CONTEXTS LA CLAIRIÈRE

Offered by the City and  
State of Geneva

### NUMÉRO 387 DISPARU EN MÉDITERRANÉE de Madeleine Leroyer

“We are extremely pleased to be able to award the prize for best film to *Numéro 387 disparu en Méditerranée*, because this subject touched us and showed us a facet of migration whose harshness we were unaware of. Our outlook has changed and it has made us sad to discover the ravages of the migratory route today. These missing persons have given us a lesson in life and we would like to say that to forget them is to kill them a second time.”

## SPECIAL MENTION

### SOUS LA PEAU de Robin Harsch

“We would also like to give a mention to the direction of *Sous la peau*. We found the director’s approach to the subject of trans-identity very interesting and important.”

## HUG JURY PRIZE ARTOPIE –

Artopie Price  
HUG-Children Action  
avec le soutien de la  
Fondation d’Harcour  
Offered by the City and  
State of Geneva

### SOUS LA PEAU de Robin Harsch

“We, the Hug Artopie jury, award the prize for best film to *Sous la peau* of Robin Harsch for the quality of its direction on an important subject that concerns us all. The highlighting of the association of the refuge made us realize the importance of the support that must be given when one goes through a difficult moment in one’s life, whether it is for a quest for identity or a change of identity. We would also like to underline the courage of Effi, Soan and Logan to have witnessed their transition through *Sous la peau*.”

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