

Press Release

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Council of Europe film award puts human rights in the spotlight at Istanbul International film festival

Strasbourg, 02.04.2007 - The Council of Europe – the 46-nation organisation that champions human rights - is to sponsor a prestigious new film award at the Istanbul Film Festival (March 31 to April 15).

The FACE award (Film Award of the Council of Europe) will be given to the film that best reflects the Council's values of respect for human rights, individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law. The award includes a sculpture in bronze and a cash prize of 10 000 euros. It is awarded as part of the *Human Rights in Cinema* section of the festival.

Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg will present the award in the name of Secretary General Terry Davis on 14 April 2007, at the Lütfü Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre, Istanbul.

The ten feature films competing for the prize are:

- *Bamako (The Court)*, Abderrahmane Sissako, Mali/USA/France 2006.
- *Daratt (The Dry Season)*, Mahamet-Saleh Haroun, Chad/France/Belgium/Austria 2006.
- *El Violin (The Violin)*, Francisco Vargas, Mexico 2005.
- *Eve Dönüş (Home Coming)*, Ömer Uğur, Turkey 2006.
- *Flandres (Flanders)*, Bruno Dumont, France 2006.
- *Indigènes (Days of Glory)*, Rachid Bouchareb, France/Maroc/Algeria/Belgium 2006.
- *Karaula (The Border Post)*, Rajko Grlic, UK/Serbia/Croatia/Montenegro/Slovenia/Macedonia/Bosnia and Herzegovina/Austria/France/Hungary 2006.
- *La faute à Fidel (Blame it on Fidel!)*, Julie Gavras, Italy/France, 2006.
- *Strajk/Die Heldin von Danzig (The Strike)*, Volker Schlöndorff, Germany/Poland 2006.
- *Vier Minuten (Four Minutes)*, Chris Kraus, Germany 2006.

Two of the films (*Karaula* and *Eve Dönüş*) were supported by Eurimages, the Council of Europe fund for co-production, distribution and exhibition of European cinematographic works.

For more information on the Council, please visit www.coe.int

For information on the festival: www.iksv.org/film

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.