

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carmela Baranowska 0408 210 769
Carlos González: czalez@mac.com

Shining a light on a dark corner of Australian documentary
Only 1 public screening in Sydney

A powerful new documentary shines a light on a dark corner of Australian documentary filmmaking. 'Robbed of Truth: The Western Sahara Conflict and the Ethics of Documentary Filmmaking' will have its only Sydney screening on Wednesday 11 July 2012 at Ozdox, The Australian Documentary Forum.

'It is curious and surprising that both the Sydney and Melbourne International Film Festivals have decided not to show the documentary,' said the film's director and producer, Carlos González. 'The Sydney screening will be the only opportunity for the Australian public to see this important film which goes to the heart of documentary ethics,' added González who will travel from Los Angeles to answer questions after the screening.

'Robbed of Truth' is about Fetim Salam, a Saharawi refugee represented as a slave in the Australian documentary, 'Stolen' (Directed by Violeta Ayala and Dan Fallshaw and produced by Violeta Ayala, Dan Fallshaw and Tom Zubrycki).

Gabriella Coslovich (The Age) described 'Robbed of Truth' as a 'vigorous riposte' to 'Stolen' after last year's media preview in Melbourne. (see link below)

The day 'Stolen' premiered at the Sydney Film Festival on June 11, 2009, Fetim and her husband were flown to Australia by the Polisario Front, the independence movement that runs the Western Sahara refugee camps in Algeria, to confront the filmmakers and assert her right to withdraw from the film. This dramatic act, with Fetim declaring: 'I am not a slave!' made front-page news in Australia triggering a controversy which continues to this day.

'Robbed of Truth' also has a crucial Australian angle as Australian taxpayers funded both 'Stolen' and the Melbourne and Sydney International Film Festivals. 'I am very happy that the film will have its public premiere at Ozdox, the pre-eminent forum in Australia for documentary filmmaking,' said González. 'Robbed of Truth' shows that dubious 'recreations', incorrect subtitling and translations on key points and denials by interviewees discount 'Stolen's' main conclusions.

González, a director and cinematographer, has worked on over 20 Hollywood features and 100 hours of television. He was also one of the original camera people on the Australian documentary 'Stolen'.

Carlos González will be in Sydney and available for media interviews.

Following the film, Melbourne-based Walkley award winning journalist and filmmaker Carmela Baranowska will moderate an interview with L.A. based director, Carlos González, followed by Q&A with the audience.

Event Information

WHERE: AFTRS Theatre, Fox Studios, Entertainment Quarter, 130 Bent St, Moore Park NSW.
<http://www.ozdox.org/events/>

WHEN: Wednesday 11 July 2012
Nibbles and conversation from 6:30pm for 6:55pm screening.

ENTRY: \$7 (suggested donation). This event is open to the public.

<http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/movies/filmmaker-debunks-documentarys-depiction-of-western-sahara-slavery-20111218-1p0ue.html>

http://robbedoftruth.com/Robbed_of_Truth/Home.html

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Robbed-of-Truth/317000381644036>

<http://www.childrenoftheclouds.com/COTC/Home.html>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0328076/>