



Hostelling International - USA

Eastern New England Council

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International Women's Day Film Festival Welcomes Former Iraqi Minister of Higher Education

March 5, 2008. Iraq's former Minister of Higher Education, Tahir K. Al-Bakaa, Ph.D., will be on hand at the first ever International Women's Day Film Festival hosted by Hostelling International-USA [HI-USA]. Currently a visiting scholar at Suffolk University, Dr. Al-Bakaa will be the special guest at a discussion following the screening of MY HOME-YOUR WAR, a short film that looks at the Iraq war through the eyes of an ordinary Iraqi woman.

"Perhaps no issue more defines our time than the war in Iraq," says Deborah Ruhe, Executive Director of Hostelling International-USA's Eastern New England Council [ENEC]. "This event provides an inside look and opens up a dialogue unavailable to most American audiences."

Dr. Al-Bakaa holds a Ph.D. in Iranian history with a specialization in Mid-east history and politics. After attempts were made on his life, he came to Boston in 2006 through the Scholar Rescue Fund and has lectured in the Boston Public schools and as a Suffolk University visiting professor. Author of 4 books, Dr. Al-Bakaa served on Iraq's National Assembly and Constitution Writing Committee.

Shot in Baghdad over three years that span the time before, during and after the invasion, MY HOME-YOUR WAR combines insightful interviews, intimate footage and vibrant scenes of the city that paint a compelling picture of how the war has affected ordinary Iraqi citizens.

Celebrating nearly 100 years of International Women's Day, the film festival will showcase thought-provoking short and feature-length documentary and narrative films exploring women's lives.

What: MY HOME-YOUR WAR - Screening / Discussion with Tahir K. Al-Bakaa, Ph.D. Former Minister of Higher Education-Iraq International Women's Day Film Festival
When: Saturday, March 8, 2008 – 7:30 pm
Where: B04, Carpenter Center, Harvard University, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge
Web: www.usahostels.org/IWDFFF.php

Festival partners/sponsors include the UN Assoc. of Greater Boston, Gallery 263, AVID and the Boston Public Library.

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