

October 12, 2019

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Lugano: The Afghan Director Hassan Fazili Human Rights Prize To The Author



CHRONICLE

Lugano: the Afghan director Hassan Fazili human rights prize to the author

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LUGANO: AL REGISTA AFGHANO HASSAN FAZILI IL PREMIO DIRITTI UMANI ALL'AUTORE



For several years Hassan Fazili lives with his family in a **shelter for refugees in Germany**, where, for **reasons of personal safety, rarely can come out**: the director has **exceptionally obtained permission** to go to Lugano to withdraw the award "human rights author".

Meet the filmmaker **Friday, October 11 to 21** at the [Festival Human Rights Lugano](#) (9-13 October 2019), in its sixth year: after the awards ceremony, during which it will be delivered to Fazili the [Human Rights Award to the author in 2019](#), it will screen the film [Midnight Traveler](#), a documentary about **Hassan Fazili escape** - threatened with death by the Taliban - and **of his family to Europe from Afghanistan**, shot by the director and his wife **Fatima Fazili** with three smartphones.

"When the Taliban put a bounty on the filmmaker Hassan Fazili head, he is forced to flee with his wife and his two young daughters. By filming their uncertain journey, Fazili shows firsthand the dangers facing refugees seeking asylum and love among members of a family on the run," says the [documentary site](#).

"Delivering the person human rights prize to the author Fazili means to send a strong message and full solidarity of the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano to all those who have experienced or are experiencing the suffering, fear and humiliation as a storm it seems to have no end. A film that we chose to award to encourage that spirit of hospitality which in recent years is constantly being challenged by violently hostile policies towards migrants and different. It is therefore a great honor for the festival to welcome Hassan Fazili and know him as a man and as an artist," says **Antonio Prata**, director of the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano.

Midnight Traveler, which is presented to together festival with **Doctors Without Borders**, has been **awarded in many international festivals**, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Berlinale, the San Francisco International Film Festival, Doc Edge Festival-New Zealand and Sheffield International Documentary Festival.

Who is Hassan Fazili

filmmaker, he was also a theater director. His films, like Mr. Fazili's wife, to be presented during the festival, and Life again, focus on women's rights, children and disabled people and they get major awards at many international festivals.

In 2013 he made the film **Peace in Afghanistan**, where one of the Taliban leaders, Mullah **Torjan**, says it will lay down arms and invites his friends to follow him to start a peace process in the country. The film is produced and aired by the TV Afghan Torjan and a few months later he was assassinated by the **Taliban**, which **condemned to death all the members of the film crew**.



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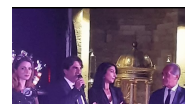
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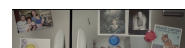
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LUGANO: AL REGISTA AFGHANO HASSAN FAZILI IL PREMIO DIRITTI UMANI ALLAUTORE

In 2015 Fazili decides to escape from Afghanistan with her family and go to Europe , in a three-year journey, the first on the Balkan route, and then in various refugee camps. This trip is the subject of the film **Midnight traveler** , shot by the director and his wife Fatima with **three smartphone** , the only means at their disposal: "During this long and uncertain journey the family draws strength from document their plight. Despite the adversity and obstacles, parents never forgive humanity and dignity: their eyes always turn to the daughters and towards a future they hope better, "says a note from the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano.

Saturday, October 12 , the public can know, through the short film **Screaming silence**, the artistic work of Fatima Fazili, who is also director, besides being the protagonist in some of her husband film.

Opening Photo: Hassan Fazili with family. From Midnight Traveler.

Article Photo: Courtesy Lugano Human Rights Film Festival

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