



not my life

END HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW: ENFORCING THE UN PROTOCOL
The Luxor International Forum, Egypt
10-12 December 2010

World Preview of *Not My Life*

The International Forum against Human Trafficking in Luxor, Egypt, will include the *world preview* of *Not My Life*, directed and produced by Academy Award nominee Robert Bilheimer. The screening will take place on 11 December 2010.

About the film

Not My Life is a feature-length documentary film about global human trafficking. The film portrays the horror of this modern-day phenomenon that affects millions of children, women, and men in every part of the world. Specific aspects of this emerging issue – especially female sexual trafficking – are to some degree being addressed in books, news stories, television reports, and fiction and non-fiction films. To date, however, there is no single communication tool that effectively depicts the problem *as a whole* for a mass audience. The rationale for *Not My Life* is that until such a tool is created and widely used, the general public will remain uninformed and indifferent, and a problem that is already very bad will only get worse. Spokespeople on the issue and some of the subjects in the film include:

- Suzanne Mubarak – First Lady of Egypt
- Antonio Maria Costa – UNODC
- Molly Melching – Tostan, Senegal
- Somaly Mam – Somaly Mam Foundation
- Susan Bissell – Child Protection Section, UNICEF
- Melanne Verwee – U.S. State Department
- Grace Akallo – Former Child Soldier

Like *Worldwide Documentaries'* 2003 release, *A Closer Walk*, the ultimate intent of *Not My Life* is to provide insight into 'the way the world is.' Modern-day slavery thrives along transnational fault lines of extreme poverty, social injustice, political unrest, and acts of violence and deprivation that are morally indefensible and dangerous in the extreme. Insofar as it depicts a world in which millions of human beings have become disposable commodities, *Not My Life* is, first and foremost, a cautionary tale: human traffickers, and the corrupt or complacent systems in which they operate, undermine virtually every aspect of our collective well-being, including our security, health, economic stability, and sustainability as a global community.

For more information about *Not My Life*, please visit www.notmylife.org

About the director

Robert Bilheimer, President of Worldwide Documentaries, Inc., is a director, writer, and producer with an international background in film, theatre, journalism, and creative writing. His interests as a filmmaker range from the plays of Samuel Beckett to the vast complexity of the global AIDS epidemic, focusing on subjects of cultural, social, and humanitarian interest.

In 1989, he received his profession's highest honour – an Academy Award nomination – for *Cry of Reason*, a feature-length documentary that tells the story of South African anti-apartheid leader Beyers Naude.

Throughout his career, Bilheimer's films have attracted an international audience. They have been seen on television in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa and China. His films have also been shown in theaters in the United States and abroad; and exhibited at film festivals around the world including the Festival of Festivals in Toronto, the Chicago International Film Festival, the Tribeca Film Festival, the Durban International Film Festival, the XXXVth India International Film Festival, and the Montreal World Film Festival.

Bilheimer was born in New York City and was educated at the International School in Geneva, Switzerland; Hamilton College (BA, Honors, English Literature); and Indiana University Graduate School (MA, Theatre and Film). He received the Army Commendation Medal for his work as Chaplain's Assistant in the US Army Special Services, 1968-1970. From 1986 to 1988 he was a Resident Scholar at the Anson Phelps-Stokes Institute for Black American and Native American Studies in New York City.

Early in his career, Bilheimer worked as a freelance journalist. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, he was a stringer for *Time* magazine and filed regularly for the *Nairobi Daily Nation*, and *Agence France Presse*. Bilheimer has also written theatre and opera criticism and as a college student won the American Academy of Poets Award for his trilogy of poems, "*Going Into The Desert*."

For more information about Robert Bilheimer, please visit <http://www.notmylife.org/AboutTheDirector/>

Media contacts

Not My Life

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