

PRESS RELEASE

January 31, 2010

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erica Ginsberg, Docs In Progress
(301) 789-2797 or erica@docsinprogress.org

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND - Docs In Progress Presents *Visualizing Human Justice* as part of **Amnesty International Human Rights Arts Festival April 23-25, 2010.**

As part of the community wide Amnesty International Human Rights Arts Festival, Silver Spring-based documentary film organization Docs In Progress will host a series of events **VISUALIZING HUMAN JUSTICE** which spotlight efforts to bring attention to basic human rights and the struggle for cultural identity through documentary film and photography.

All events are free and open to the public and will take place at the Docs In Progress Documentary House (8700 First Avenue Silver Spring, MD). No RSVP is needed.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

5:00 - 7:00 pm: Opening Reception for Photography Exhibit *Iraqi Refugees* by Gabriela Bulisova

7:00 - 8:30 pm: Panel Discussion: "Documenting the Iraqi Refugee Experience." This panel features photographer Gabriela Bulisova and filmmaker Jehan Harney and will include film clips of Harney's current documentary about Iraqi refugees in the Washington DC area, *Dream of America*. Moderated by Docs In Progress Executive Director Erica Ginsberg.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

2:00 - 6:00 pm: Gallery Open for Photographic Exhibit *Iraqi Refugees* by Gabriela Bulisova

6:00 - 7:30 pm: Screening of the documentary, *Crucible of War*, followed by a discussion with filmmaker Leon Gerskovic. *Film Synopsis: Leon Gerskovic returns to his former homeland to see how ordinary people are living in the aftermath of the 1990s wars in Bosnia and Croatia.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010

12:00 - 2:00 pm: Gallery Open for Photographic Exhibit *Iraqi Refugees* by Gabriela Bulisova

2:00 - 3:30 pm: Screening of the documentary, *My Mother's Journey*, followed by a discussion with filmmakers Sam and Kirsten Hampton. *Film Synopsis: The story of an African-American woman who moved from the South to the North and became an unlikely community activist during the civil rights era.*

ABOUT DOCS IN PROGRESS

Docs In Progress[®] is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization which gives individuals the tools and a supportive community from which to tell stories through documentary film to educate, inspire, and transform the way people view their world. By developing, encouraging, and celebrating new and diverse voices in documentary film, Docs In Progress also seek to deepen the public's experience, understanding, and appreciation for documentary as a form of art and expression. Docs In Progress does this by offering an array of programs aimed at aspiring and experienced documentary filmmakers and the broader community. These include screenings, workshops, classes, discussion groups, and networking and peer-centered support groups for emerging documentary filmmakers. For more information, visit

www.docsinprogress.org

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Gabriela Bulisova is a professional photographer and educator who has taught photography at St. Mary's College, the Corcoran School of Art and Design, George Mason University, the Maryland Institute College of Art, and the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. She is a member of Metro Collective, a photography agency focused on international photojournalism projects on socially conscious subjects. Her work has been published in a wide variety of local, national, and international publications including the *Washington Post*, the Woodrow Wilson Institute for International Scholars, Columbia University, the Washington Performing Arts Society, *Washington Blade*, and the Women's Collective. Her work has been exhibited at Launch (as part of FOTO Week DC), VisArts (Rockville, MD), Women by Women (Washington DC, Boston, MD, and McLean, VA), the University of the District of Columbia, the Fraser Gallery (Washington DC), and solo and group exhibitions in Spain, Mexico, Ukraine, and Syria. She has carried her camera to the world's most marginalized places, including Chernobyl, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

Jehan Harney is an Egyptian-American TV journalist and filmmaker. Her media work, including TV network news production, multimedia producing, university teaching, broadcasting, freelance writing, and filmmaking, spans North America, Europe and the Middle East. She has been a 2009 CPB/PBS Producers Academy fellow at WGBH in Boston and has won national awards for her documentary film work, including Link TV's One Nation Many Voices award for best documentary on American-Muslim women, the prestigious Writers Guild of America-East's John Marriman Award in New York, and the Christopher's Making a Difference Award. Her current film *Dream of America* tells the bittersweet stories of two refugee families in Virginia who supported the US war efforts in Iraq. They had no option but to leave their home to escape militia assassinations in search of freedom and a better life in America. Instead, they found themselves chained by dire economic realities, post-traumatic stress, homelessness fears, and unfulfilled promises.

Leon Gerskovic was born in Zagreb before Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia, but lived much of his childhood in the western hemisphere where his father served as an ambassador. After the Berlin Wall fell, his family returned to Croatia where his father tried to encourage Serbs and Croats to keep the peace. When the war began, the then-18-year old got work accompanying British news crews to the frontlines. He left for the United States in 1994 to study television production and went on to direct a fiction short *Sufis* about man's search for soul in modern society; co-direct a web documentary short *Talking Threads* about student reactions to September 11; and direct *Crucible of War* about post-war life in the Balkans. He also works as a digital media producer for the National Institute of Standards and Technology where he has done a variety of work in video and online media.

Sam Hampton is the Producer and Director of *My Mother's Journey*. He is also the Director of Special Projects and Planning for Docs In Progress. He brings broad experience in community service and social justice as part of the learning environment. Sam's credentials include a master's degree in Clinical Psychology and a doctorate in Urban Education, along with nonprofit organization management and leadership positions. **Kirsten Hampton** is the Co-Producer of *My Mother's Journey*. The daughter of a composer and painter, Kirsten is a published poet and writer. She has served as a senior administrator in higher education, and management consultant for a range of nonprofit organizations.