



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

May 7, 2012

Ms. Jane Wagner and Tina DiFelicianantonio
Naked Eye Productions Ltd.
130 West 26th Street, 7th Floor
(Between 6th - 7th Avenue)
New York, NY 10001

Dear Ms. Wagner and Ms. DiFelicianantonio,

I would be delighted to serve as a member of the advisory board of scholars for your documentary *Seeking Refuge*.

I have read your proposal and it is a most exciting and important project. At a time when at least 123 countries utilize torture as a means of controlling their citizens, torture is today a reality that must be discussed as openly and as urgently as possible.

Having worked since November 2010 as Special Rapporteur to the UN on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, I have witnessed first hand how torture has been—and continues to be—used across the globe as a means of terrorizing societies into passivity and submission. From the International Center for Transnational Justice to the International Criminal Court, I have devoted my career to combating instances of torture and abuse.

When I read about your project and the unique access it will provide into the country's premier rehabilitation center for the survivors of foreign torture—the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture—I was honored to be considered as a member of your advisory board.

Since I believe that it is vital that research be communicated to a broad audience, I think your project, combining solid scholarship with the tenets of contemporary documentary filmmaking, will provide a first-rate vehicle for the exploration of the issue of torture and its profound ramifications on every single human life affected.

Again, I am most excited by your subject matter and your plans. I look forward to hearing that you have been funded.

Sincerely,

Juan Mendez
UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel,
Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Visiting Professor
Washington College of Law

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