



## In honour of Amnesty International's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, IFF Prague – Febiofest will award the best film dealing with human rights issues

**Amnesty International** marks **60 years** from its founding and **30 years** of working in the Czech Republic/Czechoslovakia. The organization's anniversary will be celebrated by the IFF Prague – Febiofest, held on 17-24 September 2021: for the sixth year in a row, the **Amnesty International Febiofest Award** will be granted to one of the competing films. The special selection will include works dealing with **freedom, human rights, free speech, and the struggle for a dignified life.**

*"We have sadly been forced to reduce or postpone some of the activities we had planned to celebrate Amnesty's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Not all of them, however: for example, a live [Amnesty Slam](#) – co-organized by us and Slam Poetry CZ – will take place online on 13 May. This special culturally and socially engaged evening will include a debate with the director of Amnesty International Czech Republic, Linda Sokačová. We have also produced a new [podcast](#) (in Czech), where we chat with one of the founders of Czech Amnesty, historian Prokop Tomek. In May, we're planning to launch a website charting the most important events between Amnesty's founding and today,"* says Erik Bartoš, Amnesty International Czech Republic's spokesman, about the organization's upcoming "birthday" plans.

The **Amnesty International Febiofest Award** was launched in 2016. The very first one was awarded to the Colombian-French-Uruguayan co-production **The Silence of the River**, and dedicated to the Ukrainian filmmaker **Oleg Sentsov**, then imprisoned for criticising the Russian annexation of Crimea. Last year, the trophy went to Mahnaz Mohammadi's drama **Son-Mother**. Mohammadi is a film director and an important activist known for her fight for the rights of Iranian women. In 2019, visitors could sign a petition at the Amnesty stand at the heart of the festival, in support of the Russian human rights defender and member of the Open Russia movement **Anastasia Shevchenko**, who was under house arrest at the time. Through these and other actions, IFF Prague – Febiofest unequivocally declares its support to prisoners of conscience, artists and journalists unjustly incarcerated by dictatorships all over the world.

*"The Amnesty International competition unearths human rights violations which deserve attention, even though they rarely make it into media coverage. Films from all festival sections are selected to this competition. Their protagonists find themselves in difficult situations, living under authoritarian regimes or hard socio-economic circumstances, fighting for their own rights or those of others around them. We show films with powerful human stories every single year. This year, the Amnesty International section will present films dealing with current issues such as the complicated situation of immigrants in a new country,"* adds Marta Švecová Lamperová, the Artistic Director of IFF Prague – Febiofest.

### Contacts

Prague International Film Festival – Febiofest official website: [www.febiofest.cz/en](http://www.febiofest.cz/en)

**Media service:** 2media.cz

Simona Andělová, [simona@2media.cz](mailto:simona@2media.cz), +420 775 112 857

[www.2media.cz/en](http://www.2media.cz/en), [www.facebook.com/2media.cz](http://www.facebook.com/2media.cz), [www.instagram.com/2mediacz](http://www.instagram.com/2mediacz)

