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**Rotterdam, 17 July 2020**

## **CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MOATAZ ABDELWAHAB**

The International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk (ICFR\*) and its founding institutions, the European Film Academy, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and International Film Festival Rotterdam, together with the Human Rights Film Network, Movies that Matter Foundation and PEN America, as well as the Accademia del Cinema Italiano - Premi David di Donatello, German Film Academy, Hellenic Film Academy, Icelandic Film- & TV Academy, Luxembourg Film Academy, Polish Film Academy, Swiss Film Academy and Ukrainian Film Academy, call for the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release film producer Moataz Abdelwahab.



*Moataz Abdelwahab*

The Egyptian film producer Moataz Abdelwahab (43) produced the feature film **When We're Born** (2019) by director Tamer Izzat, which played at the El Gouna International Film Festival and Les Journées Cinématographique de Cartage 2019, as well as a couple of documentaries which carry no political views, among them **Khan's Fingerprints**, a portrait of the prominent Egyptian director Mohammad Khan, **The Heart of Cairo**, examining the history of the city, and most recently **A Curfew**, the upcoming film by renowned Egyptian filmmaker Amir Ramses. Moataz Abdelwahab disappeared on 5 May from his office in Cairo, only to re-appear on 11 May for a hearing at the Supreme Court for State Security, where he was accused of “partnering with a terrorist organisation” and “spreading false news” (case 586).

These accusations come after he produced a number of cultural documentary films which were sold to and aired on the Aljazeera Documentary Channel. According to legal experts, the arrest is based on false and fabricated charges.

We are very concerned about his safety and that of his family (he is the father of two, Zeina (12) and Yousef (6)) and call on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Moataz Abdelwahab and encourage all film and culture institutions around the world to do the same.

\*NOTE TO EDITORS: Founded by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, International Film Festival Rotterdam and the European Film Academy, the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk’s mission is to advocate for and to act in solidarity with filmmakers at risk. The Coalition acts in cases of persecution or threats to the personal safety of these filmmakers and will defend their right to continue their work, by mobilising the international film community.

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#### ABOUT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

With 340,000 admissions and 2,691 film professionals attending, IFFR is one of the largest audience and industry-driven film festivals in the world, offering a high quality line-up of fiction and documentary feature films, short films, exhibitions, performances, masterclasses and talks. IFFR actively supports new and adventurous filmmaking talent through numerous industry initiatives including co-production market CineMart, through the BoostNL and Propellor initiatives, its Hubert Bals Fund and Rotterdam Lab. IFFR's 50th edition takes place from Wednesday 27 January to Sunday 7 February 2021. More information can be found at [IFFR.com](https://www.iffrr.com).



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