



President of the General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

Remarks

Screening of Documentary Film: "Beyond Right and Wrong"

Thursday, 13 September 2012

New York

Your Excellency, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is my distinct honour, as President of the General Assembly, to welcome you to this unique and timely event.

Before I introduce this documentary, it is my pleasure to call on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to give us brief remarks.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General for your words of support.

Excellencies,

We are now about to watch highlights from a compelling documentary titled, "Beyond Right and Wrong."

It has been directed by Roger Spottiswoode and Lekha Singh.

This documentary *explores* the true stories of people who were either victims or *perpetrators* of violent acts in conflict situations.

The two directors originally met in Rwanda, where they witnessed first-hand the struggle, pain and hurt of individuals trying to interact with people who had carried out terrible atrocities against their families.

They also observed in some cases, the successes of such life-changing efforts.

From their encounter in Rwanda, a creative collaboration was formed, and Roger and Lekha travelled to some other post-conflict regions of the world to develop the story. They listened to courageous survivors, who spoke about their personal struggles for *justice*, healing, and reconciliation.

As you will see, the resulting film demonstrates how the power of forgiveness can start to break the cycle of violence and create meaningful closure for those who have suffered terrible human loss.

The film focuses on unique and touching stories from people affected by the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the "troubles" in Northern Ireland and the genocide in Rwanda.

Following the screening of this 30-minute documentary, we will hear from three experts on reconciliation and forgiveness.

They are Marina Cantacuzino, Founder of The Forgiveness Project, and Lord Alderdice, Psychiatrist and Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party in the House of Lords, who have both participated in the film.

And, Dr Eileen Borris, Psychologist and Author of the book, "*Finding Forgiveness*".

I now present to you, "Beyond Right and Wrong."

Thank you.

END