



## CINEMA FOR PEACE FOUNDATION

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### **Cinema for Peace - Dinner for the Millennium Goals**

**Bob Geldof and MDG-Chair Kagame demand success for the UN summit /  
Sharon Stone and Naomi Campbell decorate relevant movies**

*NEW YORK.* On the occasion of the UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UN general assembly and the meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, the Cinema for Peace Foundation conducted a Special Evening on Africa. This Special Evening took place on the eve of the UN summit.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. They include eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development.

As a non-profit organization, the Cinema for Peace Foundation aims to create awareness of the social and political relevance of films by illustrating the influence of films on the perception and resolution of global social, political and humanitarian abuses and furthering the peace building and unifying power of moving images. To this end, Cinema for Peace advocates movies and presents movies with awards, which render an outstanding service to human values.

For this purpose, the Special Evening on Africa brought together politicians, film artists and aid organisations. As adviser for the UN-MDGs, Sir Bob Geldof demanded that the western world adheres to its promises of the year 2000, even in times of economic struggle. Geldof made clear, that western nations should invest in Africa for their own good, because Africa's GNP has doubled in the last ten years and will double again in the next decade.

The Chair of the UN MDG Advocacy Group, Rwandan president Paul Kagame also voiced a strong request to stick by the goals laid down in 2000, but also to make use of Africa's economic potential. Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank, supplemented Kagame's statement with impressive numbers concerning Africa's potential for investors.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, underlined the need to achieve a stable situation in Africa. He voiced an emphatic plea for an ongoing commitment to Darfur and for prosecuting Sudanese Minister Harun and president Baschir for crimes against humanity.

Organisations such as the UN, UNPD, UNIFEM, amfAR, ONE, the Africa Progress Panel, the Global Fund to fight TB, AIDS and malaria, the World Economic Forum were among the 100 participants, as well as Oxfam, represented by former Irish president Mary Robinson.

Trudie Styler, MTV-chairman Bill Roedy, the former president of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz, and heads of state such as the president of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, the AIDS-campaigner Sharon Stone and Naomi Campbell as African ambassador.

Campbell presented the „Cinema for Peace Honorary Award“ for the movie „As We Forgive“ to director Laura Waters Hinson and genocide-survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza. Ilibagiza's account of the genocide left the guests deeply shocked and made Naomi cry in the backstage area.



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"As We Forgive" is a documentary about Rosaria and Chantal--two Rwandan women coming face-to-face with the men who slaughtered their families during the 1994 genocide. Without the hope of full justice, Rwanda has turned to a new solution: Reconciliation.

For the first time on this evening, a film was presented with the „Cinema for Peace Honorary Award“, which focuses on AIDS in Africa. Sharon Stone presented the award to director Stefanie Sycholt. Themba is the story of a boy of the same name, who - against all odds and in spite of his HIV infection - succeeds to become a member of Bafana Bafana's juvenile national team.

In South Africa, more than 10% of the population is infected with HIV, a rate which is steadily increasing. One of the reasons is an ongoing lack of information and education. Themba addresses this issue through an entertaining and emotional feature film.

Following an initial school screening during the Football World Cup in 2010 by Cinema for Peace and Bishop Tutu, children from townships were reporting their own experiences of rape and engaged in discussing forms of HIV-Prevention.

„This film can indeed save lives“, said Sharon Stone and pointed out that every single day 1000 babies die from AIDS. Following the Award ceremony, Sharon Stone auctioned off a private concert by David Garrett, a portrait of Nelson Mandela, a dinner with Placido Domingo and a piece of the Berlin Wall.

Cinema for Peace will use the revenues to publicize "Themba" in South Africa and to install cameras in Darfur. About 2,5 million people have been displaced during the Darfur-conflict. Most of them live in refugee camps.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo voiced his fear, that a referendum in January will cause new outbreaks of violence in the south of Sudan, especially taking into account that Ahmad Harun is now governor of the important region of South Kordofan, despite being involved in the Darfur genocide.

Cinema for Peace will use mini cameras to increase safety in the particularly imperilled refugee camps and in the suburbs of Darfur. The aim of this project is to scare away potential offenders beforehand, as they might fear identification and prosecution. Cameras in dangerous areas have already been installed, and successfully so: since installation, no rapes or any other violent crimes against women and children have been reported.

The evening was hosted and moderated by Jaka Bizilj, founder of the Cinema for Peace Foundation. Cinema for Peace-Board Member Christian Angermayer of the Angermayer, Brumm & Lange Group paid the costs of the evening.

The next Cinema for Peace Gala will take place in Germany on February 14, 2011.

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