

Acceptance Speech by Mohsen Makhmalbaf

on the occasion of the presentation of the Honour Award by the
Film Festival „Women'sWorlds“ of TERRE DES FEMMES
for „Committed Support in Defence of Human Rights of Women“
on the 20th November of 2010 in Tuebingen, Germany

I don't make films to show the beautiful and the ugly in the world but rather to change the world. And these prizes we get awarded, we don't get because people like our films and want to honour us for that.

Through these awards our activism is highlighted, which shows people that don't know us: Look, there is someone who wants to change the world. There are people who want to make the world a better place.

Your award at this festival is the 110th international award that has been given to our family. And this award does not just belong to myself but to the whole Makhmalbaf family.

The tradition in our family is to dedicate each award to a much appreciated person. That means that the light of this award shall illuminate one point, one person, who is of big significance for the future of our population.

Before coming to Germany to receive this award, I asked my family: „ To whom shall we dedicate the award this time?“

One of our family said: „Let's dedicate it to **Sakineh**, maybe her stoning can be prevented.“ She represents all the men and women that have been stoned to death in Iran for 30 years.

Another one said „Dedicate it to the lawyer, who has made her case known all over the world and through that now been made a refugee and therefore a vagabond in this world himself. Or dedicate it to **Nasrin Sotudeh** another lawyer, who because of her defence of human rights now sits in an Iranian prison and is on hunger strike.

Another said „As the award is from a women's film festival, dedicate it to a modern prophet of the Iranian women, the poet **Forough Farrukhzad**, ho through her poetry has defined the idea of women in a new way. First she made us understand that a woman is not our cook, our servant, our carer.

The women are not just our mothers, wives and daughters, but individuals, whose human rights are being trampled on in the Iranian religious-patriarchal society.

Finally one of us said that the award should be dedicated to a woman, who is compassionate as well as an artist: so that she does not just understand our pain and worries but also represent it. And she should be brave and courageous so that in the current difficult situation of Iran, she can become a spokeswoman of the Iranian population. And so intelligent, that she is capable of leading the society to a new horizon, one that is better than the one today.

At the end we voted and our choice was **Zahra Rahnaward**, that she will shine in the light of this award. From my judgement she is more than worthy to receive this dedication and she deserves the deepest respect of our population.

The dedication goes to her, who has a green head and a red tongue and who carries the cross of her fate on her shoulders. And her, who fighting for life, has no fear of death.