



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hundreds Gather to Hear Exiled Voices for Justice

(Seattle, WA) – **Sunday, February 7**, marked the eagerly anticipated launch of a seminal series of critically acclaimed documentary film screenings and panel discussions called **Exiled Voices for Justice**. Sponsored largely by the Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program, Lutheran Community Services Northwest; the Center for Global Justice, Seattle University School of Law; and University of Washington, Exiled Voices for Justice also is endorsed by Global Washington and Seeds of Compassion.

Converging on Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium from as far away as Vancouver, BC, and Portland, OR, hundreds of organizational leaders, advocates of global justice, refugees from Burma, and other concerned citizens skipped Super Bowl Sunday to witness a one-time screening of Oscar-nominated **"Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country"** and a "town hall style" panel discussion that included Venerable U Pyinya Zawta, a leader of Burma's 2007 Saffron Revolution.

Burma's military regime crushed the non-violent protests led by saffron-robed Buddhist monks in September 2007, echoing the regime's infamous crackdown on the student-led uprising in August 1988, when over 3,000 were killed. Over 50 years of civil war have left Burma one of the poorest countries in the world. Currently, refugees from Burma make up the largest group of refugees being resettled in the United States. Over 2200 refugees from Burma have resettled in Washington State; the majority, in the Greater Seattle area.

Sunday, February 14, a second award-winning documentary film, **"God Grew Tired of Us,"** will be screened and discussed at Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium. Narrated by Nicole Kidman, "God Grew Tired of Us" explores the indomitable spirit of three of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," a group of about 25,000 young men forced to flee their homeland by a tumultuous civil war. Chronicling their triumph over seemingly insurmountable odds, the film won both the "Grand Jury Prize" and the "Audience Award" at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

Panelists will include former "Lost Boys of Sudan" Moses Garang and Jok Nhial as well as celebrated Sudanese community leader Agnes Oswaha from Government of Southern Sudan Mission in Washington, D.C., and Molly Daggett, Program Manager of Lutheran Community Services Northwest's Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program, which resettled over 30 "lost boys and girls of Sudan."

Right before and right after the screenings and panel discussions, non-profits and foundations working on behalf of the vulnerable populations portrayed in each film will exhibit literature about their initiatives and opportunities for attendees to get involved. Admittance is free; first come, first served. To learn more about Exiled Voices for Justice and the films in the series: www.exiledvoicesforjustice.org

About LCSNW: Lutheran Community Services Northwest is a non-profit human services agency. Our mission is to partner with individuals, families, and communities for health, justice, and hope. For more information: www.lcsnw.org

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