



**IDSFFK**

**12**  
INTERNATIONAL  
**DOCUMENTARY**  
& **SHORT** FILM FESTIVAL  
OF KERALA

**21 — 26**  
**June 2019**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**പത്രക്കുറിപ്പ്**

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## **Syria: Voice and Violence at IDSFFK**

- *'Of Fathers & Sons'* will be screened at Kairali Theatre on 24 June 03pm and *'Last Men in Aleppo'* is to be screened at Sree Theatre on 25 June at 06 pm.

The war is on street. Open gunfire, cries from Syria, grieving relatives and traumatised children, bomb blasts and revolutionary leaders. The life in every minute is a struggle. The Syrian Civil war is still alive in the hearts of humanity. The 12th International Documentary and Short Film Festival screens the Syrian Civil War stories in the International Non Fiction package on 24th and 25th of June.

'Last Men in Aleppo' and Of Fathers & Sons are the films from Syria that communicates what is exactly happening there and narrate the depth of citizens' pain. These films show the real face of the war and how it looks in spontaneous and natural real life as if there is no cinema. They are real examples convincing that Syrian experience should and cannot be recounted by any excited outsiders who switch to another catastrophe that comes along.

Directed by Feras Fayyad 'Last Men in Aleppo' documents the life in Aleppo during the war. The catastrophic Syrian Civil War is brought to life through the eyes of a group of volunteers named 'White Helmets', the ordinary citizens who lines first for the rescue operations whenever emergency. The story evolves through three White Helmet founders, who instead of absconding and saving their own family and life during the war, decides to save the countrymen. The film also highlights the plightful life of innocent citizens of Aleppo. The film won the 2017 Sundance Film Festival World Documentary Grand Jury Prize and was also nominated for the Best Documentary Feature at the 90th Academy Awards.

Talal Derki directed 'Of Fathers & Sons' is the story highlighting the life of young boys, tutored to follow their father's path and serve as the Jihadi Fighters, soldiers of God. The children being denied of their rights, had to let go of their youthful days and is always trained to be tough. Derki, pretending to support the Jihadist cause, sets himself in a Syrian family and captured their life giving special focus on the children. The film is a non- judgemental and deep human way of expressing the life of those we really think are our foes. The film has won the World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize at 2018 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated as the Best Documentary Feature at the 91st Academy Awards.

'Of Fathers & Sons' will be screened at Kairali Theatre on 24 June 3pm and 'Last Men in Aleppo' is to be screened at Sree Theatre on 25 June at 6pm. Registration is open in the help desk of Kairali theatre and online registration can be done on the website [www.idsffk.in](http://www.idsffk.in) .

(to be continued)