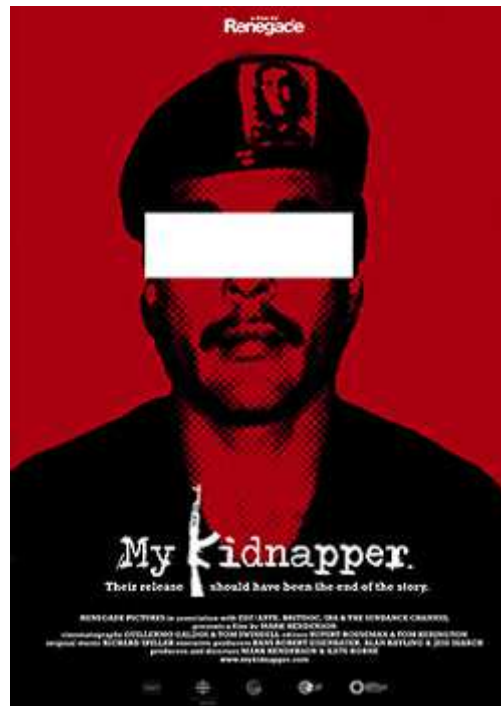




On the occasion of the **International Day of Tolerance**

My kidnapper



Mark Henderson, Director

Mark Henderson has worked in the British television industry since 1995. Over the past 15 years he has produced, directed and self-shot documentaries and factual series for BBC, ITV and Channel 4 in the UK, as well as several one hour documentaries for US channels, covering subjects as diverse as teenage pregnancy, the British adoption system, identical quadruplets and homelessness. It was during a break in his career in 2003 that he went travelling to Latin America for five months and was kidnapped in the mountains of Colombia. *My Kidnapper* has been six years in the making and is his first feature documentary.

Melita Sunjic-Hummel, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Melita H. Sunjic is the spokesperson and Head of Communications for UNHCR Brussels. A journalist by profession, she has worked for UNHCR since 1993. She has been posted in Europe, Asia and Africa on various external relations assignments.

Michael Hansmann, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Michael Hansmann worked for an NGO, which specializes in the prevention of blindness, for over 7 years in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For the last 3 years, he has been the representative of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in Brussels. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe undertakes fundraising, lobbying and advocacy in Germany and on a European Level, and works worldwide with local partners from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.



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Secretary-General's Message for the International Day for Tolerance 16 November 2011

This is a period in which the old world is slowly but irreversibly changing and the contours of a new one are just beginning to take shape. Traditional institutions are being challenged. Budgets are being squeezed. Families are being stressed. All of this flux and churning creates enormous anxiety.

At times of change, we must stay true to the ideals and principles that are at the heart of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among those core values is tolerance. Our practice of tolerance must mean more than peaceful coexistence, crucial as that is. It must be an active understanding fostered through dialogue and positive engagement with others.

This is especially critical in combating the discrimination that causes so much divisiveness, destruction and death. We all have a responsibility to protect those vulnerable to discrimination, whether based on race, religion, nationality, language, gender, sexual orientation or other factors. Practicing tolerance can serve as the antidote to prejudice and hatred.

UNESCO plays a special role in fostering active tolerance by promoting quality education for all girls and boys; advancing a free and pluralistic media, including on the Internet; and protecting cultural heritage and nurturing respect for cultural diversity.

As we face the complex and global challenges of our times, the United Nations will continue to work for mutual understanding among peoples and countries, a bedrock need in an interconnected world. As we mark this international day, let us remember that active tolerance begins with each of us, every day.

Ban Ki-moon