

Accademia del Cinema Italiano  
Premi David di Donatello

# David di Donatello 2020

**FAN of Europe**

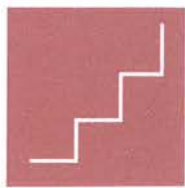
**Da:** Pascal Edelmann p.edelmann@europeanfilmacademy.org  
**Oggetto:** WG: press release: Call for the Immediate Release of Moataz Abdelwahab  
**Data:** 21 luglio 2020 09:56

**A:** Hlin Johannesdottir hlin@eddan.is, Hellenic Film Academy Ελληνική Ακαδημία Κινηματογράφου helfiac@gmail.com, Jule Bartram bartram@deutsche-filmakademie.de, Schweizer Filmakademie info@filmakademie.ch, Manuela Pineskj manuela.pineskj@davididonatello.it, Carole PANTANELLA I Filmakademie carole@filmakademie.lu, Dariusz Jablonski prezydent@pnf.pl, Anna Machukh a.machukh@uafilmacademy.org



Dear Colleagues,  
please find below the release with your institution listed as it went out on Friday.  
All the best,  
Pascal

**Von:** press@europeanfilmacademy.org <press@europeanfilmacademy.org>  
**Gesendet:** Freitag, 17. Juli 2020 10:01  
**An:** Pascal Edelmann <p.edelmann@europeanfilmacademy.org>  
**Betreff:** press release: Call for the Immediate Release of Moataz Abdelwahab



E U R O P E A N F I L M A C A D E M Y

## Press Release

### Call for the Immediate Release of Moataz Abdelwahab

The International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk (ICFR\*) and its founding institutions, the European Film Academy, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and International Film Festival Rotterdam, together with the Human Rights Film Network, Movies that Matter Foundation and PEN America, as well as the Accademia del Cinema Italiano - Premi David di Donatello, German Film Academy, Hellenic Film Academy, Icelandic Film- & TV Academy, Luxembourg Film Academy, Polish Film Academy, Swiss Film Academy and Ukrainian Film Academy, call for the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release film producer Moataz Abdelwahab.



The Egyptian film producer Moataz Abdelwahab (43) produced the feature film *WHEN WE'RE BORN* (2019) by director Tamer Izzat, which played at the El Gouna International Film Festival and Les Journées Cinématographique de Carthage 2019, as well as a couple of documentaries which carry no political views, among them *KHAN'S FINGERPRINTS*, a portrait of the prominent Egyptian director Mohammad Khan, *THE HEART OF CAIRO*, examining the history of the city, and most recently *A CURFEW*, the upcoming film by renowned Egyptian filmmaker Amir Ramses. Moataz Abdelwahab disappeared on 5 May from his office in Cairo, only to re-appear on 11 May for a hearing at the Supreme Court for State Security, where

he was accused of "partnering with a terrorist organisation" and "spreading false news" (case 586).

These accusations come after he produced a number of cultural documentary films which were sold to and aired on the Aljazeera Documentary Channel. According to legal experts, the arrest is based on false and fabricated charges.

We are very concerned about his safety and that of his family (he is the father of two, Zeina (12) and Yousef (6)) and call on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Moataz Abdelwahab and encourage all film and culture institutions around the world to do the same.

17 July 2020

**\*NOTE TO EDITORS:** Founded by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, International Film Festival Rotterdam and the European Film Academy, the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk's mission is to advocate for and to act in solidarity with filmmakers at risk. The Coalition acts in cases of persecution or threats to the personal safety of these filmmakers and will defend their right to continue their work, by mobilising the international film community.



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**EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY e.V. | Kurfürstendamm 225 | 10719 Berlin | GERMANY | tel. +49 30 887 1670**  
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## MOATAZ ABDELWAHAB

### Un appello per la liberazione del produttore egiziano

■ Una lettera della International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk - la coalizione internazionale per i filmmaker in pericolo - e le sue istituzioni fondatrici, fra cui la European Film Academy e l'Accademia dei David di Donatello, si appella alle autorità egiziane per il rilascio immediato del produttore Moataz Abdelwahab. Tra i film da lui prodotti *When We're Born* di Tamer Izzat, *Khan's Fingerprints* - un documentario sul regista egiziano Mohammad Khan - e *A curfew* di

Amir Ramses. «Moataz Abdelwahab - recita la lettera - è scomparso il 5 maggio dal suo ufficio al Cairo per poi riapparire l'11 maggio per un'udienza davanti alla Procura suprema per la sicu-

**Le accuse sono «diffusione di notizie false» e collaborazione con i terroristi**

rezza dello Stato, dove è stato accusato di 'collaborazione con un'organizzazione terroristica' e di 'diffondere notizie false'. Queste accuse, continua la lettera, arrivano dopo che Abdelwahab «ha prodotto svariati documentari culturali venduti ed andati in onda sul canale dedicato ai documentari di Al Jazeera. Secondo degli esperti legali, il suo arresto è basato su delle accuse false e costruite ad arte».

«SIAMO MOLTO preoccupati per la sua sicurezza e per quella della sua famiglia e chiediamo alle autorità egiziane di rilasciare Moataz Abdelwahab immediatamente e senza condizioni, e incoraggiamo le istituzioni cinematografiche di tutto il mondo a fare lo stesso».