



ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE AMERICA'S YOUTH CHAPTER



ܐܘܨܬܪܝܐ ܕܐܘܪܘܫܠܝܡ ܕܡܪܝܚܐ

Member of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The viewing of *Transient*, a documentary about Assyrian refugees, and a silent auction benefit to be held in San Jose, California

Since the start of the Iraq war in 2003, over 4,700,000 Iraqis have been displaced from their homes due to violence and economic instability. These individuals have endured numerous struggles including poor living conditions and limited access to health care which have affected their lives.

Transient gives a first-hand account of families struggling to cope as refugees in countries where many are treated as second-class citizens. A view into the living conditions of many families, *Transient* has been selected by the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) as a featured documentary during the association's 2009 film festival.

The film's producer, Dr. Anobel Odisho, will host a screening of his documentary followed by a Q&A session. The event will also include a cocktail hour and silent auction featuring captivating photos taken by Dr. Odisho during his travels in the Middle East. All proceeds will benefit the health clinic featured in the documentary.

Dr. Anobel Odisho earned his undergraduate degree in molecular immunology and ancient Near Eastern archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley and his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. During his fourth year of medical school, Anobel pursued a concentration in medical humanities, spending three months traveling through the Middle East. Anobel's time was primarily spent in a refugee health clinic established by the Assyrian General Conference in Jarmana, a refugee camp outside Damascus, Syria. His visit at this clinic provided him the opportunity to see patients, integrate into the community, visit people's homes, and hear their stories. He is currently in his surgery residency at UCSF.

This free-admission event has been organized by the Assyrian Universal Alliance – America's Youth Chapter and in collaboration with the Assyrian American Association of San Jose.

The viewing and benefit will be held on **Saturday, September 12, 2009 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the Assyrian American Association of San Jose, located at 1352 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, California.

For further information about this event, please contact AUA Youth's Public Relations Coordinator Andrew Daniel at 209-765-0101 or via email at youthofamerica@aua.net.