

For Immediate Release

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**Human Rights Watch Calls Attention to Global Impact
of Post 9-11 Immigration Policies
As Host of International Film Festival**

CHICAGO - (May 5, 2005) Post 9-11 immigration policies are at the center of a documentary film to be shown as the **Human Rights Watch Chicago Committee** hosts its first public event at the Opening Night Benefit Screening and Reception of its International Film Festival. The event, co-sponsored by Facets Cinematheque, will feature a screening of *Persons of Interest*, a documentary about the thousands of non-U.S. nationals that were detained and held indefinitely by the U.S. Justice Department after 9-11. Carroll Bogert, Associate Director of Human Rights Watch, will hold a discussion with the film's directors, Alison Maclean and Tobias Perse, after the screening that begins this Thursday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

"Persons of interest tells the stories of non-citizens with no connections to terrorism, who were arrested, interrogated, and thrown in long-term detention without legal recourse after 9-11," said Carroll Bogert, Associate Director of Human Rights Watch. "Instead of rigorously defending the liberties that Americans hold so dear, the United States chose to erode the constitutional and human rights that protect all people - citizens and non-citizens alike - from abusive governmental power."

Persons of Interest, released in 2004, was an Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival last year as well as the winner of the 2004 Amnesty International Humanitarian Award.

The International Film Festival, to be held May 5 – 12 in Chicago, features nine films from seven countries, including: "What The Eye Doesn't See" by Francisco J. Lombardi of Peru, a political psychodrama set in the final days of Fujimori's presidency; "Goodbye Hungaria" by Jon Nealon of Hungary, a political tale and love story set in a refugee camp; "Repatriation" by Dong-won Kim of South Korea, a documentary that traces the lives of two North Koreans incarcerated for thirty years in South Korea as political prisoners; as well as, "Deadline" by Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson of the United States, a documentary about George Ryan, the longtime conservative Republican governor of Illinois, and his surprise decision to commute 167 death sentences on the eve of his departure from office. After the festival's opening night, the remaining films will be shown at Facets Cinematheque, located at 1517 W. Fullerton Avenue. Tickets for the Thursday, May 5 Benefit Screening start at \$75 dollars; tickets for the May 6 – 12 screenings at Facets are between \$5 and \$9 dollars. U.S. Cellular has generously

underwritten the cost of the International Film Festival in order that all proceeds go directly towards the work of Human Rights Watch.

“Human Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world,” their mission statement declares. “We stand with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and to bring offenders to justice. We investigate and expose human rights violations and hold abusers accountable. We challenge governments and those who hold power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law. We enlist the public and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.”

For more information about Human Right Watch or the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, please go to www.hrw.org or www.facets.org/cinematheque

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