

Screening of Swedish Documentaries "Rim and Her Sisters" & "Not Like My Sisters" directed by Leyla Assaf-Tengroth



Tuesday, March 28

Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Auditorium

When the bombs began to fall on the city of Tall Khalakh in Syria, Rim only had one choice – flee. In this documentary, Leyla Assaf-Tengroth explores how Syrian women live in the shadows of war. The entire Kerkatli family originates from the small city of Tall Khalakh in Syria, where they've all left behind their homes and belongings. Everything was destroyed in the war. The family has since fled for their safety to Lebanon. Rim, the eldest of her two brothers and eight sisters, fights to keep her displaced family in Lebanon united. The future is uncertain; they cannot anticipate how this war will come to a close or when it will be safe to return to Syria. The story follows Rim and her sisters in their quotidian life, escaping a war that the generally apathetic media pays little attention to aside from the occasional inclusion of dramatic imagery in a news piece.

Leyla Assaf-Tengroth, a longtime acquaintance of the Kerkatli family, has known Rim since she was just nine years old. Leyla cast Rim as the lead character in the fictional film *(The freedom gang)* as a child. *Movie Star*, a 30 minutes fiction film, recounts Rim's marriage when she was thirteen. *Not like my sister*, is a documentary that follows the trajectory of another daughter Dalida in the Kerkatli family.

"Rim and her sisters, their resilience and their fight for justice and dignity, is a reflection of the global struggle for women. They possess a remarkable desire for political and religious freedom, a desire for peace. My film brings to light these struggles and focuses the attention on these individuals and their uncertain destiny. I have filmed them for years, and thanks to my Lebanese background, I have gained their trust. Rim and her sisters carries a broad message and can serve to elucidate the public on the complex goings-on in the Middle East." Leyla Assaf-Tengroth

This event is a cooperation between Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul and the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul.

Program

18.30 *Rim and her sisters*

19.30 Break with refreshments

19.45 *Not like my sisters*

20.45 Discussion with the director, Leyla Assaf-Tengroth

RSVP: helin.topal@sri.org.tr (registration is mandatory)

