



Documentary Producers Alliance

Dear Sundance Film Festival,

cc: Fork Films, IFP Labs, XTR, Berkeley Film Foundation

We are writing this letter in support of our Muslim and MENA colleagues in the documentary community who have raised concerns about Jihad Rehab, a documentary that premiered in US competition at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. The film - and the festival's support of it - has triggered wide-ranging critiques from the Muslim film community, allies, as well as the [associate director](#) and counterterrorism lead of Human Rights Watch.

Although there was a private call before the festival where Muslim and MENA filmmakers expressed strong opposition to Sundance leadership about the film, we have been informed that they were dismissed. And in spite of the public wave of criticisms that have emerged since the film's debut, and the numerous public invitations to engage your institution in dialogue - along with other supporters of Jihad Rehab - there has yet to be a meaningful response to those efforts, and to the ethical and security concerns that have been raised around the film.

As filmmaker Razi Jafri stated, the "emotional toll [#jihadrehab](#) has taken on [the] Muslim/MENA filmmaker community [and] beyond cannot be overstated... BIPOC communities do so much labor to help others understand their racism, yet here we are again."

We ask that you promptly and substantively address the Muslim and MENA filmmakers who are performing this labor by leading a critical conversation (Assia Boundaoui, Jude Chehab, Nausheen Dadabhoy, Marj Safinia, Sami Khan, Amber Fares, Razi Jafri, among others). Until then, your lack of attentive response adds to an injury in urgent need of remedy and repair.

Respectfully,

**The Documentary Producer's Alliance Inclusion and Structural Equity Committee
with support from the DPA Committee Chairs**