

HAF 03 Belonging



Belonging

A film by
Abid Hossain Khan

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Bangladesh

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | Bengali, Rohingya | 80 mins

DIRECTOR:

Abid Hossain KHAN

PRODUCER:

Rubaiyat HOSSAIN
Aadnan Imtiaz AHMED

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 272,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 97,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

6-year-old Nushaida starts a journey to find her parents, whom she lost while fleeing Myanmar, among refugee camps for Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

SYNOPSIS

Escaping the systemic violence against the Rohingya Muslim community in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, 6-year-old Nushaida crosses the border into Bangladesh with her parents, uncle, and grandparents. After reaching the makeshift camps, they realize that Nushaida's father and pregnant mother never made it to the camps with them. Nushaida, with her uncle Foize, starts looking for her parents from one camp to another. Walking through crowds of suffering people crying out in pain, they witness the agony and the resilience of the displaced Rohingya people, fighting and gathering strength to rebuild their lives from a place of total destitution. When Nushaida and her family have almost given up hope, news arrives that her mother has given birth to a baby boy in another camp and that they are all safe. They reunite and pray that this union will bring a peaceful stability that has eluded their family for so long. Then they find out that the Myanmar government has agreed on a pact with Bangladesh and is ready to take back some of the Rohingyas, but only under certain conditions. Their short spell of happiness is cut short; the family is again immersed in looming uncertainties.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have been staying with the stateless Rohingya community since the start of the recent exodus from Myanmar and I have developed a unique access to these people to tell their stories. This project reveals the plight of the Rohingya people, forced to leave their home, their families and their loved ones. Yet, at the same time, it explores their resilience amidst all the challenges stacked against them to survive and build a new life in a new landscape.

While following these Rohingyas, I am also investigating the voyeuristic nature of the film medium through the relationship between the camera and its subjects. Often, the camera takes people and their miseries for granted and turns these experiences and agents into objectified materials for the audience. Through the journey and dialogue of the characters, I will try to inquire into the moral and ethical dilemma of a filmmaker as well. But at the end of the day, *Belonging* is the story of a Rohingya family in their exploration and exposition of the crisis of their existence.

DIRECTOR

Abid Hossain KHAN

Abid Hossain Khan is an emerging independent filmmaker. His debut short film *20 Continuous Shots Followed by Siddhartha* (2016) premiered at Curta Cinema - Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival 2016. *Belonging* is his first feature-length documentary film.

PRODUCER

Rubaiyat HOSSAIN

Rubaiyat Hossain, one of Bangladesh's few female filmmakers, established Khona Talkies, a leading production company in Bangladesh. She has produced and directed a few films acclaimed both nationally and internationally that were showcased in Venice Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival and International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Aadnan Imtiaz AHMED

After studying Economics at the University of Toronto, Aadnan Imtiaz Ahmed pursued his career as a film producer, working with acclaimed directors in Bangladesh. He is an alumnus of Open Doors Lab, Locarno 2016, Produire au Sud, Nantes 2018 and DPC II 2018.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Khona Talkies

Khona Talkies was established in 2008 with the vision of using young Bangladeshi talent to produce films in a local terrain with possible foreign co-production and creative tie-ups. It aims to explore issues and topics that are otherwise censored and tabooed. Since its inception, Khona Talkies has produced and acquired a few award-winning and internationally-acclaimed films as well as locally significant independent films by young filmmakers.