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## "The Promise" wins the "Öngören Award" for Democracy and Human Rights at the 22nd Filmfest Turkey in Nuremberg



On Saturday March, 11 2017, the documentary feature film "The Promise", by filmmaker Marcus Vetter and journalist Karin Steinberger, was awarded the "Öngören Award for Democracy and Human Rights" at the 22nd Filmfest Turkey Germany in Nuremberg .

The production company Filmperspektive GmbH and the filmmakers are thankful to the jury for this unanimous decision. In the ceremony, presented by the Green Party politician and a vice president of the Bundestag, Claudia Roth, the jury statement was announced:

*The film reconstructs the history of an eye-catching criminal proceeding, which became a unique media spectacle in the US in 1985. A well respected couple in a small town in Virginia had been brutally murdered. The daughter and her then 18-year-old German friend were condemned, although the exact (identity?) of the murderer seems unresolved to this day. Both are still in prison today, more than 30 years later. After Jens Soering denied his initial confession, many people, lawyers, friends, and institutions, who consider the young German to be innocent, are trying to revise the verdict and obtain his release.*

*The film documents these efforts with an abundance of archive material and interviews ... and still has a partial effect as a fictional thriller that captivates the viewer right from the beginning. At the same time, he remains a long way from the classical judicial dilemma where the rights of a wrongly condemned person are fought for.*

*The film does not take a superficial (position?) for an innocent victim of justice. The focus is on the legal system of the state of Virginia, which no longer seems to be questioning itself. The film relentlessly dissects an American legal process which disregards the dignity of the defendants and their rights of liberty and blurs the boundaries of right and wrong until the right is itself ad absurdum. This is the really shocking part of this exciting and gripping documentary film, which leaves the audience deeply concerned.*

## About the Öngören-Award

For many years, the Öngören Prize has been awarded to outstanding films dealing with human rights and, above all, with their injuries; Not only in Germany, not only in Turkey, but - unfortunately, one has to say – frequently worldwide.. Named after the Turkish journalist, screenwriter and co-founder of Turkish state television Mahmut Tali Öngören (1931-1999), the prize annually honors those directors who are particularly concerned themselves and their films with the topics of democracy and human rights.

It is certain that the audience expected the jury to award a film that deals with the human rights situation in Turkey. The jury has to disappoint these expectations. The Öngören Award is not an award of attitude, it is also and, above all, a film award. And so the jury has awarded the film, which, in addition to human rights issues, is the most accomplished and best film, including cinematically. It takes place not in Turkey, not in Germany, but in a country that is always very keen to be the guardian of Western democracy – in the USA.

## The Jury

Michael Aue (Director), Selim Çelebi (InterForum), Monika Ott (Social pedagogy), Michael Popp (Director of Culture of the city of Nurnberg a.D.), Ersin Uğurlu (InterForum CEO), Jochen Schmoldt (Journalist), Başak Özdemir (Social worker (M.A))

Source: [www.fftd.net/news-detail/news/die-jurys-des-22-filmfestival-tuerkei-deutschland-haben-entschieden/](http://www.fftd.net/news-detail/news/die-jurys-des-22-filmfestival-tuerkei-deutschland-haben-entschieden/)