

Fact Sheet

1. *In the Last Days of the City* took almost ten years to make. It is a film set predominantly in Cairo. Winning international awards and critical appraisal, it has been called 'a melancholic love-hate poem to Cairo and the role of filmmakers in any city in pain', (*Variety*), 'Beautifully lensed and complexly edited in a dense patchwork of people, feelings and events' (*The Hollywood Reporter*), 'a lion-hearted elegy for the Egyptian capital' (*Artforum*), 'a moving and extremely personal city symphony that takes its audience on a journey connecting the most intimate to the state of the world we live in today. A film from the heart.'" (*New Horizon Jury, presenting the Grand Prix*)
2. CIFF (Cairo International Film Festival) officially invited the film to take part in its International Competition on 04 September 2016, and the festival publicly announced its selection on 06 September 2016. It was agreed this would be the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) premiere of the film, and the long awaited moment when finally it would be seen by its home audience.
3. The film turned down offers from all other regional festivals based on their agreement with CIFF. As a result of the CIFF reversal, the film now has no MENA festival premiere. Its chance to be seen by Egyptian and Arab audiences has been severely sabotaged.
4. On 13 October 2016, following sold out screenings at the BFI London Film Festival, the festival sent an email removing 'In the Last Days of the City' from its selection, claiming, bizarrely, that the film had been to too many international festivals and this was disrespectful to Cairo International Film Festival's reputation.
5. *In the Last Days of the City* premiered at the Berlinale Forum. CIFF knew it had been to 19 festivals and won three awards when they selected it for their competition. They also knew that the film was invited to more festivals, all of them outside the Arab region.
6. Most films in CIFF's competition selection have been screened in many other international film festivals. Two competition films have had their MENA premiere, and screened at more than one regional festival. One of the other selected Egyptian films was at London Film Festival. CIFF have clearly applied double standards.
7. The Festival's regulations state that it accepts Egyptian premieres of films that have not been in competition in any other FIAPF festival. *In the Last Days of the City* has not been in the competition of any other FIAPF festival (it was shown at the Berlinale Forum, not competition). This would have been its Egyptian, Arab and African premiere.

8. Following CIFF's deselection, the producers spent ten days trying to find a solution with the festival, to no avail. On 25 October the film announced through a press release that CIFF had removed the film.
9. Egyptian filmmakers have been in uproar about the festival's decision. On 29th October an independent petition denouncing CIFF's decision and asking them to overturn their decision was signed by over 270 Egyptian and Arab filmmakers, artists and cultural figures.
10. Together these facts lead us to question the real motives behind removing the film from the festival. If you would like more information, please contact nshoukry@mifegypt.com