

13 September 2021

Dear

19 JULY 2021: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

In your email dated 19 July 2021 you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *all documents, emails, notes, briefings, diary notes etc. relating to other proposals for concepts relating to the March 15 terror attack.*


Documents in relation to your request are attached at **Appendix 1**.

Information has been withheld in full or redacted where one of the following withholding grounds under the OIA applies and where, on balance the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available:

- Section 6(d): where the making available of information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person;
- Section 9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii): to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i): to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

We have not included information or correspondence that is of an administrative or trivial nature (for example, to arrange meeting times) as we suspect this type of communication is likely out of the intended scope of your request and in any event, would be withheld under section 18(h) of the OIA.

In the 2020/21 financial year, the NZFC awarded \$24,000 in Documentary Development Funding to a project titled *Fiftyone*. The decision meeting was held on 19 May 2021. Key creatives involved in the project are Virginia Wright (Producer), Vanessa Wells (Director), Saba Afrasyabi (Co-producer/Co-director) and Bariz Shah (Co-producer/Co-director).



Please note this project is not about the March 15 terror attacks, however, as it is related, we have included it in the scope of your request.

Fiftyone is a feature documentary told through the eyes of Bariz Shah and Saba Afrasyabi – a young Afghan-New Zealand couple, who in remembrance of the 51 people killed in Christchurch's two mosques on March 15, 2019, travel to Afghanistan to empower some of Kabul's most poverty-stricken people through 51 micro-business projects.

A full synopsis of the project is attached at **Appendix 2**.

All documents, emails, notes, briefings and diary notes in relation to *Fiftyone* have been withheld in full where one of the following withholding grounds under the OIA applies and where, on balance the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii): to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i): to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

Please note that we will be publishing this letter (with your personal information removed) on the NZFC website.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, to seek an investigation and review of our response.

Yours sincerely



Tayla Hancock
Policy Advisor
New Zealand Film Commission



Appendix 1

From: [Annabelle Sheehan](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Cc: [Mladen Ivancic](#); [Jasmin McSweeney](#)
Subject: Re: DDI Message
Date: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 4:19:39 a.m.
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
Sensitivity: Confidential

I have had a producer contact about a different movie on the same topic. Introduced via Graeme mason. Tim white may co produce (as per email 5 mins ago)

Let's discuss tomorrow. I expect a number of people will set up to tell the story. Not sure what our role should be in that.

Sent from my iPhone



Annabelle Sheehan | Chief Executive

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Level 3, [119 Ghuznee St. Wellington 6011](#) | PO Box [11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142](#)



www.nzfilm.co.nz | ondemand.nzfilm.co.nz



On 13/05/2019, at 5:13 PM, Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Annabelle, Mladen and Jasmin

I had a very brief call with Stu late on Friday about this, and have been awaiting an email that provides the exact detail and filmmaker context – this does just that.

This is quite a sensitive situation, as you'll note after you read, so suggest that we have a chat on this here in-person ASAP and potentially dial you in, Mladen.

In the first instance, I guess the question is whether we reach out ASAP to Moez Masoud via MFAT to suggest a meeting here in Cannes in a high-level way, noting that he's intending to announce the project here in Cannes—or wait to meet him in Wellington jointly with MFAT, noting their proposed approach as captured by Stu below.

Chris

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [HORNE, Stuart \(MEA\)](#)
Cc: [MORTON, Tara \(MEA\)](#); [RYAN, Natalie \(MEA\)](#)
Subject: RE: DDI Message
Date: Wednesday, 15 May 2019 3:16:20 a.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
[image013.jpg](#)
[image014.png](#)

Hi Stu

Thanks for your patience.

Annabelle and I have had a chat—as is always the way, she’s also been approached by producers with another project on the 15 March terrorist attack—and we would like to suggest a meeting with Moez Masoud here in Cannes at his earliest convenience.

The focus of this meeting would be to introduce the NZFC and wider NZ industry. While we wouldn’t be seeking to dissuade him from any media announcement here in Cannes—which is entirely his prerogative—we would be making it clear to him (delicately) that there can be no explicit or implied support or endorsement of the project by the NZFC or wider NZ Government at this very early stage of engagement.

Are you able to introduce him to me over email, to liaise on scheduling an introductory chat? We’d like to meet as soon as possible, in advance of any potential media activity.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

[www.nzfilm.co.nz](#) | [ondemand.nzfilm.co.nz](#)



In Singapore on Friday 10 May and then Cannes from Saturday 11 May to Friday 24 May.

NZFC Office & NZ Producers’ Office: Level 1, Residence L’Imperatrice, 44 Boulevard de la Croisette, Cannes. Map [here](#).

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2019 5:26 p.m.
To: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]
Cc: MORTON, Tara (MEA) [REDACTED] RYAN, Natalie (MEA)
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DDI Message

Hi Stu

Many thanks for our call and this expanded context – very much appreciated.

I've been in contact with our CEO—who's yet to join us in Cannes, but will do so tomorrow—and will be discussing with her in-person ASAP.

I'll come back to you immediately following this with our thoughts on approach, including in relation to a possible meeting with Moez Masoud here in Cannes, ideally ahead of any announcement concerning the project [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2019 6:11 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: MORTON, Tara (MEA) [REDACTED] RYAN, Natalie (MEA)
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DDI Message

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris – good to talk on Friday.

As discussed, our Embassy in the UAE has been approached by a film-maker Moez Masoud https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moez_Masoud to make a feature film focusing on the aftermath of the Christchurch Attacks. He has the support of the UAE government, who arranged the call.

The outline of his proposal for the film “Hello Brother” is at the bottom of my email. In discussions with the NZ Embassy in the UAE, Moez acknowledged that the timing could be seen as premature and that this would normally be something undertaken 5 years after an event but he thinks others are going to act. He argued that based on the strong support for NZ from the UAE, as well as the way NZ responded to the attacks, his story would be meaningful and favourable for NZ. He also wanted to assure us that this was still a longer term (ie 18mth- 2 year) project. However, commercial realities mean he needs to take some steps now to (a) head off competitors; (b) fit with his schedule (he has other projects on the go); and secure funding.

He therefore needs to visit now to understand NZ and commence research/info gathering for the project. He needs to start writing now to have the script complete in 6 mths. We understand he is planning a visit in the next month or so.

He says the budget is about [REDACTED] and he’s basically secured the funding already (the Embassy is assuming UAE funders). He says he has also secured Executive Producers and a script writer.

Moez is attending Cannes in the next couple of weeks and will be making an announcement about the film “Hello Brother”. The Embassy questioned the timing and purpose. It seems the main purpose is to get ahead of the competition and he described it as an “inside industry” type announcement which is how these things begin. The Embassy has also provided contact details for the New Zealand Film

Commission.

I have also met with the UAE ambassador here, and expressed some unease about the timing of the visit, particularly if he plans to meet with victims' families. Our understanding is that he plans to engage through one of the Imams in Christchurch.

Moez has asked to meet with me when he visits. From an MFAT perspective we want to ensure that there is no official government endorsement of this initiative particularly at this early stage. My strong preference would also be to ensure that any proposals to make a film about the Christchurch Attacks be managed through the New Zealand Film Commission, as we would want to ensure that any product was sensitive to those impacted by the attacks, especially the families, and took into account how any such film might be perceived in New Zealand.

On that basis – we would be keen to ensure that you or one of your colleagues met with Masoud when he visits New Zealand.

Regards

Stu

Stuart Horne

Divisional Manager
Middle East and Africa Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Chris Payne [<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 5:21 p.m.
To: HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject: DDI Message

Hi Stu

I'm currently flying to Singapore, and our phone system sent through your message as an audio file.

I land at 9pm local time, so happy to give you a call on Friday if there's a time that suits?

I'm in and out of meetings on Friday but free first thing and mid-afternoon onwards.

If easier to send through details via email that's totally fine, but understand if this isn't appropriate/you'd prefer to cover off verbally instead for any reason(s).

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 May 2019 11:16 p.m.

To: Moez Masoud [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: RE:

Hi Moez

Further to WhatsApp, looping in [REDACTED] to liaise with Moustafa Salah and Mohamed Darsha on scheduling a meeting with Annabelle and me, sometime prior to your departure on 19/20 May. Look forward to meeting soon. All best

Chris Payne

Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission
[REDACTED]

e: chris@nzfilm.co.nz

iPhone. iTypos. iApologise.

From: Moez Masoud <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 15:42

To: Chris Payne

Cc: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD); HORNE, Stuart (MEA);
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: RE:

Thanks, dear Matthew, for the intro!

Hi Chris, many thanks! Mid-travel (to Cannes), so I'm writing briefly. Looking forward to meeting yourself and Annabelle soon. I've copied Moustafa Salah and Mohamed Darsha from the team here to help arrange.

All the best,

Moez

Sent from my iPhone

On May 15, 2019, at 8:39 AM, Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Matt

Thanks very much for your note and great to connect.

It was interesting to read the announcement overnight and see it picked up by the NZ Herald.

<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?objectid=12231168>

Hi Moez

It'd be great to meet while in Cannes. I'm on this email or mobile highlighted below throughout. If you can advise your availability we can schedule a meeting that will also involve our CEO, Annabelle Sheehan and potentially our Head of Development & Production, Leanne Saunders, too.

All best

Chris

[!\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\)](#) Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

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[!\[\]\(a03a7eb2f4046e1d3c76772003e549ea_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(844169987a590ed8c7e31d5d18950e8d_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(2af34e678d9364b2f32b7174f4964d2c_img.jpg\)](#)

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[!\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\)](#)

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD)



Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 11:22 p.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>; Moez

 >

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) 

Subject:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris,

I wanted to introduce myself. I'm the NZ Ambassador to the UAE. I understand my colleague Stu Horne from MFAT has been in touch with you

I am emailing to introduce Moez Masoud (cc'ed) who you are aware is about to announce today at Cannes his project "Hello

Brother” about New Zealand’s response to the Christchurch terror attacks.

It would be great if you and Moez can touch base in Cannes.
Moez has started the writing process for the film and reached out early to the NZ government to make sure we have visibility of his project.

Moez leaves for Cannes in the morning, but his mobile is: + [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Moez - Chris is in Cannes and his mobile is [REDACTED]

Im certain you will have a great conversation and I will leave it with you both to connect.

Matt

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--

Moez Masoud

Acamedia Global

From: [Moez Masoud](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Cc: [Mohamed Darsha](#); [REDACTED]; [Ahmed Abbas](#)
Subject: Re: Call
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 2:28:00 a.m.
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
[image014.jpg](#)
[image016.jpg](#)

Hi Chris,

Wonderful. I have also copied Ahmed Abbas on this response, as he will be in the call.

Looking forward.

Moez

On Mon, Aug 5, 2019 at 2:22 AM Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Moez

No worries at all and sounds good – I'm cc'ing my colleague [REDACTED] to assist with coordinating diaries.

All best

CP



Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Moez Masoud [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:30 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Mohamed Darsha <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Meeting 7 pm tonight

Hi Chris,

Many thanks for your email, and apologies for the late reply. It's been *very* hectic since Cannes on this end as well. Let's set up a call when we're both free to discuss updates?

Best wishes,

Moez

On Thu, Jul 11, 2019 at 12:55 AM Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Moez

I hope this finds you well, and that the period since Cannes has treated you and your team very well.

It's been a hectic time for us since Cannes, and I've been remiss in not following up with you sooner.

I've had some engagement with Matt Hawkins, mainly to debrief him on our meeting in Cannes and he mentioned the two of you had connected, too.

Have there been any further developments in relation to *Hello Brother* and your proposed visit to NZ?

Very happy to answer any further queries you might have and/or to assist with appropriate introductions.

All best

Chris



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From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Moez Masoud](#)
Cc: [Mohamed Darsha](#); [REDACTED]; [Ahmed Abbas](#)
Subject: FW: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 2:51:00 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Moez

I thought this might be of interest to you and your team?

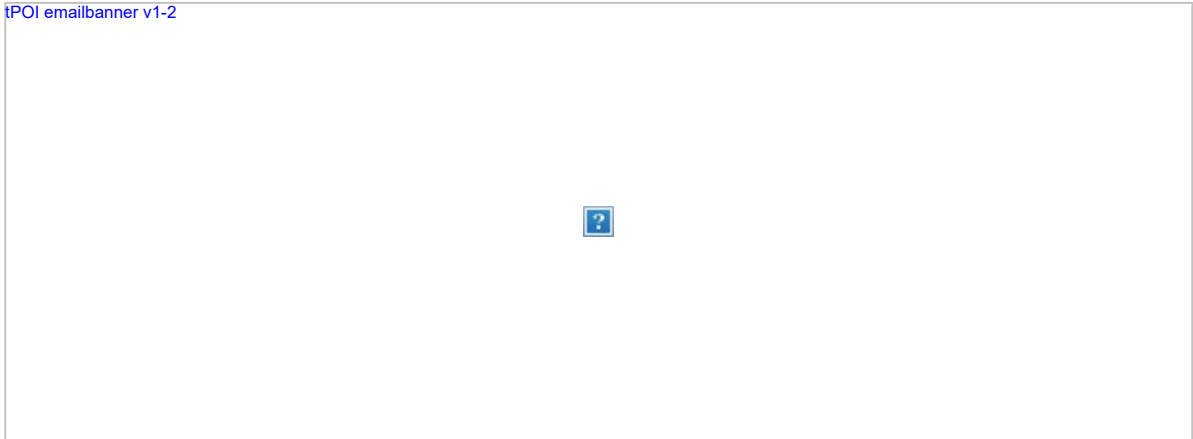
All best

CP

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: NZ On Air [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 August 2019 2:46 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15

Our latest feature



Media Release

8 August 2019

**Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since
March 15**



Three projects that will commemorate the one year anniversary of the March 15 terror attacks have been funded as the final initiatives from the RNZ/NZ On Air Joint Innovation Fund.

NZ On Air received 14 applications in response to a request for proposals issued in May, which sought media projects to mark the anniversary of the attacks, and honour the victims and their families.

The three projects were selected in consultation with a New Zealand Muslim community leader. Each project will be published on the RNZ website and complement RNZ's ongoing coverage of the events and issues related to the attacks.

A podcast series with accompanying photography, *The Widows Of Shaheed* will journey alongside four women whose husbands were killed on March 15. From the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in August through to the impending first anniversary of the attacks, this series will chronicle the

realities these women face as they adjust to life after March 15.

The Living Flowerwall is an interactive project that digitally renders Christchurch's wall of flowers on Rolleston Ave that became a symbol of the city's grief and unity in the days and weeks following the attacks. The online shared space will allow members of the public to add messages and virtual flower bouquets.

This Is Us is a series of six short films which will showcase the diversity of Muslim New Zealanders experiences as they answer the question "what do you love the most?" In talking about what they each love the most, the series will provide a platform for each person to represent who they are, how they feel, and how different or similar their journey has been to other Muslim New Zealanders.

"With almost five months having passed, it's clear that the events of March 15 have had a profound and lasting effect on the nation and our people," says NZ On Air Chief Executive Jane Wrightson.

"The coming months will continue to be a tough journey for all directly and indirectly affected. NZ On Air is very pleased to support three projects that will, in a time of grief and reflection, create kōrero that shines a light on our similarities, differences and joint hope for the future," she continued.

"RNZ continues to provide in-depth coverage of issues related to the Christchurch terror attacks of 15 March 2019 through our high-quality day to day and long form investigative journalism," says RNZ Chief Executive Paul Thompson.

"We're proud to support these independent content creators who are showcasing three very different projects. These powerful stories will provide deep insights from a wide range of perspectives as well as new opportunities for engagement and ongoing support from the wider New Zealand community."

Funding details

The Living Flowerwall, 3D Immersive Site + 1 x 3 mins video, Vanishing Point Studio for RNZ, up to \$121,200

The Widows Of Shaheed, 8 x 30 mins, Plains FM 96.9 for RNZ, up to \$99,361

This Is Us, 6 x 2 min videos + 6 x 2 mins audio, Ghazaleh Golbakhsh for RNZ, up to \$60,000

Further information:

Jude Walcott

RNZ Senior Communications Advisor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sophie Howard

NZ On Air Communications Advisor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Call
Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2019 9:31:08 a.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Moez

Sorry we couldn't connect over the weekend.

I'm cc'ing my colleague, [REDACTED] here to coordinate diaries and lock in a specific day/time to speak.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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Bellbird signature



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From: [HAWKINS, Matthew \(ABD\)](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#); [HORNE, Stuart \(MEA\)](#)
Subject: RE:
Date: Friday, 11 June 2021 1:08:28 p.m.
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
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[image029.jpg](#)
[image030.jpg](#)
[image031.png](#)
[image032.png](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Chris,

Moez called me by coincidence last week and I encouraged him to keep you updated on his project.

He was just in touch with me again today. I have forwarded him some of the media from today and stressed the need to be testing the comfort of the muslim community with his film.

Matt

New Zealand Ambassador, Abu Dhabi

[REDACTED]
@NZinUAE

From: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>

Date: Friday, 11 Jun 2021, 4:17 AM

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[REDACTED]> HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re:

Hi Matt and Stu

For courtesy, alerting you to this morning's (7am Friday NZT) announcement by the producing team and its partners regarding their feature film project, THEY ARE US.

<https://variety.com/2021/film/news/rose-byrne-andrew-niccol-christchurch-mosque-shootings-1234993559/>

There has been wide pickup by international trade media and subsequently by NZ domestic and international mainstream media.

Moez has been in touch with me recently—both prior to and this morning following the announcement—noting that he caught up with you, Matt recently and that he is keen to update me on HELLO BROTHER. We will connect on this when possible.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne
Chief Operating Officer (Acting) & Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

From: Chris Payne

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 4:28:05 PM

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE:

Great – thanks, Matt. Will keep you (and Stu) updated.

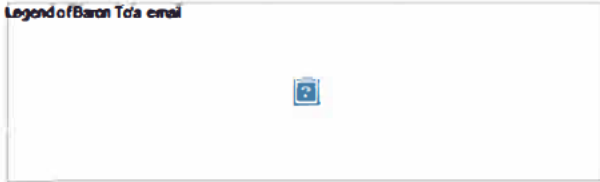
CP



Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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Legend of Baron Tola email



Year of the rat email



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2020 4:24 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Chris. That's good. I spoke with him this week and asked him to make sure he's in touch with you. He's told me he will go to NZ but hasn't been specific on dates. Matt

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Date: Wednesday, 29 Jan 2020, 7:19 AM
To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]
Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:

Whatsapp messages referred to in this email correspondence have been withheld under S18(h) of the OIA as they are of an administrative and trivial nature.

Hi Matt

A quick note to say that I had a few WhatsApp messages back and forth with Moez earlier today.

Nothing much to report – he said he'd share a second draft of his screenplay with me when he's happy with it. I asked if he still planned to visit in the near future and he hasn't replied to that query so far.

All best

CP



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Legend of Baron To'a email



Year of the rat email signature resized



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 11:53 a.m.

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[M \[REDACTED\]](#)>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]

Subject: RE:

Hi Matt

No further word from Moez – I sent him the **attached** on 10 December, but we haven't had a reply from him or his team re: rescheduling.

Nothing further to pass on from us – from our POV the ball's in his court to update on any project developments and/or request any further information.

All best

Chris



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED] >

Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 12:39 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris,

I'm going to check in with Moez and see how he is getting on.

Did you manage to speak? Anything you want to pass on?

Matt

From: Chris Payne [<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>]

Sent: Tuesday, 10 December 2019 12:29 a.m.

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD)

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA)

Subject: RE:

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Hi Matt

We were going to speak on Saturday while I was in Singapore but I didn't hear from him that day and then was flying back Saturday night, so time zones precluded.

I've had a further WhatsApp msg from him and will ask our team coordinator to follow-up via email with him to schedule a definitive time and day (she's tried previously but without success).

I'll let you know once we've spoken.

All best

CP



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Bellbird signature



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 10 December 2019 1:48 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris,

Did you get anything further from Moez? A follow up email?

Matt

New Zealand Ambassador, Abu Dhabi

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Date: Sunday, 01 Dec 2019, 11:05 PM

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED] >

Subject: Re:

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Hi Matt

Thanks for this.

I received the attached WhatsApp from Moez over the weekend (presumably prompted by your engagement with him) but nothing further yet.

I'll circle back once I know more.

All best

Chris Payne
Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission
e: chris@nzfilm.co.nz
[REDACTED]

iPhone. iTypos. iApologise.

cid:image013.png@01D5CFA7.B3B6D710



On 2/12/2019, at 01:56, HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris,

I was in touch with Moez yesterday. He says the movie is proceeding well. They have completed the first draft of the script and a Line Producer is now onboard.

I've asked him to make contact with you ASAP so you have a sense of the status.

It is unclear to me what contact he has made with local community in NZ, but I do understand he is in touch with Megan Woods MP. I will be encouraging him to think carefully about how he is dealing with the local community, particularly as the first visit by one of his colleagues attracted negative media and because Moez has yet to travel to NZ.

Can you let me know when you hear from him or if I need to follow him up for anything specific.

Thanks for the message,

Matt

From: Chris Payne [<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2019 3:38 a.m.
To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD); HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject: RE:

Hi Matt and Stu

A quick note to say that following the engagement in Cannes, we've heard nothing from Moez or his team. I suggested a call at one stage which he was interested in, but then nothing materialised. Has he engaged with you/the post on this in the intervening period, Matt?

Additionally (and the prompt for sending you both this email) – we've separately been approached by the international co-productions unit of Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) regarding a feature film project based on the same topic. TRT develops, invests in and produces projects with partners around the globe, with a focus on feature films and tv series (both traditional and digital).

For clarity, I'm also updating Wendy Hinton on this aspect.

I met two of their team (Merve ZORLU and Güneş ÇELİKAN) in Seoul at the International Broadcast Co-Production Conference in June 2019 and they've followed up via email since. We've provided a materially similar message to them, as we did to Moez and his colleagues re: their proposed feature, regarding the nuts and bolts of working with/in the NZ screen sector, and timing/sensitivity considerations.

Their approach: "We think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable."

[REDACTED], and have been in touch this week to advise that they arrive in NZ on 8 December, with a colleague from TRT London, Faith Er. They're visiting Wellington first to meet with FIANZ and others (incl. NZFC – we're due to meet here on 10 December) and will then move to Christchurch to meet the NZ producers and screenwriter, along with the community and the families of the victims. All appointments are being handled directly by TRT directly.

Look forward to hearing further re: Moez and any headline comments/otherwise in relation to this additional project, to the extent relevant.

All best

Chris

[<image005.jpg>](#)

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

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[<image003.png>](#)

[<image004.jpg>](#)

[<image007.jpg>](#)

[<image011.png>](#)

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 8:52 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Chris/Stu.

Moez sent me a message to say hi today. I told him I had, by coincidence, been in touch with Chris just today and that NZFC remained on standby ready to answer any questions he might have. So perhaps you will hear from him soon. I have encouraged him to go direct to you if he proceeds.

Matthew Hawkins
New Zealand Ambassador, Abu Dhabi
@NZinUAE

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Date: Wednesday, 19 Jun 2019, 4:38 PM

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]

Subject: RE:

Hi Matt

Thanks for this.

Yes, I imagine he may well be holding on any travel in the belief that he'll be able to secure a meeting.

From our (NZFC) perspective, the ball's really in his (and his producer's) court in terms of engaging with NZ producers and potential production/facilities partners, and communicating to us when any trip is confirmed, at which point we'll be happy to meet to address any more detailed questions that he and his producer might have in relation to realising the project in/with NZ.

Let's keep each other updated with developments going forward.

All best

Chris

<[image006.jpg](#)>

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

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<[image003.png](#)>

<[image004.jpg](#)>

<[image018.jpg](#)>

<[image020.png](#)>

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 5:25 p.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for the read out.

I understand that Moez has been concentrating on the business side of the movie (securing funding) and he has also continued to lift his engagement in New Zealand including contact with the local muslim community and with government through Megan Woods MP.

Moez has a visa I think until July/August so there is still a possibility he will still visit, but perhaps he is pinning that on getting an interview with the PM?

Ambassador
New Zealand Embassy Abu Dhabi

From: Chris Payne [<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 8:57 a.m.
To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD); HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject: RE:

Sincere apologies for the delay in reverting – I was consumed by Cannes and then an EU flu, from which I emerged just in time to fly to Shanghai and Seoul for the festival/market (former) and an international co-production conference (latter; where I am currently through end of day Friday – I'm seeing Ardi and Sophie from the post this Friday).

Annabelle (CEO) and I met with Moez and his producer on the evening of 17 May in Cannes. We were both impressed by the former's charisma and erudition, and by the clear esteem in which he's held in the Middle East (as determined by both what he said and what I'd read about him in preparation for the meeting).

[illegible]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

He's subsequently supplied a link to *Clash*, a prior feature film he produced (but did not write or direct) that played in Cannes a few years ago, as well as a link to a separate documentary series project he's seeking to make, which he thought could potentially also involve NZ.

I haven't heard further from either Moez or his producer regarding the proposed visit in the period since – have either of you/colleagues heard anything/had any subsequent engagement?

All best

Chris

[<image008.jpg>](#)

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[<image003.png>](#)

[<image004.jpg>](#)

[<image007.jpg>](#)

[<image024.png>](#)

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 May 2019 5:45 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Great stuff. I see it's also been picked up in the NZ Herald already (can't paste here to work email sorry).

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Date: Wednesday, 15 May 2019, 1:33 AM

To: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re:

Thanks Matt — I'll reply all separately but here's the media article FYI:

<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/>

Cheers

Chris Payne

Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission

e: chris@nzfilm.co.nz

iPad. iTypos. iApologise.

From: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 11:22:00 PM
To: Chris Payne; Moez
Cc: HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris,

I wanted to introduce myself. I'm the NZ Ambassador to the UAE. I understand my colleague Stu Horne from MFAT has been in touch with you

I am emailing to introduce Moez Masoud (cc'ed) who you are aware is about to announce today at Cannes his project "Hello Brother" about New Zealand's response to the Christchurch terror attacks.

It would be great if you and Moez can touch base in Cannes. Moez has started the writing process for the film and reached out early to the NZ government to make sure we have visibility of his project.

Moez leaves for Cannes in the morning, but his mobile is: [REDACTED]

Moez - Chris is in Cannes and his mobile is [REDACTED]

Im certain you will have a great conversation and I will leave it with you both to connect.

Matt

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From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [HINTON, Wendy \(ANK\)](#)
Cc: [KUMOVA, Ceren \(ANK\)](#); [Mladen Ivancic](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Turkey - film co-production?
Date: Wednesday, 21 August 2019 4:20:13 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[FW Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15.msg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hi Wendy

[Written mid-flight and now sent once back on wifi – I've just seen your separate correspondence with Ray]

Thanks for your note and some brief context follows – I'm on leave from today for a week but was keen to provide headlines.

I'm cc'ing Mladen here, too for his info.

- I met the pair recently in Seoul at an international broadcasting co-production conference co-hosted by our sister agency for television co-productions under the Korea-NZ treaty, the Korea Communications Commission (KCC) at which they and I were invited speakers.
- Merve followed up over email subsequently, expressing TRT's interest in co-production activity (both TV and film).
- I've briefed them on the fact that there's no treaty, which does make it tricky (albeit not impossible), particularly with respect to NZFC production equity (for film) and the New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG) 40% rebate for NZ productions and official co-productions (film and TV).
- I've outlined the low likelihood of a treaty being negotiated, ratified and entering into force in the foreseeable future, given MCH not prioritising new bilateral treaties.
- That said, of note is that Turkey is a signatory to the [European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production \(ETS 147\)](#), which the [Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production \(ETS 220\)](#) supersedes. The (internationalised) CoE Convention offers a number of benefits to NZ, including improved ability to co-produce along both bilateral and multilateral lines with EU partners. Mladen and I have obtained the support of our Board to apply to accede, a position that has also gained the support of our producing community and your EUR division, and we're working with the latter to try to get MCH to support this.
- A key reason for the TRT visit is their proposed feature film about the Christchurch mosque attacks – one of at least three such projects of which we're aware, including [Hello Brother](#) that was announced while we were in Cannes in May (and with whose principals our CEO and I met, on referral from Matt Hawkins in Abu Dhabi and Stu Horne in your MEA division who've had engagement with that project's high-profile instigator, Moez Massoud who sought to meet with PM Ardern directly during an upcoming visit, which both MFAT and NZFC advised was not likely to be possible).
- Merve has outlined the following: "We think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable."
- It goes without saying that there are considerable challenges facing feature film projects that focus on this topic, given the continuing sensitivity, how fresh the hurt still is and who has the "mantle" to tell this story ([this NZH article](#) in response to the *Hello Brother* announcement is salient).

- A crucial consideration in the context of NZFC engagement is [REDACTED] to take on a film dealing with this subject in the near future (which is required to trigger eligibility to apply for NZFC production equity and/or the NZSPG).
- We've communicated this wider sentiment to Merve and Güneş and the *Hello Brother* team, while continuing to be facilitative and providing information/referrals.
- I provided Merve and Güneş a list of NZ feature film producers with prior international feature film co-production experience or equivalent multi-party financing experience, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- In her most recent correspondence with me, Merve indicated they were looking to visit NZ in mid-September and requested a follow-up meeting. I also supplied the **attached** NZ On Air announcement, relating to projects which that agency has recently funded on the topic, for TRT's interest.

Should you be keen to do so, from our perspective it would be useful for you to meet with Merve and Güneş to:

- help reinforce messaging to date about the sensitivity of the subject matter, and the need to proceed respectfully and with due process;
- develop a relationship with the pair personally and TRT's International Co-Production Unit more generally; and
- glean any useful context about TRT, its levels of financing, international activity and any political/censorship/editorial/other issues of which we (NZFC and NZ screen sector practitioners) should be cognisant in the course of further engagement.

I hope this provides good context, and look forward to hearing how your meeting goes, should one proceed.

All best

Chris

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From: HINTON, Wendy (ANK) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2019 1:02 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: KUMOVA, Ceren (ANK) [REDACTED]
Subject: Turkey - film co-production?

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Chris

Just following up on any interesting meeting request from TRT who advise that they are exploring a film coproduction with New Zealand.

TRT's "International Coproduction Unit" want to travel from Istanbul to visit me next week!

They say they have already contacted the NZ Film Commission and the Turkish Ambassador in Wellington about it and now they want to share the details with me!

A lot of names came up in the mix, including [REDACTED].

The people who want to come to meet me next week are Gunes Celikcan (business development) and Merve Zorlu (creator).

Would greatly appreciate any light you can throw on the matter. Of course there is no point them coming here if I can't add anything of value to the conversation but, if this is going somewhere and it would be helpful for me to engage, then that's fine.

Best regards

Wendy

Wendy Hinton
Ambassador

New Zealand Embassy/ Te Aka Aorere
Kizkulesi Sokak 11
Gaziosmanpasa
Ankara

Twitter [@HintonWendyNZ](#)

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.aid.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



[UNCLASSIFIED]

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From: [Merve ZORLU](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Cc: [Güneş ÇELİKCAN](#)
Subject: Ynt: IBCC 2019
Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:20:54 p.m.

Thank you very much for all your help.

We'll keep the conversation going with [REDACTED]

All our best,

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Gönderildi: 22 Temmuz 2019 Pazartesi 10:51:18
Kime: Merve ZORLU
Bilgi: Güneş ÇELİKCAN
Konu: RE: IBCC 2019

Pleasure!

[REDACTED] has been back to touch overnight to advise that [REDACTED] appreciates your interest but is currently too busy [REDACTED], to consider engaging with this project.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
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[REDACTED]
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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 1:30 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Güneş ÇELİKCAN [REDACTED]
Subject: Ynt: IBCC 2019

Thank you very much Chris.

We definitely understand. We will be waiting to hear from you.

Also we have received your email with [REDACTED] information. We are getting in touch.

Thanks, looking forward to this.

Best,

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Gönderildi: 21 Temmuz 2019 Pazar 17:41:35
Kime: Merve ZORLU
Bilgi: Güneş ÇELİKCAN
Konu: RE: IBCC 2019

Hi Merve

Pleasure!

I've written to [REDACTED] to check in by way of courtesy (and because the Privacy Act here means I can't disclose their contact details without their consent).

I'll let you know if they're keen to be connected.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

[REDACTED]
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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 12:04 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Güneş ÇELİKCAN [REDACTED]
Subject: Ynt: IBCC 2019

Thank you very much for the information. It's been very helpful.

We are looking at several writer options to give the go on the project but we think its better to move together with a NZ partner. We have looked at the list of producers you've sent us and want to start by reaching out to

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you could kindly help us out with referrals that will be great!

Thanks,

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Gönderildi: 16 Temmuz 2019 Salı 18:12

Kime: Merve ZORLU

Bilgi: Güneş ÇELİKCAN

Konu: RE: IBCC 2019

Hi Merve

Thanks for your note.

I'm happy to assist with referrals to NZ producers you determine as an interesting fit for your slate projects.

If it's a feature film, then the NZ producer would apply to us for development/production funding and/or NZSPG 40% approval (if it meets the Significant NZ Content Test outside an official co-production and the NZ producer shares equity in the production) or you would apply for the NZSPG 20% if you're just shooting and/or post-producing here (and the NZ producer is solely a service producer i.e. no equity ownership in the production).

If it's a television show, then our involvement is solely co-production approvals and NZSPG administration. So the same process would apply re: NZSPG 40% or NZSPG 20% as outlined above for feature films.

I'm due to meet with NZ On Air's Head of Funding, Amie Mills over the coming days for a catch-up, so I'll mention your interest to her then, and we can go from there re: connecting you.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 10:44 p m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>; Güneş ÇELİKCAN <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Ynt: IBCC 2019

Hey Chris,

I'm sorry to hear that the negotiations for the treaty have not been completed. Hopefully in the near future...

Thank you for sharing the list of producers. We are going through the list and will start connecting to the producers. On the other hand our research team is going through documentations to put together the story. Once we get on board with a NZ producer we will be coordinating with their creative team as well. Once we know which companies we want to approach will you help us connect with them or shall we just go ahead and try to contact them on our own?

And after we get together with a NZ Producer how do we proceed from there? Do we come back to you? Do we submit the script? Or do you come in only in the end?

Please, we'll be very happy to get introduced to NZ On Air and explore opportunities there.

Thank you!

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Gönderildi: 10 Temmuz 2019 Çarşamba 11:52:02
Kime: Merve ZORLU; Güneş ÇELİKCAN
Konu: RE: IBCC 2019

Dear Merve

Thanks very much for your note.

Our Embassy in Ankara had some engagement with a Turkish filmmaker, Tuncer SAKGÜN (who ran a Turkish Film Festival here briefly) and the Turkish Directorate of Cinema (Ministry of Culture and Tourism) in 2016. We have not heard further from Tuncer since.

[REDACTED]

Regarding the 15 March 2019 terrorist attacks, we're aware of two proposed feature films about this topic, including one (Hello Brother) by Moez Masoud<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moez_Masoud> which was announced at Cannes this year<<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/>>. We met with Moez and his producer to discuss the project at Cannes, and provided an overview of the NZ industry, forms of support and to encourage the filmmakers to collaborate with appropriately experienced NZ partners and to ensure strong support for the project from the Christchurch Muslim community.
[\https://pmcvariety.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/mosque-shooting-christchurch-new-zealand-15-mar-2019.jpg?

[w=700&h=140&crop=1\]<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/>](https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/)

‘Hello Brother,’ Based on New Zealand Mosque Shootings, in the Works –

Variety<<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/hello-brother-new-zealand-mosque-shootings-film-moez-masoud-acamedia-pictures-1203214368/>>

variety.com

Moez Masoud will helm “Hello Brother,” a movie about the deadly terror attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We’d suggest the same advice to you, and to that end please find attached a list of experienced, NZ-based feature film producers with experience of international co-production and/or multi-party financed films, for your consideration (both for this project and other mid-budget feature dramas/others you might be considering).

Regarding the kids television space, we’re not active in this area, as our core focus is feature films and documentaries and high-end adult series drama, though we do administer incentives and approve co-productions for all eligible television content. I’d be very happy to introduce you to the Head of Funding at our sister agency, NZ On Air which is the lead agency for broadcast funding in NZ, if this could be of interest?

All best

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 2:30 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>; Güneş ÇELİKCAN [REDACTED]

Subject: Ynt: IBCC 2019

Dear Chris,

Thank you very much for your very informative email. We are pleased to learn about your successful history of supporting the industry in New Zealand.

First of all, although Turkey and New Zealand does not have a co-production treaty yet, we will be very happy to initiate the signing of a treaty between 2 countries. We believe there is a great potential to work together in the film&tv.

In the meanwhile, we have been planning to develop a feature film about the brutal mosque shootings that have taken place in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable.

Please give the idea a thought and we are also more than happy to look at any ideas that you have from the local producers who you think good be the right partners from us.

We are mainly concentrated on mid-budget feature films mainly drama. Though we concentrated on period pieces in the last years we are also looking for modern time stories. On another note we have a Kids Animation department. We don't have a lot of information on the kids industry in New Zealand but we can also match something there.

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts,

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz<<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>>>

Gönderildi: 3 Temmuz 2019 Çarşamba 16:03

Kime: Merve ZORLU; Güneş ÇELİKCAN

Konu: RE: IBCC 2019

Dear Merve and Güneş

Thanks very much for your email and it was great to meet you both in Seoul. I hope the weeks since have treated you well!

More detailed information about our approach to film and television co-production is outlined here:
<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/new-zealand/about-us/what-we-do/co-productions>

We tend to focus much of our co-production activity on our 17 official co-production treaty partners (listed at the preceding link). We don't (yet) have a co-production treaty with Turkey, though I am aware that Turkey has ratified the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production, so if New Zealand was to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (revised) in the future, then it could be possible to use that instrument for official co-production between our two countries.

I raise this as official co-production feature films are automatically eligible for NZFC production finance and/or the 40% New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG). It's possible for unofficial co-productions to be eligible for one/more of these support structures for feature films, but it's a little more challenging.

That said, we're open to supporting unofficial co-productions where we can, and I'd be happy to make some suggestions for potential feature film/series partners here in NZ if you're able to provide me with an overview of the types (genre) of productions you're most interested in/focused on, including the scale (budget-wise) of projects.

Look forward to hearing from you and assisting where I can!

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU <m

Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 9:27 p.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co nz<<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co nz>>> Cc: Güneş ÇELİKCAN

Subject: IBCC 2019

Dear Chris,

Lovely to meet you at IBCC and hear about New Zealand Film Commission and the great work you've been doing.

As briefly mentioned me and my partner Güneş Celikcan, we run the international coproductions unit for Turkish Radio and Television. (TRT)

We develop, invest and produce projects with partners around the globe. We mainly focus on feature films and tv series (both traditional and digital)

We really want to explore the coproduction opportunities in New Zealand and see if we can partner up with a local company to produce content together.

I'm not 100%sure on how you operate but wanted to reach out to see if you can help us through finding the right partner on the New Zealand side.

Thank you very much and hope to hear from you soon.

Merve Zorlu

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Subject: Re: Turkish Radio and Television - Project Referral
Date: Monday, 22 July 2019 6:35:54 p.m.

Hi Chris

This sounds kind of fascinating but i am involved with a [REDACTED] that is occupying much of my time right now. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

But thanks for passing this on

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2019, at 4:37 PM, Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope this finds you well.

While in Seoul for a co-production conference earlier this year I met with counterparts from the international co-productions unit of Turkish Radio and Television (TRT):

- Merve Zorlu (Head of International Co-Production – Creative)
- Güneş Celikcan (Head of International Co-Production – Business)

TRT develops, invests and produces projects with partners around the globe. They mainly focus on feature films and tv series (both traditional and digital).

We don't (currently) have a co-production treaty with Turkey, but the TRT team is still keen to explore opportunities for collaboration with NZ.

Merve's been in touch to advise that they're planning to develop a feature film about the Christchurch mosque shootings – they "think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable."

Merve's reviewed the work of a number of NZ producers and has contacted me to say she's keen to connect with you in relation to this project.

I'm unsure whether this is of interest to you, so I'm checking in here by way of courtesy – can you let me know if you're interested in being connected?

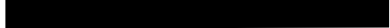
Many thanks

Chris

<!--[if !vml]--><image009.jpg><!--[endif]-->Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

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<image003.png> <image004.jpg> <image010.jpg>

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From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Merve ZORLU](#); [Güneş ÇELİKCAN](#)
Subject: RE: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15
Date: Monday, 12 August 2019 2:37:00 p.m.

Thanks Merve.

I'll just be in Xiamen and Chongqing unfortunately, and not Beijing -- do let me know if you'll be visiting either of the two cities I'm travelling to, otherwise look forward to hearing further about your NZ visit.

All best

CP

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2019 11:47 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>; Güneş ÇELİKCAN [REDACTED]
Subject: Ynt: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15

Thank you, we will also sign up for the newsletter.

We will actually be also in Beijing between 9-11 September. So if you will be going there we can try to meet up in Beijing too. Other wise we will keep you posted on our travel plans for NZ.

Thanks,

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>
Gönderildi: 8 Ağustos 2019 Perşembe 10:35:44
Kime: Merve ZORLU; Güneş ÇELİKCAN
Konu: RE: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15

Hi Merve

Pleasure!

They've just been announced as receiving production funding, so once delivered they should be available via the RNZ website<<https://www.rnz.co.nz/>> (to the extent there's no geoblocking for any reason/s). I'm happy to send any subsequent news item on to you both, or you're welcome to sign-up for NZ On Air's newsletters here<<https://www.nzonair.govt.nz/news/>>.

I'll be in China 6-14 September, but otherwise should be here in NZ. We have an NZFC Board meeting on 17 & 18 September, but otherwise my schedule seems to be reasonably clear during mid to late September, so I'd be happy to meet here in Wellington.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142



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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU <merve.zorlu@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:59 a.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>; Güneş ÇELİKCAN <gunes@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: Ynt: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15

Hi Chris,

Thank you very much for sharing this. Its really encouraging.

Is there a way we can see these projects?

Also we are in discussion with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] And we are hoping to arrange a visit to NZ around mid September? Would you be around by any chance? So we can meet in person and discuss further?

Thank you

Merve

Gönderen: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz<<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>>>

Gönderildi: 7 Ağustos 2019 Çarşamba 15:54

Kime: Merve ZORLU; Güneş ÇELİKCAN

Konu: FW: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15

Hi Merve and Güneş

I thought this might be of interest?

All best

Chris

[NZFC_Primary_Block_with_Reo]<<http://www.nzfilm.co.nz/>>Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO
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[cid:image004.jpg@01D54DF8.F322A5E0] <<https://twitter.com/NZFilmCommissh>> [0] [tPOI emailbanner
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From: NZ On Air 

[Sent: Thursday, 8 August 2019 2:46 p.m.](#)

[To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>>>](#)

[Subject: Media Release - Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15](#)

[Our latest feature](#)

[\[http://i1.cmail20.com/ei/y/5B/8CB/F30/122213/csfinal/Untitled-2loio-01-9900000000079e3c.jpg\]](http://i1.cmail20.com/ei/y/5B/8CB/F30/122213/csfinal/Untitled-2loio-01-9900000000079e3c.jpg)

Media Release

8 August 2019

Three powerful media projects to commemorate one year since March 15
[\[http://i2.cmail20.com/ei/y/5B/8CB/F30/122213/csfinal/Untitled-2-01-9900000000079e3c.jpg\]](http://i2.cmail20.com/ei/y/5B/8CB/F30/122213/csfinal/Untitled-2-01-9900000000079e3c.jpg)

Three projects that will commemorate the one year anniversary of the March 15 terror attacks have been funded
as the final initiatives from the RNZ/NZ On Air Joint Innovation Fund.

NZ On Air received 14 applications in response to a request for proposals issued in May, which sought media projects to mark the anniversary of the attacks, and honour the victims and their families.

The three projects were selected in consultation with a New Zealand Muslim community leader. Each project will be published on the RNZ website and complement RNZ's ongoing coverage of the events and issues related to the attacks.

A podcast series with accompanying photography, *The Widows Of Shaheed* will journey alongside four women whose husbands were killed on March 15. From the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in August through to the impending first anniversary of the attacks, this series will chronicle the realities these women face as they adjust to life after March 15.

The Living Flowerwall is an interactive project that digitally renders Christchurch's wall of flowers on Rolleston Ave that became a symbol of the city's grief and unity in the days and weeks following the attacks. The online shared space will allow members of the public to add messages and virtual flower bouquets.

This Is Us is a series of six short films which will showcase the diversity of Muslim New Zealanders experiences as they answer the question "what do you love the most?" In talking about what they each love the most, the series will provide a platform for each person to represent who they are, how they feel, and how different or similar their journey has been to other Muslim New Zealanders.

"With almost five months having passed, it's clear that the events of March 15 have had a profound and lasting effect on the nation and our people," says NZ On Air Chief Executive Jane Wrightson.

"The coming months will continue to be a tough journey for all directly and indirectly affected. NZ On Air is very pleased to support three projects that will, in a time of grief and reflection, create *kōrero* that shines a light on our similarities, differences and joint hope for the future," she continued.

"RNZ continues to provide in-depth coverage of issues related to the Christchurch terror attacks of 15 March 2019 through our high-quality day to day and long form investigative journalism," says RNZ Chief Executive Paul Thompson.

"We're proud to support these independent content creators who are showcasing three very different projects. These powerful stories will provide deep insights from a wide range of perspectives as well as new opportunities for engagement and ongoing support from the wider New Zealand community."

Funding details

The Living Flowerwall, 3D Immersive Site + 1 x 3 mins video, Vanishing Point Studio for RNZ, up to \$121,200

The Widows Of Shaheed, 8 x 30 mins, Plains FM 96.9 for RNZ, up to \$99,361

This Is Us, 6 x 2 min videos + 6 x 2 mins audio, Ghazaleh Golbakhsh for RNZ, up to \$60,000

Further information:

Jude Walcott

RNZ Senior Communications Advisor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Sophie Howard](#)

[NZ On Air Communications Advisor](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[NZ On Air, Level 2, 119 Ghuznee Street Wellington 6141 www.nzonair.govt.nz<http://www.nzonair.govt.nz>>](#)

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Annabelle Sheehan](#); [Mladen Ivancic](#)
Subject: FW: Our trip to NZ / Christchurch project
Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2019 10:01:49 a.m.

FYI -- this is a(nother) proposed feature film about the March 15 attacks.

Merve and Güneş run the international co-productions unit for Turkish Radio and Television (TRT). TRT develops, invests in and produces projects with partners around the globe, with a focus on feature films and tv series (both traditional and digital). I met them in Seoul at the International Broadcast Co-Production Conference in June.

Their approach: "We think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable."

Per below, they're connected with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

They're aware that NZ doesn't have a treaty with Turkey, however Turkey is a member of the Council of Europe and is currently seeking accession to the EU. It's possible they could structure a multilateral project with one of our existing European treaty partners. If we accede to the Council of Europe Convention next year/in the future, then it would be possible to do direct bilateral co-production with Turkey that way -- as Turkey has signed and ratified the preceding European Convention.

FIANZ is the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand: <https://fianz.com/>

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Payne
Sent: Tuesday, 26 November 2019 9:51 a.m.
To: Merve ZORLU [REDACTED]
Cc: Güneş ÇELİKCAN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Our trip to NZ / Christchurch project

Hi Merve

Good to hear from you and hope this finds you and Güneş well.

I'm in Singapore next week but land back in Wellington on 8 December. At this stage I'll be in the office from 9 December onwards, and happy to meet with you while you're here.

When do you anticipate visiting Wellington?

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

[REDACTED] nz

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-----Original Message-----

From: Merve ZORLU <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, 25 November 2019 6:55 p.m.

To: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: Güneş ÇELİKCAN <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Our trip to NZ / Christchurch project

Hello Chris,

Hope all is well. Wanted to reach out to you to inform that we are traveling to NZ on Dec. 8th. We will visit Wellington first to meet with FIANZ and others and then we will move to Christchurch to meet the community there and the families of the victims. All appointments are being handled by our side.

We will also meet with our [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We would love to meet with you and discuss how can we work this together if you are in NZ in that time period. Please let us know, really excited to move things forward.

Best,

merve

Sorumluluk Reddi (Disclaimer) <<http://www.trt.net.tr/disclaimer.aspx>>

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [HINTON, Wendy \(ANK\)](#)
Cc: [HAWKINS, Matthew \(ABD\)](#); [HORNE, Stuart \(MEA\)](#); [WRIGHT, Emily \(ANK\)](#); [KUMOVA, Ceren \(ANK\)](#); [BREESE, Tim \(ANK\)](#); [MORTON, Tara \(MEA\)](#); [CUTLER, Andrew \(CMD\)](#); [Mladen Ivancic](#)
Subject: RE: Turkish Radio Television (TRT) - Proposed March 15 Terror Attacks Feature Film - NZ Visit
Date: Monday, 9 December 2019 2:36:52 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Wendy

Apologies – I just noticed in my jet-lagged state last week that I muddled up my weeks in my reply below.

For clarity, I look forward to seeing you next week, at 2pm Friday 20 December here at the NZFC.

I've also invited Mladen Ivancic—who I'm aware you know—to join our meeting should he be available to do so.

FYI the TRT team decided not to meet in Christchurch with the NZ producers and screenwriters, on the grounds that it wasn't appropriate or sensitive to do so when the defendant is back in court. The TRT team is in Wellington currently, then Christchurch on Wednesday & Thursday, and will then probably spend Friday in Auckland before flying back to Turkey on Saturday.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
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Bellbird signature



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Chris Payne <Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 6 December 2019 11:43 a.m.

To: HINTON, Wendy (ANK) [REDACTED]

Cc: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD) [REDACTED]; HORNE, Stuart (MEA) [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] z>; WRIGHT, Emily (ANK) <[REDACTED]>; KUMOVA,
Ceren (ANK) [REDACTED] BREESE, Tim (ANK) [REDACTED]
MORTON, Tara (MEA) <[REDACTED]>; CUTLER, Andrew (CMD)
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Turkish Radio Television (TRT) - Proposed March 15 Terror Attacks Feature Film - NZ Visit

Hi Wendy

Many thanks and look forward to seeing you next week week.

All best

Chris Payne
Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission
e: chris@nzfilm.co.nz
[REDACTED]

iPhone. iTypos. iApologise.

On 4/12/2019, at 21:23, HINTON, Wendy (ANK) [REDACTED]
wrote:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris

Thanks very much for your update on the various engagements you have had on film projects with TRT and Moez Masoud. TRT seem quite fond of us at the moment and recently awarded their top World Citizen Award to Abdul Azez Wahabzade, one of the heroes of the Christchurch attacks. We unfortunately could not attend the event in Istanbul.

We don't have any particular feedback or comment at this stage but I look forward to catching up with you in Wellington after your meeting with TRT on 10 December.

Best wishes

Wendy

From: Chris Payne [<mailto:Chris@nzfilm.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2019 2:52 a.m.
To: HINTON, Wendy (ANK)
Cc: HAWKINS, Matthew (ABD); HORNE, Stuart (MEA)
Subject: Turkish Radio Television (TRT) - Proposed March 15 Terror Attacks Feature Film - NZ Visit

Hi Wendy

I trust this finds you and your colleagues at the post well.

I'm cc'ing Matt and Stu here for completeness, given earlier engagement with the pair in relation to a proposed feature film about the March 15 terror attacks, [Hello Brother](#) whose key creative, Moez Masoud met with my CEO and me at the Cannes Film Market in May on referral from Matt. Following some initial subsequent engagement with Moez, we've heard nothing since.

Most salient for you and the post is an additional feature on the same topic in early development by the international co-productions unit of [Turkish Radio and Television \(TRT\)](#). As I'm sure you'll be aware, TRT develops, invests in and produces projects with partners around the globe, with a focus on feature films and tv series (both traditional and digital).

I met two of their team (Merve ZORLU and Güneş ÇELİKCAN) in Seoul at the International Broadcast Co-Production Conference in June 2019 and they've followed up via email since. We've provided a materially similar message to them, as we did to Moez and his colleagues re: their proposed feature, regarding the nuts and bolts of working with/in the NZ screen sector, as well as gently touching on timing/sensitivity considerations.

TRT's approach: "We think the subject matter is very relevant and the inclusive and sensitive response of New Zealand to these terrorist attacks is very valuable."

They're connected with two experienced NZ feature film producers and an experienced NZ screenwriter, and have been in touch with me this week to advise that they arrive in NZ on 8 December, along with a colleague from TRT London, Faith Er. They're visiting Wellington first to meet with FIANZ and others (incl. NZFC – we're due to meet here on 10 December) and will then move to Christchurch to meet the NZ producers and screenwriter, along with the community and the families of the victims. All appointments are being handled directly by TRT directly.

I'm very happy to update you following our meeting on 10 December, and grateful for any feedback/comments ahead of this meeting, should you wish to provide any.

Finally, and for general information/completeness, we're aware of a third feature film in development on the same topic; this one is by a leading NZ producer and an LA-based acclaimed NZ writer/director, working with a top UK producer.

All best

Chris

[<image007.jpg>](#)

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

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FIFTYONE

LOGLINE:

A young Afghan-Kiwi couple journey from New Zealand to Afghanistan to change 51 lives, including their own, in honour of those killed in a terrorist attack in their home town of Christchurch.

SHORT SYNOPSIS: 250 words max

Shocked into action by the massacre of 51 people in their community in the Christchurch mosque attacks in 2019, Bariz Shah and Saba Afrasyabi are flying to Afghanistan to change the lives of some of Kabul's most desperate people.

"fiftyone" is an inspiring feature documentary told through the eyes of Bariz and Saba using personal interviews and their own footage filmed over 3 months in Afghanistan.

Before leaving New Zealand they raised money to initiate 51 micro-businesses in honour of those martyred in Christchurch.

With determination and tenacity Bariz and Saba gain incredible intimate access to the lives of their fund recipients. These people's stories weave together with their own private story, exposing hardship and loss while also sharing the dramatic positive changes micro-businesses can bring.

Powerful archive footage shows the war-torn and dangerous edge of Afghanistan, yet Saba and Bariz's camera finds heart- wrenching emotion and beauty too, showing a side of Kabul that is rarely seen.

Bariz and Saba's personal anguish is uncovered as they bring together their first and third world lives, and there are limits to what they can achieve. They feel they belong to neither Afghanistan nor New Zealand. Through honest interviews they reveal their family history, inner thoughts and difficult past as refugees.

As the film ends, they return to New Zealand changed in their own lives too with the birth of their first child in late 2020. They go forward into the future as determined as ever to use their positive energy for good.