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POV's 'Beats of the Antonov' Reveals the Power of Music to Bring Sudanese People Together in Time of War, Airing Monday, Aug. 3, 2015 on PBS

"[A] true standout. . . unequivocally demonstrates the essential role music plays in maintaining a sense of identity, not to mention hope for the future, among a people sorely worn down by the decades-long fighting." – Jay Weissberg, *Variety*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

Airdate: Winner of the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival Grolsch People's Choice Award for Best Documentary, **Beats of the Antonov** has its national broadcast premiere on **Monday, Aug. 3, 2015** at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on PBS's **POV (Point of View)** series. POV is American television's longest-running independent documentary series and the recipient of a 2013 MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

The Film: Sudan has been in an almost constant state of civil war since it achieved independence in 1956, and it split into a pair of sovereign states in 2011. Today, on the border between the two, Russian-made Antonov planes indiscriminately drop bombs on settlements in the Nuba Mountains below. Yet, incredibly, the people of the Blue Nile respond to adversity with music, singing and dancing to celebrate their survival. **Beats of the Antonov** explores how music binds a community together, offering hope and a common identity for refugees engaged in a fierce battle to protect cultural traditions and heritage from those trying to obliterate them.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

Online: POV's website for **Beats of the Antonov** – <http://www.pbs.org/pov/beatsoftheantonov/> – offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the PBS broadcast. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time following the broadcast (Aug. 4 – Sept. 3, 2015), learn from the filmmaker in an extended video interview, view photos from the film, download a discussion guide and other viewing resources, and find out what's happened since the cameras stopped rolling.

Filmmaker's Statement:

Filmmaker hajooj kuka says, "Initially, my goal was to make a film focused on the atrocities taking place since the country separated into Sudan and South Sudan in 2011. Because of my previous campaign work, in the Sudanese elections of 2010, I had access to the camps where new Sudanese refugees arrive every day. But when I went there, I discovered that this story was more nuanced than even I had expected. These people are so much more than just victims. They have a strong identity and they really know who they are and why they're fighting and why all these things are happening to them. They have a surprising amount of hope, and they believe their lives are actually going to become better. They're celebrating life."

Filmmaker Bio: [hajooj kuka \(Director\)](#)

hajooj kuka is a filmmaker from Sudan, and is currently based between the Nuba Mountains in Sudan and Nairobi, Kenya. He is the creative director of 3ayin.com, a website that works with local reporters to bring news of the war to the Sudanese people through short documentaries. He is a regular contributor to nubareports.org. His previous work includes the 2009 documentary *Darfur's Skeleton*, which explores the conflict in Sudan's troubled region since 2003.

Related Stories: "The Worst Atrocity You've Never Heard Of," by Adam B. Ellick and Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*, July 13, 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1MpJPmj>

"Making Music, Fleeing Bombs: New Film on Sudan's Internal Refugees," by Carolyn Weaver, Voice of America, July 6, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1M9o1uS>

"A Toddler's Death in a Foxhole," by Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*, July 2, 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1KdWJX1>

"U.N. Council Extends Troops' Presence in Darfur," by Somini Sengupta, *The New York Times*, June 29, 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1J8h66z>

"A Rain of Bombs in the Nuba Mountains," by Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*, June 20, 2015. <http://nyti.ms/1lbmkj5>

"South Sudan Swirls Toward Chaos," by Michael Gerson, *The Washington Post*, June 1, 2015. <http://wapo.st/1M6ISzf>

"The Forgotten War in Sudan," by Elizabeth Dias, *Time*, Feb. 12, 2015. <http://ti.me/1JOAzHw>

"One College Fights South Sudan's Civil War in the Classroom," by Jason Patinkin, *The Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 18, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1FtlX7>

Outreach: POV works with public television stations, national organizations, community groups and educators to present more than 600 free screenings across the county. In addition, POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides to foster education, dialogue and action around the issues raised in the film. The **Beats of the Antonov** guide includes information on Sudan's history and religious demographics, the civil war, cultural identity and preservation. POV and Dr. Rogow also produced a standards-aligned lesson plan, "Comparing Civil Wars," with free streaming clips for use in 9th-12th grade classes. In partnership with the Portland Public Library, POV has compiled a reading list of fiction and nonfiction books that further explore the issues. Visit the [Beats of the Antonov Partner Toolkit](#) to download these materials and find everything you need to get involved. Join POV's [Community Network](#) to borrow **Beats of the Antonov** for free from our DVD Lending Library. For a list of upcoming events, visit <http://www.pbs.org/pov/engage/>.

Credits:

Director:	hajooj kuka
Producers:	Steven Markovitz, hajooj kuka
Director of Photography:	hajooj kuka
Editors:	hajooj kuka, Khalid Shamis
Music Producer:	Alsarah
Running Time:	56:46

Arabic with English subtitles

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producers: Chris White, Simon Kilmurry
Associate Producer: Nicole Tsien
Coordinating Producer: Nikki Heyman

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, embeddable trailers, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

About POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc., POV is public television's premier showcase for nonfiction films. The series airs Mondays at 10 p.m. on PBS from June to September, with primetime specials during the year. Since 1988, POV has been the home for the world's boldest contemporary filmmakers, celebrating intriguing personal stories that spark conversation and inspire action. With our documentary broadcasts, original online programming and dynamic community engagement campaigns, we are committed to supporting films that capture the imagination and present diverse perspectives.

POV films have won 32 Emmy® Awards, 18 George Foster Peabody Awards, 12 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards®, the first-ever George Polk Documentary Film Award and the Prix Italia. The POV series has been honored with a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, a Special News & Documentary Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, two IDA Awards for Best Continuing Series and the National Association of Latino Independent Producers Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity. More information is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

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