

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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CONTACT: AARON RASKIN  
CELL: 917-599-8254  
EMAIL: raskin@harbingerpro.com

**SOROS FOUNDATION BACKS IRAQI RUN MEDIA CENTER  
TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS and FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

New York City, NY 9/26/06 – The Soros Foundation’s Open Society Institute has awarded a significant grant to Harbinger Media and the Iraqi film collective known as the Iraq Eye Group to further expand its media empowerment program. The proposal calls for the installment of a digital media production / post production facility in Baghdad, as well as the two-year budget to launch three feature documentaries, three fictional shorts, three mini-doc series and twenty four news packages.

“Really, this is like a dream for me ... I still don’t believe it,” said Hayder Daffar, who co-founded of the media collective in December of 2003 with American producer Aaron Raskin. Since then Daffar has toured the world with a number of projects, raising awareness of critical issues in Iraq. The focus of the Iraq Eye Group will continue to be human and women's rights, democratic reform and the freedom of the press. The long-term goal is sustainable media self-empowerment within Iraq and increased media exposure for these issues internationally.

“Our belief is that independent media exercising the freedom of speech is a fundamental aspect of an open, democratic society,” said producer Aaron Raskin of his ongoing work with Iraqi media makers. Raskin further stated that he will likely return to Iraq to assist in the launch of the new media facility. “My job is to get their work on air, in festivals and hopefully into theaters and onto DVDs. The internet is going to help us quite a bit to that end,” he added, referring to plans for blogging, vlogging and podcasting Iraqi media from the center.

The Iraq Eye Group’s first feature showcase project was the critically acclaimed documentary “The Dreams of Sparrows” (2005), which follows Iraqi director Hayder Mousa Daffar and his team of contributing filmmakers as they share their vision of life and the human condition in Baghdad. CurrentTV recently licensed the film for broadcast in short format “pods” later this year.

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For more information about this release, or to schedule an interview with Aaron Raskin or Hayder Daffar, please call Aaron Raskin at 917/599-8254 or e-mail raskin@harbingerpro.com