

For Immediate Release

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WORLD Receives First Primetime Emmy Award Nomination for *The Accused: Damned or Devoted?*

Documentary by acclaimed filmmaker Mohammed Ali Naqvi is nominated in the Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking category

Boston, MA (July 14, 2023) – WORLD documentary [*The Accused: Damned or Devoted?*](#), produced by acclaimed filmmaker Mohammed Ali Naqvi, has been nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in the Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking category. This marks WORLD's first Primetime Emmy nomination, underscoring the network's commitment to curating diverse documentary programming that challenges perspectives and inspires meaningful dialogue.

"WORLD is incredibly honored by this recognition from the Television Academy for *The Accused: Damned or Devoted?* We are also grateful to Mohammed Ali Naqvi for sharing this important, thoughtful and brave film with viewers across the country," said Chris Hastings, executive producer of WORLD at GBH in Boston. "By providing unique access to global stories and highlighting threats to democracy such as what Naqvi reveals in *The Accused*, WORLD aims to have an impact toward a more informed and civic-minded national dialogue."

Featured in WORLD's Doc World series, *The Accused: Damned or Devoted?* turns a lens on Pakistan's draconian blasphemy laws through the story of Cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi, who leverages the harsh and sometimes fatal consequences of these laws to silence those who stand in the path of his campaign for the highest office in the country. These laws prescribe a mandatory death sentence for disrespecting The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and life imprisonment for desecrating the Holy Quran. With millions sympathetic to his goal, Rizvi holds the state under his spell and silences anyone attempting to change the law by condemning them to death.

"The driving force behind this film arose from my urge to confront those in authority, especially those who twist Islam for their political advantages," said filmmaker Mohammed Ali Naqvi. "Together with my team of producers, Syed Musharaf Shah and Moshin Abbas, we were fully aware of the dangers this film could bring upon us. Yet, as a team we decided

it was crucial to pursue this mission - to heal the narrative surrounding our faith that had been hijacked by tyrants.”

The Accused: Damned or Devoted? puts Pakistan’s blasphemy laws into context, showing how it relates to power and politics in the country. Naqvi and his team explore four cases involving Pakistani individuals – two Christians, including Asia Bibi, who endured years on death row in a high profile case, and two Muslims who are accused of blasphemy. These stories unfold against the setting of Pakistan’s general elections. The film provides viewers with rare access into how the law and human rights play a part in Pakistan’s politics, told by storytellers with an eye toward activism, nuance and representation in portraying the diversity of the Muslim world.

WORLD’s Doc World series highlights global nonfiction programs. *The Accused: Damned or Devoted?* can be streamed at [WORLDChannel.org](https://www.worldchannel.org), on [PBS Passport](#), [iTunes](#) and [Prime Video](#).

The Primetime Emmy Awards recognize outstanding achievements in television programming, celebrating excellence in various categories. The Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony will take place on September 18, 2023, where winners will be announced.

For more information on WORLD visit [www.WORLDchannel.org](https://www.worldchannel.org) or follow @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

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About WORLD

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD’s original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multiplatform channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, an International Documentary Association Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 194 member stations in markets representing 77% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at [WORLDChannel.org](https://www.worldchannel.org).