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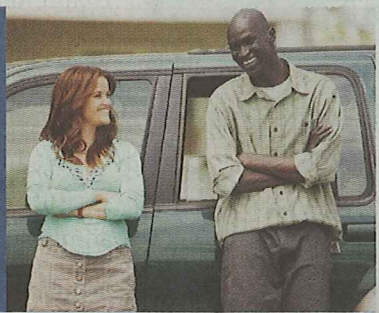
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**AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT REFUGEES' LIVES**  
 Film festival provides firsthand stories we all need to see **WEEKEND SCENE, PAGE 9**



**SHOP WHILE THE STOCKS DROP**  
 Sluggish economy no barrier as Chinese spend holidays in Japan **BUSINESS, PAGE 6**



**IN TODAY'S INYT: MONEY FOR THE MOMS OF CHINA**  
**PAGE 1**



MARKETS: TOPIX 1,442.74 ↑ 31.58 | NIKKEI 225 17,722.42 ↑ 334.27 | DOW\* 16,284.70 ↑ 235.57 | NASDAQ\* 4,620.16 ↑ 102.84 (\*Previous trading day close) TOKYO FOREIGN EXCHANGE (Thursday 5 p.m.): ¥/\$ 120.20 ↓ .18 | ¥/€ 133.96 ↑ .81 | \$/€ 1.1144 ↑ .0085

## Abe to keep key team in reshuffle

Confirms all five LDP executives will stay in current posts

Kingston  
 Abe's visit to Jamaica: Page 2  
 KYODO, JIJI

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday he will retain all five executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in their current posts in a reshuffle of the Cabinet and LDP leadership next week.

Abe made the remarks in a meeting with reporters, announcing his government's policy priorities.

He said the post would help achieve his government's stated goal of creating a society in which every citizen realizes his or her potential.

He also said, "Women's contributions will always be kept in mind in conducting the Cabinet reshuffle."

He said he was not attaching weight to a balance among LDP factions. Abe said he planned to retain a minister from Komeito, the LDP's junior coalition partner.

Akihiro Ota now serves as transport minister and the party is expected to call for Ota's retention in the post.

Regarding his recently announced policy priorities, Abe said his government will aim to



## Delays may point to true espionage: expert Timing probed in China spy claims

### ANALYSIS

Kanako Takahara  
 STAFF WRITER

Beijing and Tokyo appear to have waited until two of China's key diplomatic and domestic events — the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II and President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States — were over before revealing the detention of two Japanese nationals in China for alleged espionage, a Japanese expert on China said Thursday.

On Wednesday, China and Japan announced that two Japanese men were being held on charges of espionage by authorities in Zhejiang and Liaoning provinces, respectively, since May.

"Since there was a possibility that Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe would attend a ceremony for the 70th anniversary, both sides probably wanted to withhold the information until it was over so that it wouldn't stir

edly took photos of a military facility in Zhejiang province, while the other was seized near Dandong in Liaoning province, which shares a border with North Korea.

Bonji Ohara, a researcher on Chinese affairs at the think tank Tokyo Foundation, said the fact that Beijing had not publicly used the incident for the past four months, either as a political tool to curry favor with Tokyo or as propaganda to stir up anti-Japan sentiment, may mean Chinese authorities actually believe the two Japanese were engaged in espionage.

"If that is the case, the situation may be more serious," said Ohara, a former Maritime Self-Defense Force officer who was posted in Beijing. "But now that it is made public, China may start to use it politically."

To ease concerns from the U.S. and other nations against China's military buildup, China has avoided being provocative this year, Ohara said. "When negotiating with Japan

The Japan Times

weekend  
scene

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# Refugee stories put into focus at film festival

Masami Ito  
STAFF WRITER

Last month, a heartbreaking photograph of 3-year-old Alan Kurdi's dead body washing up on the shore of Turkey was published by media outlets worldwide. He had fled his home in war-torn Syria with his mother, brother and father. Only his father survived the journey.

Alan was just one of thousands of refugees who have died trying to escape conflict zones. Europe is said to be facing its worst refugee crisis since World War II, and around the globe there are currently 59.5 million forcibly displaced people including 19.5 million refugees and 1.8 million asylum seekers.

To give people in Japan a closer look at the harsh reality that these refugees are facing, the Japan office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is hosting its 10th Refugee Film Festival from Friday in Tokyo, Sapporo and Sendai.

Michael Lindenbauer, the UNHCR representative in Japan, notes that when the festival began in 2006, the number of people who were forcibly displaced was around 40 million and says he never imagined it would become 60 million in just a decade.

"I believe that movies are a very good way to get people interested in issues

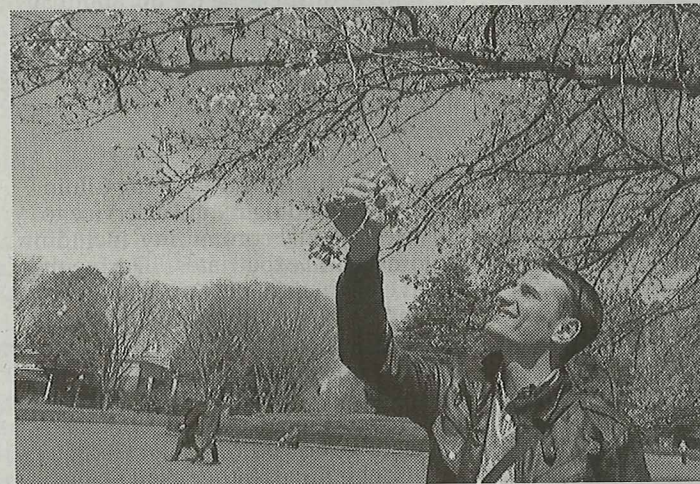
awareness, do people open their hearts and provide support."

To commemorate the 10th edition of the festival 10 films will be screened, including "Young Syrian Lenses," a documentary that introduces media activists in the Syrian city of Aleppo who have dedicated their lives to fighting against the civil war with cameras instead of guns. The documentary, codirected by Italian filmmakers Ruben Lagattolla and Filippo Biagiante, depicts the daily lives of the residents who are in constant fear of so-called barrel bombs used by the Syrian Air Force. The bombs are filled with explosives and sharp objects to maximize the number of fatalities.

Lagattolla first heard of these media activists at an exhibition held in Italy by photographer Enea Discepoli. When he heard that Discepoli was returning to Aleppo, Lagattolla jumped at the chance to follow him.

However, the situation in Aleppo was getting worse. Bombings had increased significantly and the venue that Discepoli was planning to hold an exhibition at was destroyed the week before. So instead, Lagattolla worked alongside the young Syrian media activists, running to bomb sites immediately after they were dropped and capturing the violence on film.

"The feeling was of constant fear."



burned corpses on the ground could have been me."

Lagattolla stayed in Aleppo between April 30 and May 9, 2014. He then returned to Italy where he sought help from filmmaker Biagiante in turning the video footage into a documentary film.

From the beginning, the two directors focused on trying to keep the editing minimal in order to tell the story from a participative observer's point of view. Biagiante says they wanted to "let the images speak for themselves."

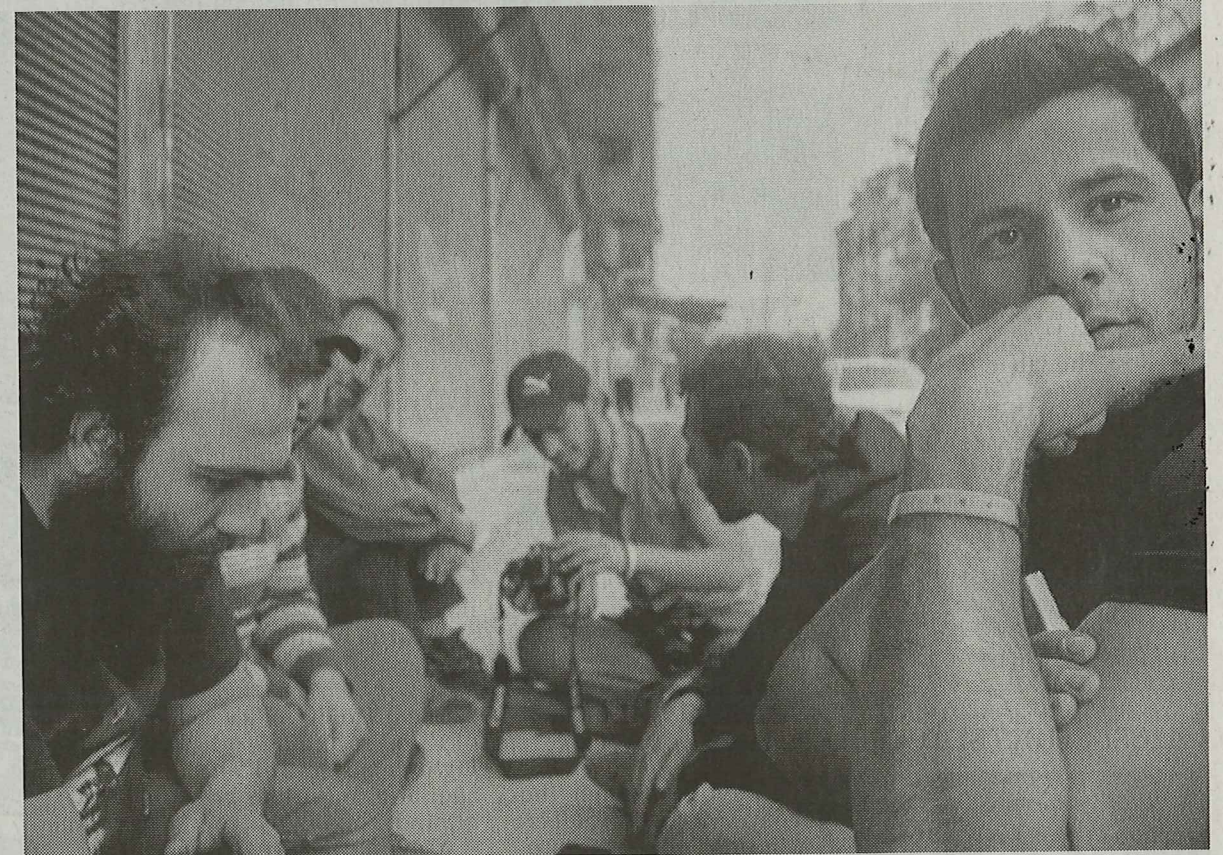
"Our goal ... was to show how life resists, forcing people to survive under the most difficult and terrible situations, in a city besieged and bombed at any time of day or night," Biagiante says. "A bomb that falls not only affects the target, it kills people."

Another film related to Syria at this year's Refugee Film Festival is Saori Fujii's "Loving Our Home, Syria, Forever." The documentary is based on interviews with Syrians who have fled their homes for other countries. In addition to examining the hardships Syrian refugees have been through, the film also focuses on the country's beauty and its rich culture and history.

"The Syria that I knew was about war, violence and conflict, but that image changed completely" after talking to the refugees, Fujii says. "I wanted to change the image harbored by Japanese people

**On film: A Syrian refugee admires the beauty of his new home in "Loving Our Home, Syria, Forever" (top), and media activists gather on the streets in "Young Syrian Lenses" (right).**

© RUBEN LAGATTOLLA



Sadaqa, which means friendship in Arabic. Together with members of Sadaqa and some university students, the documentary became a crowdfunding project to tell the stories of these refugees.

In the film, one Syrian man who made it to Japan looks back on his childhood of playing in the desert or oasis and riding camels. He finds pieces of memories of his old home in his new home, likening the cherry trees to the olive trees in Syria.

No matter where they are, refugees all hope for the same thing — to someday return to their homeland.

"Syria is always in their hearts ... and I wanted to show how beautiful this is," Fujii says.

Other films at this year's festival include "The Good Lie," starring Reese Witherspoon as a woman trying to help young Sudanese refugees integrate into

went through more than 100 films before narrowing the selection down to 10. Coinciding with the festival, the International Christian University, Waseda University and other schools will also hold screenings of past festival films.

Japan has come under criticism domestically and internationally for the small number of refugees it accepts each year. In 2014, it recognized 11 asylum seekers as refugees while the previous year, it recognized only six — out of thousands of applications. Since the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011, Japan has accepted three Syrian refugees.

Last month, the Justice Ministry announced its plan to review its immigration policy to ease the current rigid refugee recognition system. Lindenbauer welcomes Japan's efforts to

moment to ask ourselves what can or must be done to help the displaced, the receiving countries and the refugee-hosting communities. Has our solidarity and willingness to provide refuge and protection been sufficient; and have we done enough?" Lindenbauer asks. "For this special anniversary, we would like to again invite the people of Japan to commemorate with us the strength and resilience of the 60 million displaced people throughout the world."

*The 10th UNHCR Refugee Film Festival takes place at Spiral Hall (Oct. 2 and 3) and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Tokyo (Oct. 10 and 12) in Tokyo; Sapporo Clock Tower Hall (Oct. 24) and Sapporo Plaza 2-5 (Oct. 25) in Sapporo; and Sendai Mediatheque on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Numbered tickets will be*

Festival from Friday in Tokyo, Sapporo and Sendai.

Michael Lindenbauer, the UNHCR representative in Japan, notes that when the festival began in 2006, the number of people who were forcibly displaced was around 40 million and says he never imagined it would become 60 million in just a decade.

"I believe that movies are a very good way to get people interested in issues that are not at the forefront of public debate or interest," Lindenbauer says. "As I see it, our films have a very strong impact on the viewers and really help them to understand the issues involved. And only through knowledge and

However, the situation in Aleppo was getting worse. Bombings had increased significantly and the venue that Discepoli was planning to hold an exhibition at was destroyed the week before. So instead, Lagattolla worked alongside the young Syrian media activists, running to bomb sites immediately after they were dropped and capturing the violence on film.

"The feeling was of constant fear," Lagattolla says, recalling that he witnessed the bombs right in front of him on the day he arrived in Syria. "I saw (many) burned bodies ... it was the first time I had such an experience, and I realized how equal we are and how the

interviews with Syrians who have fled their homes for other countries. In addition to examining the hardships Syrian refugees have been through, the film also focuses on the country's beauty and its rich culture and history.

"The Syria that I knew was about war, violence and conflict, but that image changed completely" after talking to the refugees, Fujii says. "I wanted to change the image harbored by Japanese people that Syria equals terror and show them its beauty instead."

Fujii originally had been interested in visiting Jordan to talk to Syrian refugees and wound up joining a Japan-based nongovernmental organization called

the cherry trees to the olive trees in Syria. No matter where they are, refugees all hope for the same thing — to someday return to their homeland.

"Syria is always in their hearts ... and I wanted to show how beautiful this is," Fujii says.

Other films at this year's festival include "The Good Lie," starring Reese Witherspoon as a woman trying to help young Sudanese refugees integrate into American society, and the documentary "The Abominable Crime" about two gay Jamaican men who are forced to choose between homophobia in their homeland or moving to a new place.

UNHCR's Lindenbauer says his staff

each year. In 2014, it recognized 1.1 asylum seekers as refugees while the previous year, it recognized only six — out of thousands of applications. Since the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011, Japan has accepted three Syrian refugees.

Last month, the Justice Ministry announced its plan to review its immigration policy to ease the current rigid refugee recognition system. Lindenbauer welcomes Japan's efforts to improve the system, adding that there are many different ways to help refugees including accepting them through more flexible visa schemes or scholarship programs.

"I believe that this festival is a good

resilience of the 60 million displaced people throughout the world."

The 10th UNHCR Refugee Film Festival takes place at Spiral Hall (Oct. 2 and 3) and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Tokyo (Oct. 10 and 12) in Tokyo; Sapporo Clock Tower Hall (Oct. 24) and Sapporo Plaza 2-5 (Oct. 25) in Sapporo; and Sendai Mediatheque on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Numbered tickets will be distributed before film screenings and given on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit [www.unhcr.refugeefilm.org/2015](http://www.unhcr.refugeefilm.org/2015).

## Ex-child soldier and refugee rebuilds his life, finds a future in Hollywood

Masami Ito  
STAFF WRITER

**G**er Duany was only 13 years old when he became a child soldier in his home country of what is now South Sudan.

Spending his childhood living in constant fear of being killed, he did what he had to — he picked up a gun and shot back, the only way to survive in a war.

More than 20 years later, Duany, now 36, is a model and actor living in New York. He was one of the thousands of "lost boys of Sudan" who were brought to resettle and rebuild their lives in the United States. He recently played a leading role as a Sudanese refugee in the film "The Good Lie" opposite actress Reese Witherspoon. The movie focuses

on the struggles of social integration faced by refugees in a new country.

"Becoming a refugee meant losing everything you know about your life, and death was a constant thing that most of us have seen," Duany tells The Japan Times. "(We went through) many dangers to survive."

Duany says guns were everywhere where he grew up, and he was only a child when he first picked up an AK-47.

"That is the destruction of civil war. It was about surviving, protecting yourself and your family," Duany says. "You shot at anything that was living or walking because that is how intense it was."

After many of those he knew had been killed, Duany decided to seek an education. At 14, he put down his gun and walked thousands of kilometers

with very little food and water and eventually arrived at a refugee camp in Ethiopia before moving on to one in Kenya. Then the day came in 1994 when, at the age of 15, he finally saw hope for a better future after being selected to go to the United States.

As the film "The Good Lie" shows, refugees who resettle in other countries face many difficulties. It's not just a different language and culture, its a whole new lifestyle.

Duany recalls with a laugh how wonderful he thought flush toilets were and how he still can't get used to cold winters, but there were also many challenges. Fortunately, he had the support of his uncle's family, who had fled to the U.S. long before he did. Even though Duany had not met his father's relatives

before, he says they gave him a warm welcome and helped him rebuild his life.

"(Integrating into) a different country takes everything away from you. When you become a guest in someone's home ... that is how it feels," Duany says. "I had to learn their way of life, their way of doing things, I had to learn the law, I had to learn everything from the very beginning."

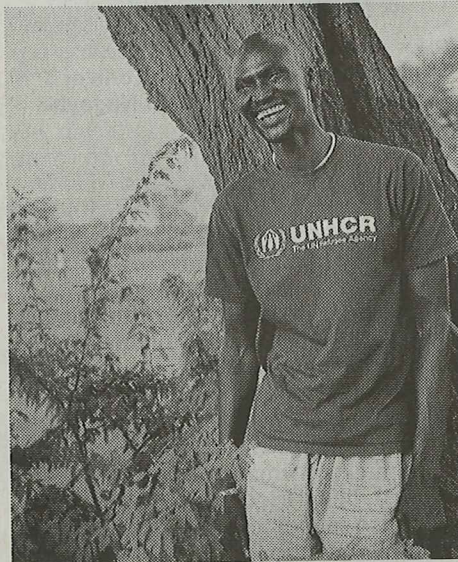
Duany made his debut in the entertainment world with a part in David O. Russell's 2004 film "I Heart Huckabees" and his career in both acting and modeling has taken off since.

He was also the subject of a documentary titled "Ger: To Be Separate." The film looks at how he was separated from his mother for 18 years while building a life in America. He then

reunites with her at a refugee camp in Kenya. His mother has lost six of her 11 children.

In June this year, Duany was appointed a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Goodwill Ambassador. He says he hopes to convey his message of hope, especially to the children in South Sudan who are still facing the same violence that Duany experienced decades ago.

"My story of adversity is the story of millions that are displaced all over Africa," he says. "It pains me that innocent people continue to die and those who survive are doomed to an unpredictable existence. I always want to bring a message of hope to the refugees because without hope, you can't make it. Life is about hope."



Long journey: Ger Duany has gone into acting since arriving in the United States as a refugee. © UNHCR/DOMINIC NAHR

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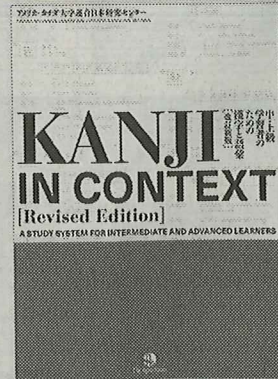
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## News and Notes

### Innovation Park Muscat looks to sponsor international science forum

Oman's Innovation Park Muscat (IPM) will seek to boost its image globally by becoming a Regular Sponsor at the upcoming STS Forum to be held in Kyoto.

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum is scheduled for Oct. 4, 5 and 6. A delegation consisting of Assistant Secretary General for Innovation and Development on the Research Council H.H. Sayyid Dr. Fahad bin Al Julanda Al Said; Director of Science and Technology Parks Dr. Abdulbaqi Al Khabouri; Director of Communication and Information Technology Research Ali Al Shidhani; communication specialist Noor Al Riyami; and headed by Secretary General of the Research Council Dr. Hilal Al Hinai will be attending the forum.

By participating in the forum, IPM aims to meet and discuss science and technology issues with scientists, researchers, decision makers, and business leaders from all over the world.

These interactions will include open debates and will also build a network of relationships with specialists. IPM is Oman's national initiative funded by The Research Council (TRC) of Oman. Set up by the government of the Sultanate of Oman, TRC is Oman's exclusive research funding body and leader of R&D in the country. TRC aligns research with national priorities; builds research capacity for the future; links academia and industry; develops international research collaboration; engages and shares knowledge with the community; and identifies and overcomes impediments to research. It is through these activities, and in partnership with stakeholders, that TRC helps position Oman as a competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy.

Al Khabouri said: "The forum without any doubt is one of the world's best platforms to boost interaction between leading academics, policymakers, busi-

ness leaders and journalists. The forum is a huge window of opportunity for us to get in touch with the right people and organizations from across the world. Over the past many decades Oman has enjoyed warm relations with Japan. The value of annual trade between Japan and Oman stood at a significant amount in 2014. Japan is one of Oman's largest importers of oil and natural gas, vegetables, aluminum and marine products. Earlier this year, both countries signed The Japan-Oman Investment Agreement, aimed at further protecting and promoting investment between Japan and Oman. Our participation will not only enhance our visibility on the global level, but will also help us meaningfully build global ties that will help realize the vision of IPM."

The forum is a global initiative that was successfully launched in November 2004 to properly control the negative aspects and deliver the benefits of science and



technology to the parts of the world where they are needed, providing a new mechanism for open discussions on an informal basis, and building a human network among the world's most influential people across many sectors that would, in time, resolve new problems stemming from the application of science and technology.

IPM aspires to be the driver of change by becoming one of the region's most innovative resources. As the newest and most ambitious science and technology development in Oman, the project is designed to nurture and develop global research talent for transforming ideas to results. IPM is ideal for those with a keen interest in driving innovation in various fields.

### Japanese fighters earn ticket to battle in U.S.

Saitama Super Arena was filled with more than 10,000 excited fans on Sept. 27 for UFC Fight Night Japan 2015.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Ultimate Fighting Championship held such an event in Japan.

Both Japanese and non-Japanese fighters fought in the matches, with the featherweight bout between Mizuto Hirota and Teruto "Yashabo" (roughneck) Ishihara — which ended in a draw — drawing a lot of attention.

The match was part of the finale of the popular TV documentary "Road to UFC Japan" that depicts the fighters' path to the tournament. Their training and their matches are included in the documentary.

The winner of the Hirota-Ishihara match was to gain the right to ink a contract with UFC, which is headquartered in Las Vegas.

By signing the contract, the fighter would be allowed to



Mizuto Hirota and Teruto "Yashabo" Ishihara fight a match in the UFC Fight Night Japan 2015 on Sept. 27. ZUFFA, LLC/GETTY IMAGES

participate in UFC tournaments in the U.S.

As the fight ended in a draw, UFC decided to offer contracts to both fighters.

Hirota, 34, who hails from Nagasaki Prefecture, has fought in UFC events in the past, and Ishihara, 24, is originally from Kagoshima Prefecture, and he became a professional fighter in 2011.