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CONTACT:

Audra Buras
(213) 747-4944 ext. 234

**Acclaimed Documentary Explores Impact of Torture on Survivors
Beneath the Blindfold Follows Four Survivors Rebuilding Their Lives in America**

LOS ANGELES—The powerful documentary *Beneath the Blindfold* will be shown for the first time in the Los Angeles area on Sunday, December 16 at the Dolby Laboratories Theater in Burbank. The screening will be hosted by the Program for Torture Victims (PTV), a national leader in the rehabilitation of torture survivors, and the California-based Composer Solutions, a global provider of application development, data management and migration solutions. Proceeds from the event will go directly towards services for torture survivors at PTV.

Directed by Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger, *Beneath the Blindfold* explores the lifelong impact of torture on the physical and psychological health of survivors. The film follows four torture survivors as they build new lives, careers and relationships in America.

The protagonists range from a nursing home aide from Africa to an actor and therapist from Colombia to a U.S. Navy veteran from Chicago. While their backgrounds couldn't be more different, they share the horror of enduring torture and trying to piece together their shattered lives.

Premiered last year at the Chicago Film Festival, the film has been hailed by critics. According to Chicago Public Radio, "*Beneath the Blindfold* is a beautiful film with genuine sensitivity and glow. You witness a triumph of our common humanity as people overcome the long lasting effects of torture and reclaim their dignity. Not to be missed."

Julie Gutman, Executive Director of PTV, says the film is a crucial tool in the effort to educate Americans about the real effects of torture. "*Beneath the Blindfold* reveals the terrible human toll of torture, as well as the amazing resilience of those who have suffered its consequences," states Gutman.

"Linking PTV's extraordinary work and *Beneath the Blindfold*'s powerful story of life after torture was an opportunity we couldn't miss," says Steve Soren, Vice President of Composer Solutions, which is sponsoring the screening. "We are honored to support PTV and broaden the audience for one of the most pressing issues of our time."

The evening will begin with a dinner reception at 6pm, followed by the screening at 7pm, **and then** a Q&A with the filmmakers, as well as, one of the survivors featured in the film, PTV board member Hector Arisizabal.

Space for the screening is limited. For more details about the event, please contact Audra Buras at (213) 747-4944 ext. 234 or visit <http://bit.ly/PTVandBTB2>. For more information on the film, please visit www.beneaththeblindfold.org.

Founded in 1980, PTV has helped rebuild the lives of thousands of torture survivors, providing comprehensive services including medical care, therapy, help finding work and housing and assistance with the asylum process. PTV is the only organization of its kind in the greater Los Angeles area, which is home to the largest population of torture survivors and asylum seekers in the nation. For more information about PTV please visit, ptvla.org.

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3655 S. Grand Ave, Suite 290 | Los Angeles, CA 90007
T: (213) 747-4944 | F: (213) 747-4662 | info@ptvla.org

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