

Sentenced to Marriage

Part of Amnesty and WSAC's
Global Women Film Series

Cosponsored by Hillel: The Jewish Student Center



Thursday, February 18
From 6 to 7.30 pm
In Coffman 202

Join Amnesty International and the Women's Student Activist Collective for a showing and discussion of the Israeli film, Sentenced to Marriage.

Nominated for a Silver Wolf at the International Documentary Film Festival, this shocking film exposes the Kafkaesque process of divorce for women in Israel where secular law does not exist, and divorce is dealt with according to archaic and fundamentalist orthodox Jewish law. Filmmaker Anat Zuria, maker of the award-winning *Purity*, gained rare access to the rabbinical courts to follow two women caught in the demoralizing legal labyrinth. Though husbands can live with other women and even withhold child support, wives are forbidden contact with other men. In some cases, these very modern, independent and well-educated women are forced to buy a divorce from their husbands for huge sums. As a result, thousands of Jewish women have lived in limbo indefinitely, both in Israel and in other communities around the world.

Pairing sound recordings of legal sessions with partially obscured video, Zuria creatively subverts restrictions imposed by the courts and creates a powerful narrative. The startling technique makes the anger of a young wife denied divorce for five years all the more piercing, and the calm preparations by lawyers even more unsettling. Sentenced to Marriage reveals a little-known reality that seems utterly unimaginable in contemporary Jewish society.