

***Dive deep into the efforts to de-radicalize violent extremists***

**World Premiere of UNDERCOVER JIHADI on Thursday, October 26 at 9pm ET on TVO  
and starting October 27 on tv.org**



**TORONTO, ON (October 12, 2017)** – From Emmy-nominated and CSA-Award Winning production company Matter of Fact Media, **UNDERCOVER JIHADI** premieres on TVO on October 26th, 2017 at 9PM ET. Following Mubin Shaikh, a former extremist militant turned undercover counter-terrorism operative as he speaks with former extremists, counter-terrorism experts and families of victims, **UNDERCOVER JIHADI** presents a thorough and international examination of the threat of extremism, the possibility of de-radicalization and actively challenges misconceptions of both Islam and Muslims.

*“This is an important and timely documentary, that offers some insight into the process of radicalization of terrorists, through the eyes of Mubin Shaikh,”* said Vanessa Dylyn, producer of **UNDERCOVER JIHADI**. *“We hope that viewers of the film will be inspired to become involved in their local communities to address the problem of youth radicalization, and to foster understanding between people of differing ethnicities and religious faiths.”*

As a government intelligence informant, Shaikh risked his life to stop the *Toronto 18*, a sophisticated homegrown terrorism plot with links to the US and the UK. His court testimony sent eleven men to prison. Shaikh is now a sought-after consultant to international intelligence organizations involved in combating terrorism and jihadism.

*“TVO documentaries bring audiences nuanced and in-depth stories. They explore social, economic and political issues through a uniquely personal lens,”* said Natasha Negrea, TVO Executive Producer, Documentaries. *“UNDERCOVER JIHADI presents Mubin Shaikh’s extraordinary personal experience and offers an important perspective to the conversation around violent extremism.”*

Award-winning Director Barry Stevens has made numerous films about war and conflict. With **UNDERCOVER JIHADI**, he follows Shaikh as he explores how different countries—including the United States, France, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom—are dealing with extremists (including both neo-Nazis and violent jihadis) and how they try to divert and de-radicalize them.

*“I wanted to explore the problem that confronts us in the ‘West.’ The first reaction is often to enhance surveillance of Muslims, and even to ban Muslims from entering Western countries. But before someone has committed a crime, or when they are in prison, it is possible to engage with people who have extremist ideas and change their direction,”* said Stevens.

**UNDERCOVER JIHADI** premieres on **Thursday, October 26 at 9 p.m. and midnight** on TVO, and available on [tvo.org](http://tvo.org) starting the following day. Repeat screenings Saturday, October 28 at 10 p.m and 2:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 31 at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m.

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#### **About Matter of Fact Media Inc.**

Matter of Fact Media Inc. is an Emmy-nominated and Canadian Screen award-winning production company in Toronto, specializing in high-concept documentaries and factual programming. The company’s recent international co-productions include: ***Into the Inferno***, a Werner Herzog documentary (Netflix); ***The Woman Who Joined the Taliban*** (CBC); ***Leslie Caron: the Reluctant Star***, a documentary about the career of Leslie Caron (ARTE and TVO). New projects include ***Undercover Jihadi*** (TVO) and ***The Divided Brain***, based on the ideas of renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Iain McGilchrist (CBC’s Documentary Channel). In development is the history mystery ***Beast Hunters of Rome***, and ***Did Marco Polo Reach America?***, and the dramatic mini-series, ***Charles Dickens and the House of Fallen Women***, produced by Back Alley Film Productions. Past credits include ***The Musical Brain***, featuring Sting (CTV and National Geographic), and ***The Mystery of San Nicandro*** (CBC’s Documentary Channel). [www.matteroffactmedia.com](http://www.matteroffactmedia.com)

#### **About TVO**

As the technological extension of Ontario’s public education system, TVO’s vision is to create a better world through the power of learning. TVO provides learning opportunities for Ontarians through innovative educational products, in-depth current affairs, groundbreaking documentaries, and award-winning TVOKids resources both inside and outside the classroom. TVO is funded primarily by the Province of Ontario and is a registered charity supported by sponsors and thousands of donors. For more information, visit [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

For photography please click [here](#).

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