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INTERNATIONAL STAR OF “ESCAPE FROM TALIBAN” TO SPEAK AT USD’S INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Manisha Koirala, internationally acclaimed actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador from Nepal and India, speaks about the situation and challenges of women in Afghanistan and South Asia on Thursday, November 21, at the University of San Diego. In addition, a 15-minute preview of her upcoming film “Escape from Taliban” will be shown. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Theatre.

“Escape from Taliban” is a true story based on the best-seller, “Kabuliwala’s Bengali Wife,” by Sushmita Banerjee. It is about an Indian woman who marries an Afghan man and is caught in the middle of the Taliban’s increasing oppression of women. Afghan women help her escape, at great risk to themselves. More information about the film is available at www.escapefromtaliban.com.

Koirala is in the United States to speak about the film, the role of women in Nepal and India, and the challenges she sees for women in the current international crises. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice has undertaken a justice-based peacemaking project in Nepal – a country that has struggled with an internal conflict for more than six years that has resulted in thousands of deaths - and plans to send an assessment team.

The talk and preview are free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. Please R.S.V.P. by Nov. 19 by calling 619-260-7873. For more information on this event, log on to <http://peace.sandiego.edu>

The goals of the new Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice are to foster peace, cultivate justice and create a safer world through education, peacemaking, and research. The Institute is predicated on the principle that peace without justice is unsustainable. It offers its services to parties in conflict to assist in peacebuilding through mediation and facilitation, and to work with members of civil society to ensure that peace and justice have time to take root. The IPJ seeks to educate future generations to alleviate the suffering of others, to become peacemakers and to advocate for, and defend, civil and human rights.

The University of San Diego is an independent Catholic institution of higher learning overlooking San Diego's Mission Bay. Chartered in 1949, the school enrolls nearly 7,000 students and is known for its commitment to teaching, the liberal arts, the formation of values and community involvement.

For information about the Institute for Peace and Justice or USD, please call (619) 260-7873, or visit the USD web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu> or the Institute website at <http://peace.sandiego.edu>.

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