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STUDENT TO RAISE \$250,000 FOR KATRINA VICTIMS WITH DOCUMENTARY

UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ- Feb. 29, 2008- To some, stories are what people read to their children before bedtime. To others, they are powerful learning tools. To Belal Khan, marketing junior, they are a means to help ease the hardships of those ravaged by disaster.

Khan made a trip down to Louisiana June 2007 to film the personal stories those directly affected by Hurricane Katrina and plans to raise at least \$250,000 for the victims once the documentary is completed in August.

"I left New Jersey to film this documentary thinking that Katrina came and left. I spent some time in Baton Rouge and New Orleans only to realize, Katrina is still a disaster," said Khan.

After hearing the stories and seeing the destroyed houses with his own eyes, Khan was determined to help in any way he could.

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"I hope that people will buy this documentary once completed in August, to help raise money for the victims."

Many of those interviewed belonged to the Muslim community. "Many people today unfortunately see Islam as a religion spreading disaster, not a religion that helps in the face of disaster," said Khan.

He went down to New Orleans and saw the sides of houses still marked with spray paint indicating how many bodies were found in that house.

Islamic Relief worker, Ruben Vaughan was interviewed in Khan's documentary. Vaughan was in La. Immediately after the hit of the hurricane.

"It was like a ghost town. It was like a horror movie. You saw helicopters, humvees and nothing else. You saw dogs, some were dead. And then you'd see cats and some were dead. And you wouldn't really see anybody else," said Vaughan.

"Disasters don't care whether you are white, black, Christian, or Muslim," said Khan.

He said he learned a lot of lessons while filming his documentary, lessons he wants others to be able to experience through the victim's stories.

"Everyone is affected. I learned while making this documentary that when disaster strikes, the victims are blind to the colors of skin and race. They only see the colors in the form of character and sincerity," said Khan.

The documentary is entitled "Tufaan," which is Arabic for "great storm." A sneak peak of Khan's documentary can be seen at <http://www.leechonfilms.com/documentary-sneak-peak-103.htm>.

Belal Khan is available for interview. To schedule please email me at media@leechonfilms.com

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