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THE WORLD TELEVISION PREMIERE OF

BOLINAO 52

A VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DOCUMENTARY

WED. APRIL 30, 2008- 9PM

KTEH Public Television, Channel 54 (Comcast 10)

April 7, 2008 --- Following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, millions of refugees took the perilous voyage across the South China Sea to find freedom. Many died of drowning or starvation and thirst. Some were lost at sea for days while others were pillaged, robbed and raped by pirates. Yet more than thirty years later, no major film or television program has told their stories. Until now. Filmmaker Duc Nguyen, himself a boat refugee, retraces the odyssey of the **BOLINAO 52** – survivors of a traumatic attempt to reach freedom in the Philippines.

One hundred and ten refugees boarded a crowded boat one night in May 1988. After leaving Vietnam, the engine died. They were ignored by passing ships. Nineteen days later, the USS *Dubuque* stopped but the captain refused to pick up the dying refugees. Facing death, they resorted to cannibalism. After thirty-seven days at sea, only fifty-two people survived, finally rescued by Philippino fishermen. **BOLINAO 52** gives voice to the unspoken legacy of the Vietnam War – the haunting stories of the Vietnamese Boat People.

A free, public screening and discussion with the filmmaker will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 2-4pm at San Jose City College. The screening supplements the Smithsonian Exhibit, "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon: Vietnamese America since 1975" which runs through June 1 at the college.

BOLINAO 52 is a co-production of Duc Nguyen and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), produced in association with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) and KTEH Public Television, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Additional funding is provided by All Roads Film Project and Pacific Pioneer Fund.

KTEH Public Television 54 (www.kteh.org) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), broadcasting from San Jose in Silicon Valley. KTEH Public Television 54 (Comcast 10) was founded in 1964, serving its viewers with the best programming available from PBS, APT and other national distributors. Especially well known for its Mystery Night programs and popular British series and sitcoms, KTEH provides programming tailored to the needs and interests of its diverse viewing audience, while offering unique local productions such as the *San Jose Mayoral Roundtable*, *video i*, its long-running weekly independent film and video series, and community-focused documentaries like *Return to the Valley*, *Dave Tatsuno*, *Movies and Memories*, and *Cadillac Desert*.

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