

U.S. health 'Sicko'

Michael Moore warns he may face jail over his new film



Michael Moore

BY MICHAEL GILTZ
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

CANNES, France — It was standing room only yesterday as Michael Moore's film "Sicko" indicted the American health care system — and as he explained why he may face prison time for helping expose the shameful treatment of 9/11 heroes.

The documentary, which criticizes U.S. medical companies as greedy, shows ailing 9/11 responders getting better health care in Cuba than at home.

"What has become of us?"

Moore asked, describing how 50 million Americans live with no health coverage.

"Where is our soul?"

Moore is threatened with possible jail time by the feds for unauthorized travel to Cuba.

Conservative American politicians are more focused on Moore's trip to the Communist country than the urgent message his film delivers.

The post-screening press conference concentrated on the investigation — and Moore was clearly worried.

"I'm being personally investigated, and I'm the one liable for fines or jail," said the director, who has to respond to the investigators by Tuesday.

The film, set for U.S. release June 29, shows Moore taking three volunteers, who worked at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks, to Guantanamo Bay, where press reports say accused terrorists are receiving excellent medical care.

Moore said he has faith that Americans will not hold his trip to Cuba against him, as one right-wing New York newspaper has, but instead will be outraged at what he has uncovered.

"I have faith in the American people. They're not going to focus on Cuba," he said. "They're going to say, 'The Al Qaeda detainees are receiving better health care than the 9/11 workers who went to Ground Zero?'"

The film shows Moore, after failing to enter the base, taking the 9/11 workers, including John Graham, who defended Moore in an interview with the Daily News last week, to get Cuban medical care.

"Why would we let 50 million Americans not have health insurance, 9 million of them children?" Moore asked. "We're the United States! We can do better!"

The News has campaigned for better care for sick first responders. In a series of editorials, which were honored with a Pulitzer Prize, The News revealed the growing numbers of sick New Yorkers and fought for, and helped win, more assistance.

nydailynews.com

DAILY NEWS

Sunday, May 20, 2007