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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***BEATS OF THE ANTONOV* REVEALS THE POWER OF MUSIC @ THE LIBRARY**

(PANAMA CITY, FL) – As part of a partnership with PBS to showcase films from the award-winning POV (Point-of-View) documentary series, the Bay County Public Library will show *Beats of the Antonov* on March 16, 2016 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. as part of the Beyond the Lens: Book and Film Series.

Sudanese director hajooj kuka illustrates the resilience of Sudanese civilians through music in *Beats of the Antonov*. Sudan has been in an almost constant state of civil war since it achieved independence in 1956, and it split into a pair of sovereign states in 2011. Today, on the border between the two, Russian-made Antonov planes indiscriminately drop bombs on settlements in the Nuba Mountains below. Yet, incredibly, the people of the Blue Nile respond to adversity with music, singing, and dancing to celebrate their survival.

*Beats of the Antonov* explores how music binds a community together, offering hope and a common identity for refugees engaged in a fierce battle to protect cultural traditions and heritage from those trying to obliterate them.

After the film, there will be lively discussion about the film and selected book *Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. This memoir focuses on when Ishmael Beah was a child soldier in Sierra Leone. Refreshments are provided by the Friends of the Bay County Public Libraries. The event is free and open to the public.

The Bay County Public Library is located at 898 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Panama City. Please call 522-2100 or visit [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com) for more information on this and other programs.

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