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UNHCR appoints MIYAVI as first Goodwill Ambassador in Japan

The UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of Japanese artist MIYAVI as a national Goodwill Ambassador, the agency's first in Japan.

MIYAVI is a Japanese musician, actor and philanthropist who has gained international recognition and acclaim for his unique guitar style, using his fingers instead of a pick to create an elaborate sound both musically and rhythmically.

MIYAVI's appointment reflects his passionate advocacy for refugees and his commitment to UNHCR having been introduced to the cause by UNHCR's Special Envoy Angelina Jolie, who cast him in her 2014 film "Unbroken." Inspired by her, MIYAVI wrote and recorded "The Others," a song dedicated to refugees around the globe.

In 2015, MIYAVI undertook his first visit to refugees in Lebanon with UNHCR. He brought his song "The Others" and performed it with refugees. The music video was released in 2016, directed and produced by Angelina Jolie and MIYAVI alongside refugees around the globe.

Special Envoy Angelina Jolie sent a message saying "MIYAVI is someone who is deeply committed to the refugee cause. He brings compassion and understanding but also the gift of music. It is very moving to see MIYAVI connect with displaced people, and share and encourage his passion for musical expression. I am delighted he is joining UNHCR as a Goodwill Ambassador and look forward to us working together."

MIYAVI visited Lebanon again in 2016 to update himself on the situation as well as Thailand in 2017 to meet Karen refugees from Myanmar, who also appeared on the music video. His ongoing promotion of UNHCR's global work on his social media channels has helped raise awareness to a much wider audience. He has been particularly vocal on the need for refugee children to receive quality education.

"Everyone deserves to feel hope, and to be able to have a moment to smile in their lives. If there is anything I can do with music to help achieve that, that is my mission," MIYAVI said.

Welcoming MIYAVI's appointment as Goodwill Ambassador, UNHCR Representative in Japan, Dirk Hebecker expressed admiration for the artist's public commitment, saying: "I know that MIYAVI's voice will help raise more awareness on the global displacement crisis among the Japanese public and especially the younger generation. We are honoured to welcome him as a Goodwill Ambassador."

An appointment ceremony will be held on 20 November at a press conference in Tokyo on the occasion of the High Commissioner for Refugees' official visit to Japan.

Click [here](#) for MIYAVI's Goodwill Ambassador page on UNHCR website.

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