



La Maison des journalistes

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**« Aleppo Point Zero »
An Exhibition of Photographs by Muzaffar Salman
at the Maison des journalistes**

From May 5 to September 15, 2015, the Maison des journalistes in Paris (France) will host an exceptional exhibition of the work of the Syrian photojournalist Muzaffar Salman. Entitled "Aleppo Point Zero", the exhibition will be open to the public from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 6 pm. Admission will be free. Some 75 photographs will be exhibited. Fifteen of them will be hung outdoors.

Official Opening: Tuesday May 5 at 6.30 pm in the presence of Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris

What is "Point Zero"? Muzaffar Salman explains it in this way: "When the peasants and students entered the revolution, to be able to move from house to house without fear of snipers, they made holes in the walls of houses. These excavations joined up hundreds of homes, thus creating a unique space which brought Syrians together for the first time in forty years. This assembly of houses has been named "Point Zero". It is where Syrians across the country gather together to protect their assets and to prevent their wives and children from being arrested and tortured. "

In "Point Zero" Muzaffar Salman met traders, farmers, truck drivers, laborers and students of medicine, philosophy, history, linguistics... All of them were fighting against the chaos introduced by the government. All demanded freedom. It is these painful encounters that have shaped his reporting and the present exhibition.

This event has been made possible not only with the active support of the City of Paris but also with multiple other partners, including the Multimedia Authors Partnership (SCAM), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Muzaffar Salman

Muzaffar Salman was born in 1976 in Homs, where he earned his photography degree in 2003. In 2006, he won first prize in the "Regards croisés - Perspectives" competition for photography in Rome. Between 2006 and 2007, he participated in the traveling group exhibition for the prize (Italy, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey, Belgium). In 2010, he presented a solo exhibition at the Goethe Institute in Damascus, and another in Copenhagen in 2013. He covered the Syrian conflict from Aleppo. He has collaborated with several news agencies including the Associated Press and Reuters.

The Syrian government arrested him and put him in prison because of his photographs. He narrowly escaped the attack of the "Islamic State". He fled Syria for Lebanon, then took refuge in France in June 2014, where he was welcomed by the Maison des journalistes.

The Maison des journalistes

Founded by journalist Danièle Ohayon and film director Philippe Spinau, the Maison des journalistes - a place without equivalent in the world - is now chaired by journalist-producer Christian Auboyneau and managed by Darlene Cothière. Since 2002, in the name of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, the Maison des journalistes has welcomed and helped information professionals exiled in France. The Maison des journalistes helps them to rebuild their lives and continue their work in favor of press freedom.

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