



Offside

Football in Exile

Dirk-Jan Visser &
Arthur Huizinga

Exhibition, Book



Dirk-Jan Visser (1978)

is an independent documentary photographer focusing on social, economic and political issues around the world. He published the book *Brave New Kosovo* and won awards for his publication *Zimbabwe Exodus*. He was Dutch Photojournalist of the Year in 2007.

Arthur Huizinga (1980)

is a freelance journalist and writer. Since 2008 he became a regular guest of FK Qarabağ Ağdam, while researching general refugee-issues in the South Caucasus.

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Exhibition Photographic prints 14 fc120x160cm and 70 b&w 40x60cm, 20 b&w archival material, video on tablets (4), maps and texts.

Info www.paradox.nl/offside



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The geopolitical conflict in the Nagorno Karabakh region is a forgotten one. Yet, for hundreds of thousands Azerbaijani and Armenian refugees it represents a daily reality since the 1991-1994 war. Photographer Dirk-Jan Visser and writer Arthur Huizinga tell the story from the perspective of six people related to two football teams.

FK Qarabağ Ağdam is an Azerbaijani football club currently based in the capital Baku, longing to return to its home ground in the destroyed and occupied city of Ağdam. The club is the symbol of hope and pride for over half a million Azerbaijani refugees scattered around Azerbaijan.

The Armenian team FK Karabakh Stepanakert from the capital of Nagorno Karabakh is banned from competition. FIFA does not recognise teams from unrecognised states: a catastrophe for the team that was once champion of the Azerbaijani zone of Soviet football.

As Azerbaijan grows richer with every oil shipment and Armenia sinks further into economic isolation, the conflict will be back on the international agenda sooner rather than later.