

9 Days

From My Window in Aleppo

Issa Touma

Film





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On the morning of 19 August 2012, Syrian photographer Issa Touma noticed young men from the Free Syrian Army lugging sandbags into his street and building a barricade under the window of his apartment. The civil war had reached the streets of Aleppo. During the following nine days Touma had to stay inside. With a simple camera he filmed what took place below his window. *9 Days – From My Window in Aleppo* captured the changing nature and dynamic of the situation outside, where the original T-shirt-wearing partisans soon gave way to the heavily-armed religiously-inspired militants of the al-Tahwid Brigade. Touma's record of the start of the uprising in Aleppo gives an unprecedented glimpse into the conflict.

Now in its fifth year, the war in Syria has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and left more than half of the population displaced. Aleppo, the largest city in the country and one of the oldest human settlements in the world, is at risk of being obliterated. Ongoing battles between government forces, opposition rebels and radical Islamist militants have severely damaged the architectural structures and may soon destroy what remains of the essence of the city as a centre of intellectual activity and cross-cultural dialogue.

Issa Touma (1962)

is a photographer and cultural animator based in Aleppo (Syria). In 1996 he established Le Pont, a photography gallery and workshop. In 1997 he initiated the Aleppo International Photography Festival.

Awards

9 Days has been screened at major festivals for (short) films worldwide, including the Internazionale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, DOK Leipzig and the IFFR in Rotterdam. *9 Days* won the Audience Prize at the St Petersburg Kinodot Film Festival.

Film 13'08" min, HD video, stereo. Directed by: Floor van der Meulen, Thomas Vroeg and Issa Touma. Sound design: Tom Jansen. Subtitles: English, Arabic. Co-produced with Deep Focus Web Docs. Trailer: www.vimeo.com/142867417



Exhibition *9 Days* can be made part of the exhibition *Women We Have Not Lost Yet, and other stories on Aleppo* by Issa Touma.

Festival distribution

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Info paradox.nl/9days

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