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Danish Siddiqui

Edited by Joyce Adeluwoye-Adams, Reuters
 Texts by Alessandra Galloni, Frederike Harrant Siddiqui,
 Greg Marinovich
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Collection of outstanding photographs by the Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui (1983–2021)

On July 16th, 2021, photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was killed while on assignment in Afghanistan working for Reuters News and Media. He was embedded with the Afghan special forces when they came under attack by the Taliban. His untimely death serves as a daily reminder of the courage and selflessness that journalists exhibit around the world as they work to capture what can be uncomfortable or painful realities. Siddiqui's photography laid bare the truth of what was happening in the world in its most unvarnished form making it difficult for us all to dismiss or ignore.

This book compiles his outstanding photographs of more than ten years of his work for the news agency Reuters.

From the *Foreword* by **Alessandra Galloni**, Editor-in-Chief of Reuters: "Danish's special alchemy of inborn talent mixed with passion for his craft, curiosity, and emotional vulnerability leaves us with some of the most creative, touching, and historic moments in photojournalism," said editor Adrees Latif.

Some of these moments are captured in this book. Danish's generous spirit shines through in every image – a testament to his legacy in this newsroom and the world.

From the text *A Wire Story* by **Greg Marinovich**, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, filmmaker, and member of the famous Bang-Bang Club:

...That sense of urgency and inventiveness in obtaining the news and, just as importantly, getting it out, is something that has defined wire men, women, and other genders from then until now. Working for one of the news agencies is still often suited to individuals who revel in a heightened sense of urgency in reporting the news.

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This is the world that Danish Siddiqui was eager to join. Though still new to the profession after getting his communications degree, friends and family say Danish felt unfulfilled by his work for a local television station. Deep down, Danish knew he wanted to be a photojournalist, and more specifically, work for the wires. Whenever the neatly dressed young man worked alongside professional photographers, he would engage them about camera gear, what to possibly buy as an upgrade to his entry-level digital camera, what the pros found useful, and what was superfluous. Such conversations inevitably take place whenever photographers gather, passing the long periods of friendly tedium between the intense activity that marks the nature of news gathering. The discussions Danish really cared for were on photojournalism as a calling and to what degree was it ethical to use photographic technique to make news images beautiful.

Danish Siddiqui (1983 in New Delhi, India – 2021 in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan) joined Reuters in 2010 and covered key events across the Middle East and Asia, including the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Hong Kong protests and the Nepal earthquakes. He also photographed the lives of ordinary people, from those living with the long-term health implications of the Bhopal disaster to young actors dreaming of Bollywood stardom.

In 2018, Danish Siddiqui received the Pulitzer prize for feature photography as part of the Reuters team documenting the Rohingya refugee crisis. In 2022, he was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer along with Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave for their images of Covid-19 in India.

<https://widerimage.reuters.com/photographer/danish-siddiqui>

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Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Phone +49 (0)6221/649 20-18 | www.kehrerverlag.com

For further permissions please contact Reuters' press office:

Heather Carpenter, phone +1 332 219 1992
Heather.Carpenter@thomsonreuters.com
pressoffice@tr.co

Press images



01_ A man feeds seagulls on the beach in Mumbai in February 2016.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



02_ Maharashtrian women dressed in traditional costumes celebrate the Gudi Padwa festival in Mumbai in March 2015.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



03_ Shazia, a six-year-old girl, plays with street dogs at a timber market in March 2014.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



04_ Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (The Big Hearted Will Take the Bride), a Bollywood film starring Shah Rukh Khan, plays at the Maratha Mandir theater in Mumbai in July 2010. © REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



05_ Participants take part in Queer Azaadi, an event celebrating gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights in Mumbai in July 2010.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



06_ A man practices mallakhamb, a sport dating back to the twelfth century, which brings together yoga, gymnastics, and martial arts, at a playground in Mumbai in September 2010. © REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



07_Devotees pray after taking a dip at Sangam during the Pitcher Festival in January 2019.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



08_An exhausted Rohingya woman touches the shore after crossing the Bangladesh- Myanmar border by boat through the Bay of Bengal 2017.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



09_A Naga Sadhu, or Hindu holy man, puts on a mask before the procession to take a dip in the Ganges during the Pitcher Festival in Haridwar amid the spread of COVID-19 in April 2021. © REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



10_A woman receives oxygen support in her car at a gurdwara (a Sikh temple) in Ghaziabad in April 2021.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



11_An Afghan boy works at a construction site as a U.S. soldier takes position during a joint patrol with the Afghan National Army in a village in Kherwar district in Logar province, eastern Afghanistan, on May 23, 2012.
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12_Afghan women wearing burqas walk up a hill in the old part of Kabul on May 10, 2012.
© REUTERS / Danish Siddiqui



13_Portrait of Danish Siddiqui
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