



## NEW RELEASE

### ***Yalla Habibi*** ***Living with War in Aleppo***

Hosam Katan

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Hardcover, 24 x 32 cm

152 pages, 72 color ill.

English

ISBN 978-3-86828-839-1

Euro 39,90 / US\$ 45.00 / GBP 35.00

**Katan shows us men, women, and children who refuse to have their lives and dignity stripped away by war**

*Yalla Habibi – Living with War in Aleppo* gives recognition to people in Eastern Aleppo who have continued their everyday lives with resilience and inventiveness amidst perilous circumstances. The pictures from Hosam Katan's hometown, taken between 2013 and 2015, capture moments of the conflicting and contrasting experiences and emotions of these people. Anger, joy, grieve, fear, adventurousness, desperation, determination, solidarity, defiance, fatigue, excitement – having to live with war all of these emotions can change in an instant. The book shows people balancing the horrors of war with a sense of normalcy and trying to retain their dignity.

Although the news coverage of the conflict in Syria, and especially from Aleppo, has waned, it is important to keep up the dialog because the conflict is far from being over. »Yalla Habibi (Come on my dear)!« as people would say in Arabic. The book is dedicated to the German photographer Anja Niedringhaus, who died in 2014.

»Yalla Habibi is also part of my own story. Growing up in Aleppo I could never have imagined that one day war would break out in my country. It was when I had just turned 17 in 2011 that I experienced the beginning of the protests against the Assad regime. I saw people with a genuine believe in a Syrian revolution to establish democracy and more freedom in their country. When the regime answered protests with brute force, I decided to pick up my camera. I felt the responsibility to document what was happening around me. As many international news organizations were pulling out of the country for security reasons, I realized the

*importance to not let the events and people in Aleppo go unseen. Security has also been an issue for my work and in May 2015 I almost ran out of luck. I was shot by a sniper of the regime. After treatment in Turkey, however, I returned to Aleppo and continued my life and work there until the end of 2015.«*

– Hosam Katan

**Hosam Katan** (born in Aleppo 1994) started working as a photo-journalist for Aleppo Media Center from October 2012. Between 2013 and 2015, he covered the conflict in Aleppo as a freelance photographer for Reuters as well. His pictures have been published in numerous international magazines. He is currently studying photojournalism at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hannover.

The awards he has received include the Ian Parry Special Award 2014 and the Ian Parry Award 2015, the annual Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest 2015, the grand prize at the IAFOR Documentary Photography Award 2015, the Nannen Preis 2016, a Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Special Prize for Photography 2016, the PX3 Prix de la Photographie Paris 2017, and the Felix Schoeller Photo Award 2017. He was nominated for the Bayeux-Calvados Award for war correspondents 2016, and is shortlisted for the Meitar Photo Award 2017.

#### Exhibition

*Felix Schoeller Photo Award 2017, Kulturgeschichtliches Museum Osnabrück, Germany, October 15, 2017 – February 25, 2018*

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Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany

Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20

[www.kehrrerverlag.com](http://www.kehrrerverlag.com) [www.artbooksheidelberg.com](http://www.artbooksheidelberg.com)

## Press images



1 A damaged street in the Saif al-Dawla neighborhood, with sandbags used as barriers. The street is located on the front line, with one half controlled by opposition forces, and the other by forces loyal to the Assad regime, May 11, 2015. © Hosam Katan

2 Um Muhammad asks people to look for her daughters Asma'a and Nadima at a site close to her home, which was hit by an air strike of regime forces. Maaken Hanano neighborhood, February 14, 2014. © Hosam Katan



3 A boy dives into a crater filled with water in the Al-Shaar neighborhood. The crater was made by a barrel bomb, July 10, 2014. © Hosam Katan

4 An injured girl leans against a wall near a site hit by a barrel bomb. Al-Sheikh Khodr neighborhood, September 30, 2014. © Hosam Katan



5 Nusra, 8 years old, practices math in a makeshift school. Old Aleppo, October 24, 2015. © Hosam Katan

6 Boys play with homemade toy guns. Al-Jazmati neighborhood, February 1, 2015. © Hosam Katan



7 People shop for vegetables and fruits in a market that had been targeted by a regime air strike. Bustan al-Oasr neighborhood, October 14, 2015.  
© Hosam Katan



8 Kitchenware suspended in midair after a house was destroyed by a barrel bomb dropped by Assad regime forces. Al-Myassar neighborhood, February 9, 2014. © Hosam Katan



9 People find a man's hand while looking for survivors at a site struck by a barrel bomb dropped by regime forces. Al-Fardous neighborhood, September 19, 2014. © Hosam Katan



10 A street vendor rests near containers of diesel for sale. Al-Halk neighborhood, October 23, 2014. © Hosam Katan



11 Alaa, an ambulance driver, feeds cats. Alaa buys about \$2 of meat every day to feed approximately 150 abandoned cats. Masaken Hanano neighborhood, September 24, 2014. © Hosam Katan



12 A survivor sits on the rubble of collapsed buildings at a site struck by barrel bombs dropped by regime forces. Al-Sakhour neighborhood, March 6, 2014. © Hosam Katan