



Immediate Release

Syria: Humanity in Conflict

***8 February - 14 September 2014, WaterWay Gallery, IWM North
Free Entry; Donations Welcome***

'The reason I do it is because first and foremost I am Syrian and I can't stand to see my people suffer.'
Hamza, Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteer, December 2011

Photographs by an award winning Syrian photographer that reveal the impact of conflict on humanitarian volunteers in the country, are being unveiled at IWM North, part of Imperial War Museums, in Manchester.

The powerful images explore the experiences of Syrian civilians and humanitarian volunteers who place their lives on the line, almost three years since the outbreak of conflict in March 2011.

Created in association with the British Red Cross, this small, emotive display at IWM North in Manchester shows images by Syrian - Italian photographer Ibrahim Malla.

The free display features the comments of local volunteers for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), reflecting on their motivations to become a volunteer and the risks they take as they stay in Syria to respond to the current conflict and humanitarian crisis.

The British Red Cross and SARC are part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest independent humanitarian network.

Malla is currently working in and around Syria for the International Federation of the Red Cross. This free display contains his most recent work. Malla has previously photographed many humanitarian crises. He has exhibited in Syria, Italy, Madrid, Paris, London, Geneva, Sydney, China, Germany and Scotland and won six international awards during his career.

SARC volunteers have been at the front line of the humanitarian response in Syria since fighting erupted. Many SARC staff and volunteers have been killed; many more have been injured, kidnapped or detained. Ambulances have been fired upon or in some cases stolen.

Across the country, thousands of SARC volunteers continue to provide essential assistance to those affected by the crisis.

SARC volunteers and staff are delivering a wide range of life-saving aid to almost 3 million people each month: food parcels, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, first aid and ambulance services, fixed and mobile health clinics, psycho-social support services for children and their families, water and sanitation. They also support temporary shelters in schools, offices, and public buildings.

Visit www.iwm.org.uk for more information, follow @I_W_M #IWMNorth, or like [facebook.com/iwm.north](https://www.facebook.com/iwm.north)

Ibrahim Malla said: "My photos show the tragedy of the conflict with a message of hope - showing the hard job that the Red Cross and the Red Crescent volunteers are doing, always helping everybody in respect of our principle of neutrality. This is the message that I started to carry around the world, to let everybody know and see the bravery of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers. I feel this is my duty to honour my friends who sacrificed their life."

Graham Boxer, Director of IWM North, said: 'From images of aid distributions to the evacuation of 2,000 people from a besieged town in October 2013, Malla's images portray the role, dedication and bravery of these volunteers in Syria today.'

– Ends –

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Notes to Editors

The British Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

The British Red Cross and SARC are part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest independent humanitarian network. Most countries around the world have a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society - there are currently 188 around the world, including the British Red Cross. Each society has a responsibility to help vulnerable people within its own borders, and to work in conjunction with the Movement to protect and support those in crisis worldwide.

IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North is designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict. The iconic building, innovative and dynamic exhibitions, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspire and encourage debate.

Open daily from 10am - 5pm with free admission at The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ (close to MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60) T: 0161 836 4000
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IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities

across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org