

all roads film Project



2007 All Roads Photography Program Award Winner

Altaf Qadri (Kashmir)

Kashmir: Paradise in Pain



Bio:

Born in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-administered Kashmir, in 1976, Qadri received his bachelor's degree in science from Kashmir University and trained as a computer engineer before he made photography his profession. Growing up amid mass uprisings against Indian rule, Qadri personally witnessed the turmoil and realized that a camera can serve as an important tool to give people a voice. He began his photojournalism career with local dailies in 2001 and joined the European Pressphoto Agency wire service in 2003. He has been covering the Kashmir conflict extensively for several years and hopes his pictures convey the grassroots situation of Kashmir and how it affects all aspects of life.

<http://www.altafqadri.com/gal/index.php>

Personal Essay:

Kashmir, a fertile valley once called “paradise on Earth,” is home to one of the oldest, unresolved international conflict in the world. Split between India and Pakistan, Kashmir is claimed in full by both. Six decades after agreeing to remove its troops once “law and order” was restored, India has yet to announce that it has accomplished this mission. India’s current troop strength in Kashmir has reached more than half a million and is now one of the most highly militarized zones in the world. The heavy deployment of Indian armed forces has resulted in a myriad of human rights violations, such as extrajudicial executions, custodial deaths, custodial torture, rapes, forced labor, and forced disappearances. Since 1989, tens of thousands of people have died in an armed revolt against Indian rule. Kashmir has become a dangerous place to live, where pastures have been replaced with razor wire and mines. Today there are more than 500 graveyards dotting Kashmir, and every epitaph on a grave tells a story of a tragic Kashmiri generation.

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