



— **MEDIA RELEASE** —

Community legacy of Toronto freelancer killed in Syria pays it forward through award in his name.

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TORONTO - Two years after his death while working to report on war atrocities and people's survival in Aleppo, the legacy of Toronto freelance photojournalist Ali Mustafa is being transformed into an annual award that supports other young freelancers to carry on like-minded work, but with more back-up.

On Saturday, March 12, amid an exhibition of Mustafa's most moving and vivid photography from his journeys to Syria, the Ali Mustafa Memorial Collective will publicly announce the first winner of the new award, Toronto native Tanya K. Bindra.

"I am very honoured and grateful to have been selected for the Ali Mustafa Memorial Award for People's Journalism," Bindra says, on learning of her selection.

Bindra, who is presently on freelance assignment in West Africa, will soon head to New Delhi to speak with women survivors of sexual assault. She plans to photograph, document and report on their experiences as they navigate India's legal system.

"I have been interested in documenting the intersections between legal theory and social justice since I started doing advocacy work at a sexual assault centre almost 6 years ago," Bindra explained.

"Without the support and encouragement of the Collective, I would not have been able to pursue this project. I hope to approach my work with the same courage and compassion that Ali showed in his."

The free exhibition of Mustafa's works will take place at Beit Zatoun, at 612 Markham St. in downtown, Toronto, until April 3rd. The opening event this Saturday runs from 6-8pm, and will feature tributes to Mustafa, continued discussion of day-to-day life in Syria and conditions for media freelancers in conflict zones.

Invited guests, Canadian journalist and documentary filmmaker Andréa Schmidt, and Adam Riggio, spokesperson for Toronto's Syrian Film Festival, will speak and join the Collective in an informal dialogue.

For more information: rememberingalimustafa.org/2016memorial/

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