



Beyond the borders – exploration amongst the forgotten refugees of the South Caucasus

Photographs by Jan Zychlinski

From September 2014 to February 2015 Jan Zychlinski travelled through the South Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan) to document the fate and living conditions of refugees and internal displaced persons from the conflicts after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In several previous visits to the Caucasus he encountered again and again people who had been forced to leave their villages and towns in the wake of armed conflicts after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Many of them still live in camps, collective centres or partly in newly built settlements away from the rest of society.

In the exhibition and a book, these people and their stories are representative for millions of other "forgotten" refugees and goes beyond the daily reports of ever new refugees. The presentation is a summary of the photo exhibition, which has already been shown in Tbilisi (Georgia) and Bern (Switzerland) and will be displayed at Leipzig Book Fair, in Berlin and Yerevan in the next months. For this series the Social Documentary Network has awarded the author as "Photographer of the month" in February 2016.

Bio-note:

Jan Zychlinski was born in Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz) in the former GDR. He studied History/ German Philology and, after the end of the GDR, Social Sciences and Social Work. He was active for more than 15 years in social work, urban development, flood-relief projects in Eastern Germany, and after the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Since 2007 he is lecturer in Social Urban Development at the University of Applied Science in Bern, with additional focus on (self-taught) social photography. In the last years he travelled a lot in the South Caucasus and in the Ukraine. He was lecturing and giving workshops at Universities in Tbilisi, Yerevan and Baku. Since 2014 he gives on-going training-courses and workshops with IDPs in Ukraine.

Contact: jan.zychlinski@bfh.ch / +41 78 888 9830 / <http://www.jz-photography.ch/>