

REFUGEE SINCE 2012 REPUBLIC

Jumpstarting a new existence in an emerging city.
Everyday life in a refugee camp

REFUGEE REPUBLIC



Refugee Republic is an interactive transmedia documentary about everyday life in Domiz Camp, a Syrian refugee camp in northern Iraq.

The aim of the makers, artist Jan Rothuizen, multimedia journalist Martijn van Tol and photographer Dirk Jan Visser, is to enrich the existing image of refugee camps by building an anatomical sketch of everyday life in the camp, through a combination of drawings, film, photography, sound and text to create a sensory experience.

Links & Downloads

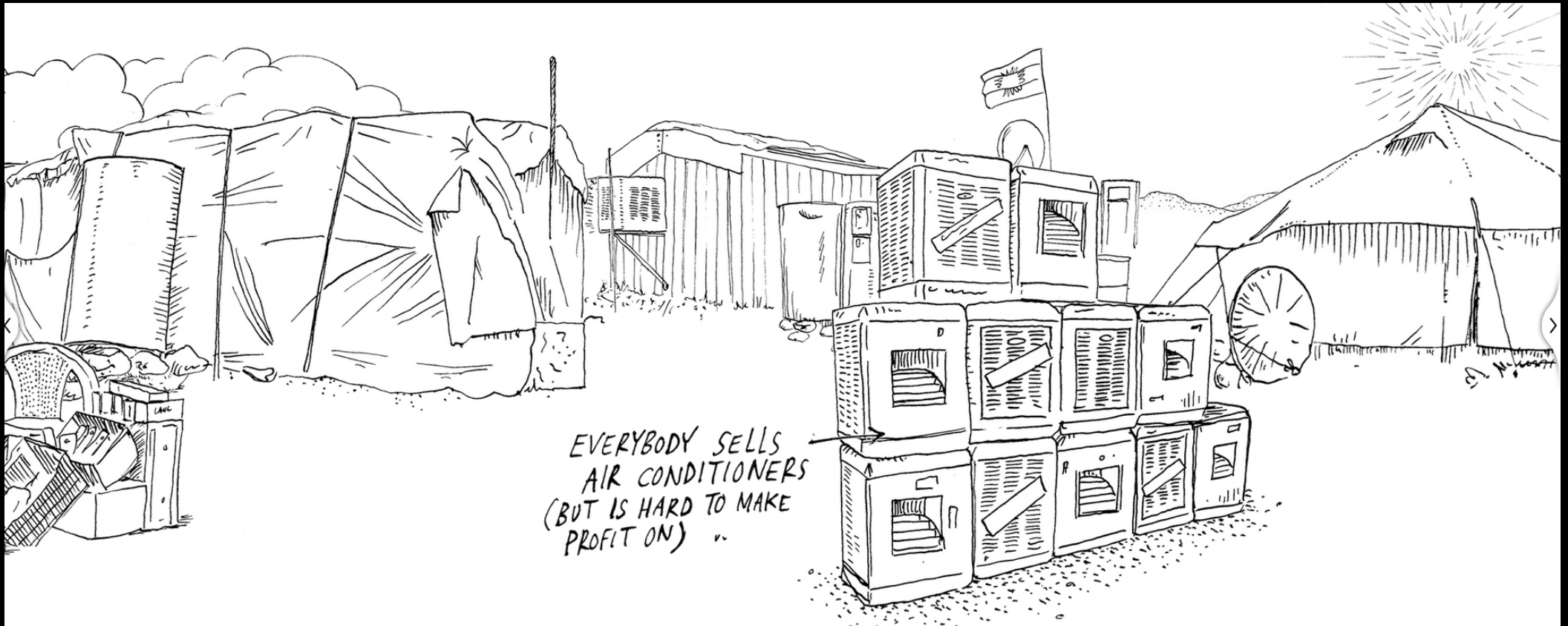
refugeerepublic.nl

Intro
[vimeo](#)

Making of
[vimeo](#)

Stills


FESTIVALS AND AWARDS



- World premiere at DocLab, the Amsterdam documentary festival IDFA 2014
- Forum Blanc, France
- Movies that Matter, The Netherlands
- SXSW, USA
- Zilveren Camera, The Netherlands
- DDG Award, The Netherlands
- Tempo Documentary Festival, Sweden
- Webby Awards, US
- Civis Media Prize, Belgium



REFUGEE CAMPS

We understand the camps to be temporary measures, but worldwide refugees remain in some form of relief care for an average of 17 years.



THIS TENT IS IN
THE SINGLES QUARTER

OF A SYRIAN REFUGEE
CAMP IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

ONLY MEN LIVE IN THIS
QUARTER. SINGLE WOMEN LIVE WITH
THEIR FAMILIES IN THE CAMP

LIVING HERE IS A DISASTER

SAYS ALAN WHO WORKS HERE AS A
TEACHER (HE EARNS 600 DOLLAR
A MONTH)

"I'M NOT IN MY OWN COUNTRY
PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CAMP LOOK
DOWN AT US. THEY RECOGNIZE
PEOPLE FROM THE CAMP BY THE
MUD ON THEIR SHOES."

"I LOVE TO
BE ALONE!"

BUT HERE WE LIVE
LIKE SOVIETS, WE
SEE AND HEAR
EVERYTHING
THERE ARE NO
SECRETS."

"MY MEMORIES TORMENT ME — SAYS ALAN
THE STREETS I WALKED. THE SQUARE IN DAMASCUS
WHERE I USED TO SIT WITH FRIENDS DON'T EXIST ANYMORE
SOMETIMES I THINK I MUST BE
DREAMING!
I EXPECTED ANYTHING
BUT I COULD NEVER
HAVE IMAGINED THIS."

A LEAN-TO
HAS BEEN BUILT
(BY THEMSELVES)
ONTO THE TENT
WITH A KITCHEN
AND A TAP FOR
WASHING

INTERNET

FUSE BOX

WASH-
TUB

PLASTIC BAG
FULL
OF PHOTOS

THEY'RE WATCHING A LIVE
FOOTBALL MATCH IN GERMANY.
THAT THE WORLD DOESN'T SEE
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, IS SOMETHING
ALAN FINDS DIFFICULT TO GRASP.
"I THOUGHT THE EUROPEANS
WOULD BE OUT ON THE STREETS
FOR US!"

I ALWAYS
SAVE THEM
TOO. WHY?

BREAD
IN SANDWICH
BAGS (TO KEEP
THEM
FRESH)

SHOE BOX
FOR STUFF

DVD?

TV
WITH
SELLTAPE

BEAD
NECKLACE
FOR
PRAYING

A DIARY FROM
2008, IT'S
NOW 2014

THE AIR-CON
WAS A GIFT FROM
FARHAN'S
FIANCEE

WHO
ALSO
LIVES IN
THIS TENT

AIR
RECYCLING

EXTRA
EXTRA
EXTRA
STRONG.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS,
EVERY NOW AND THEN
SHE'D LIKE SOME PRIVACY
WITH HER FUTURE HUSBAND.

PLANK
WITH NAILS

THEIR
CLOTHES ARE
JUMBLED
TOGETHER, BUT
EACH HAVE
THEIR OWN
MATTRESS

TOBACCO
FOR
HOOKAH

SUGAR

SHAVING
BRUSH

BLACK
(BIN) BAG
OF CLOTHES

SOMETHING
WRITTEN ON
THE TENT CANVAS

PLAYING
CARDS

SAMSUNG
TELEPHONE
BOX

TELEPHONE

ASHTRAY

STUDY
BOOKS

FOAM RUBBER
MATTRESS

WITH COLOURFUL
COVER

BELONGING TO A LAD (18)
WITH WEATHERED HANDS

HE WORKS IN
CONSTRUCTION

BEIGE
STAINED
CARPET

"A HOUSE WITHOUT
BOOKS IS LIKE A
VILLAGE WITHOUT DOGS."
THIS IS A SYRIAN SAYING,
ACCORDING TO ALAN.

WITTY?

(THERE ARE NO DOGS
IN THE CAMP)

THIS IS A
SPARE MATTRESS
(THEY QUITE OFTEN
HAVE VISITORS TO STAY)

TORCH

CUSHION WITH
SHINY (NYLON)
FLOWERY COVER

BOOK WITH
A MAP
OF KURDISTAN
ON THE FRONT
COVER

KURDISTAN SPILLS OVER THE
EXISTING BORDERS LIKE A
HAPLESS COLOURING PICTURE

RUG FOR PRAYING
(THIS TAKES PLACE
IN THE TENT WHILE I'M THERE,
AND WHILE THE OTHERS GO ON
CHATTING AND WATCHING TV.)



A group of women sit on the ground in front of a row of white tents, waiting for help. A child covered in dust stands behind barbed wire gazing wide-eyed into the lens. These are the images that reach us from refugee camps. And yet a whole world lies behind these images, one that few people witness with their own eyes.

For the first time since the Second World War there are more than 50 million refugees worldwide. The hundreds of refugee camps across the world are rapidly growing into mini-societies, with refugees as citizens and relief organizations as governments. Like any others, the refugee-citizens make home improvements, go to the baker, look for work or start up a business, seek entertainment, fall in love, argue with the neighbours, get married and have children, who also go to day care centres after school.

Just as we do, the refugee-citizens navigate between the opportunities and risks of the free markets in the camp and the sometimes helpful and at other times intrusive camp government. Refugee Republic takes you into the world behind the relief organization posters.


The makers of this interactive documentary went to Camp Domiz in northern Iraq, where around 64 thousand predominantly Kurdish Syrian refugees have sought shelter.


You can explore the camp through the pen drawings of an artist, the lens of a photographer and the ears of a radio producer. You meet the residents and get to know them by scrolling through audio-visual narratives, or wandering through drawings enriched with sound.


You get to know a.o. Ahmed (13), who skips school to look after his bird stall, you follow a day in the life of the busy circumciser Shixmous (63), you drink a cup of tea between tuk tuk engines with the mechanic Ahmad (23), and you fall silent with Fatma (16) who hopes to find her big break as a singer via Youtube.


They each arrive, exhausted, at the camp entrance. They each receive a basic aid box. And then their lives here begin. Welcome to Refugee Republic.

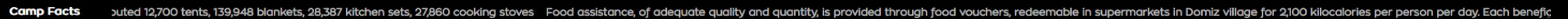
REFUGEE
SINCE 2012
REPUBLIC

CAMP CONSTRUCTION ROUTE 

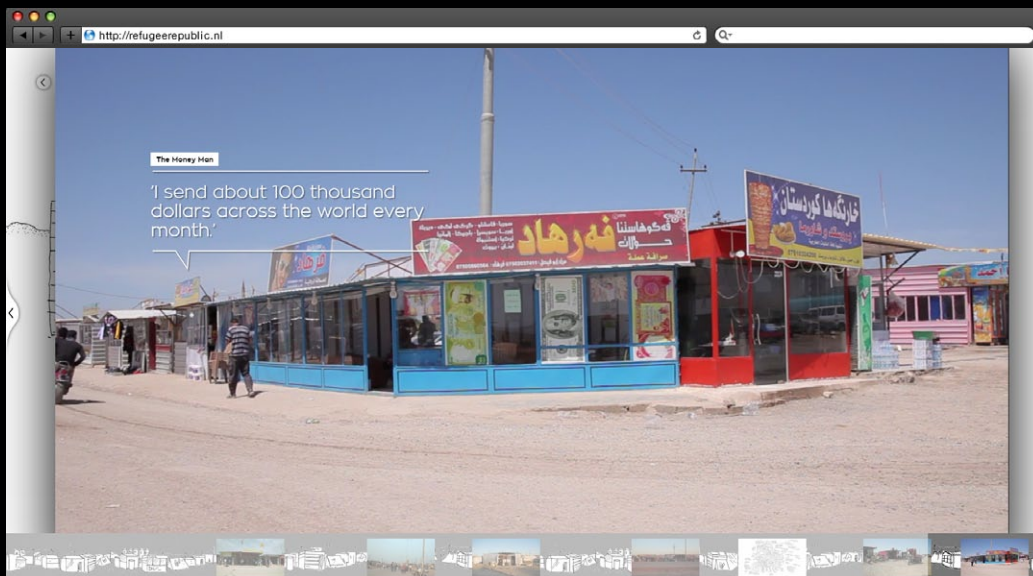
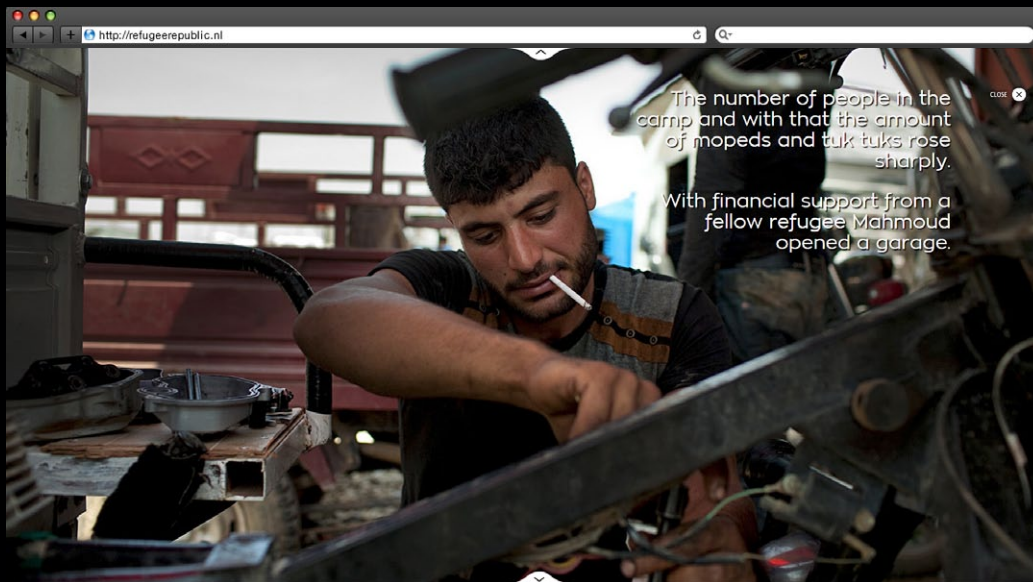
CAMP SMART ROUTE 

CAMP LIFE ROUTE 

CAMP MONEY ROUTE 







INSTALLATION



During the Movies that Matter festival in the The Hague, Refugee Republic could be experienced in a special made installation. Visitors were able to walk on the map of Camp Domiz which was printed

on the floor (13x8 meters) and watch the different elements of the production on screens and computers. A selection of the photos were printed as well. The installation is made to travel to other places as well.



de Volkskrant

REFUGEE SINCE 2012 REPUBLIC

De start van een nieuw bestaan in een opkomende stad.
Het dagelijks leven in een vluchtelingenkamp.

Voor de beste ervaring adviseren wij
Refugee Republic te bezoeken met Google Chrome



START



START MET INTRODUCTIE

creative industries
fond NL

MEDIAFONDS

NL FILM
FONDS

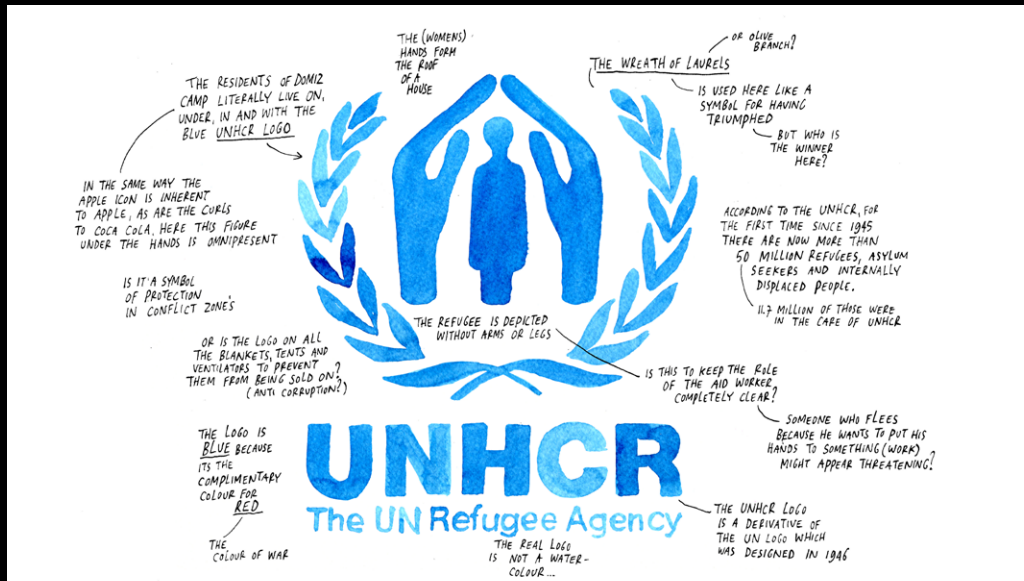
ONE
WORLD

PUBBLIC

XXXXXXXXXX

Over het kamp

uit van de vluchtelingen in Dorniz is vrouw. 55 Procent van de vluchtelingen in Dorniz is man. 37 Procent van de vluchtelingen in Dorniz is nog geen vijftien jaar oud. 57 Procent van de vluchtelingen in Dorniz is tussen de vijftien en 49 jaar oud; hiervan is slechts :



KITCHEN SET ①

THE UNHCR WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTES NON-FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS BLANKETS, MATTRESSES AND KITCHEN SETS

THIS IS KITCHEN SET TYPE B
(TYPE A IS WITH CHOPSTICKS?)



TO OPEN THIS KITCHEN SET YOU NEED THE KNIFE (INSIDE THIS BOX)

SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CAMP THE UNHCR DISTRIBUTED 29,387 SETS LIKE THIS ONE!

JAN ROTHUIZEN - ARTIST

Jan Rothuizen (1968 Amsterdam) realized at an early age he was a better artist wandering streets of cities instead of working in the confinement of a studio. Since he exhibited and published internationally. He describes his way of working as a form of echolocation. His presence has an impact on the environment, but the surroundings change him as well.

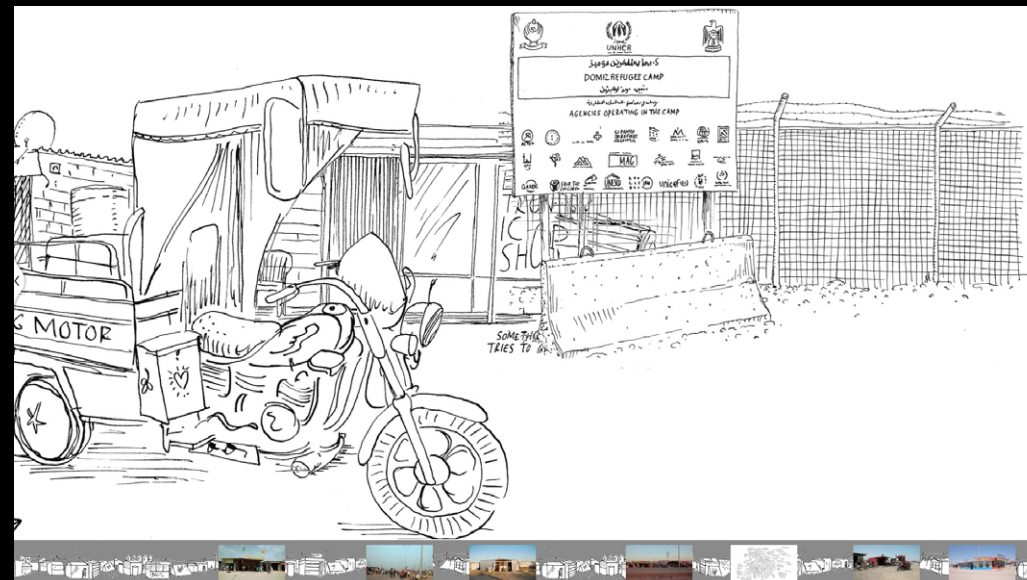
In 1999 he published 'On A Clear Day You can See Forever' a book with drawings photos and texts on New York City. In 2004 and 2006 he worked in Guangzhou China and Cairo Egypt. In 2008 he exhibited in the New Museum in New York City. In 2009 he published The soft Atlas of Amsterdam (15.000 copies sold!) a collection of hand drawn maps of the city he grew up in. Jan Rothuizen works on drawn reportages for the national daily newspaper 'De Volkskrant'.

www.janrothuizen.nl



DIRK-JAN VISSER - DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER

Dirk-Jan Visser (1978) is a documentary photographer based in The Netherlands, focusing on social, economic and political issues around the world. In his projects Visser aims to raise awareness for contemporary social issues in which he is particularly sensitive for the consequences of large political decisions on regular individuals. Through his projects he focuses on small personal stories; giving the individual a face and voice as a metaphor for larger and complex issues. His latest publications include OFFSIDE (2012), a book and travelling exhibition (The Netherlands Canada and China) on the situation in Nagorno Karabach and Refugee Republic, an interactive multimedia on daily life in a refugee camp in Northern Iraq which was presented during the IDFA 2014 (<http://refugeerepublic.nl>). His work on Zimbabwe won several photography prizes (including 'Dutch Photojournalist of the Year 2008' and 'Special Recognition in World Understanding Award' of PoYI). Visser was a participant in the World Press Photo Joop Swart Masterclass in 2009.



MARTIJN VAN TOL - MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

Martijn van Tol likes to play with photo's, video, audio and drawings and build stories with them. As a multimedia journalist he produces interactive narratives for newspapers, musea and ngo's (World Press Photo, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Oxfam).

His last production Refugee Republic, with drawing artist Jan Rothuizen and photographer Dirk Jan Visser, premiered at the Amsterdam documentary festival IDFA in 2014 and was nominated for the IDFA Doclab award, the Silver Camera award, the Civis Award of the European Parliament, the Dutch Directors Award, the Webby Awards and was selected for the Sheffield Docfest and the Tel Aviv student film festival.

Together with Dutch daily newspaper de Volkskrant Martijn van Tol is developing a scrollytelling interface to make immersive online storytelling more accessible for journalist and photographers.

ABOUT SUBMARINE CHANNEL

Submarine Channel is the world's premiere destination for original transmedia documentaries, fiction, and genre-defying entertainment. The future of storytelling is here. Free Your Screen! From studios in Amsterdam and Los Angeles, Submarine Channel creates fresh content that exploits new technologies to tell stories in visually-exciting, multiple format-friendly ways - including motion comics, online games, interactive documentaries, and video portraits about pioneering creatives from all over the world.

Submarine Channel is part of the multiple award-winning production outfit Submarine, founded in 2000 by Bruno Felix and Femke Wolting, both pioneers in the Dutch media world.



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and interview requests please contact:

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CREDITS



Concept & Drawings
 Concept, Text, Audio, Editing
 Concept, Video, Photography
 Concept, Interactive Developer, Editor
 Interactive Producer
 Interface Design
 Music, compositions and all instruments
 Audio & Colour Correction
 Additional Video Editing
 Studio Assistants
 Text Layout
 Research
 Project Management Iraq
 Interpreter Iraq
 Translators
 Text corrections
 PR
 Producers

Co-Production de Volkskrant

Jan Rothuizen
 Martijn van Tol
 Dirk-Jan Visser
 Aart Jan van der Linden
 Yaniv Wolf
 Christiaan de Rooij
 Bonno Lange
 Joost Wierenga
 Thijs Papôt
 Mark Lohmann, Soeraya Siemons
 Jorgen Koolwijk
 Martin Turner
 Michelle Hamers, Nienke Nauta
 Bahmand Osei
 Peshmerge Morad, Rosie Heinrich
 Wybrand Scheffer & Esther Ottens
 Lotte Niks, Yaniv Wolf
 Bruno Felix & Femke Wolting.
 A Submarine Channel Production 2014
 Laurens Verhagen, Chef Digital de Volkskrant

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REFUGEE REPUBLIC.NL