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Bassam Khabieh: Syrian photojournalist

Bassam Khabieh

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Bassam Khabieh, the 2018 Oak Institute for Human Rights fellow, took photographs for this story in Istanbul while awaiting a visa to allow him to travel to the United States. He arrived at Colby in late September.



Bassam Khabieh is the 2018 Oak Human Rights Fellow at Colby. A Syrian photojournalist, he has documented the conflict there, including the siege of Ghouta, where he and his family lived. An information technology engineer before the Syrian conflict began in 2011, Khabieh began to take photographs when he realized there was no one chronicling the destruction all around him. Working for Reuters, he has taken photographs that focus particularly on the lives and suffering of children caught in the siege. In 2015 he was awarded the Frank Capa Gold Medal for photographic reporting “requiring exceptional courage and enterprise.” His work has been done amidst chemical attacks, airstrikes, car explosions, and cluster bombs; he has endured a number of injuries, even temporarily losing his eyesight. In the photo above, he captures the rescue of an infant who miraculously survived an airstrike from government forces.