

# 2016 – 2018, *Suicides*

digital print, mdf, wood, aluminium profiles

The artist uses photo documentation of suicide attacks over the last few decades. Taken in Indonesia, Russia, Israel and Pakistan, the photographs are juxtaposed with almost identical images featuring the artist's living body in the place of the remains of the perpetrators. The information that accompanies each image comes from the relevant press agency or media hosting the image and is an inseparable part of the project.

Rajkowska uses a format inspired by trivision rotating signs. A predecessor was a 'simultaneous' image of two saints painted on a concertina-like wooden panel so that each was visible from one side only. Instead of layering the images in a photographic collage, this technique emphasizes the difference – in order to see it, you need to change your point of view.

The *Suicides* works are devoid of any ethical imperative, they do not pose questions about the value of life or suggest better solutions, they do not reflect on the complex reasons for the dramatic decision to take one's own life or the lives of other people. The project *Suicides* does not simply diagnose or recount suicide cases. It describes the artist's relationship with the women who committed suicide themselves or sent other women on suicide missions.

According to Rajkowska, the essence of the work is "(...) a feeling of inability. It concerns the inability to feel true empathy, the inability to understand a woman (...) who attempts to destroy herself, at the same time terminating the lives of others. My point is that I have never reached such border, such a state of body and mind. Sitting in a comfortable European country, we can only feel *schadenfreude*, an inner satisfaction that these atrocities do not happen to us.

"When I 'lend' my body to the woman whose body was torn by an explosion, I do not do it for real. Photoshop allows the illusion of presence at the site of the suicide attack; the lighting is set up for the photo shoot, but in reality I am not – and will not be – there. While working on the photo, particularly during the photo session, I realize the difference, the distance and the inability to participate in the act. Art neither brings anything closer nor does it help in anything or 'lend' the body. The only thing that really happens is an act of a profound difference."

[Joanna Rajkowska]

# 2018, *Suicides*

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Dikwa, 11.09.2016 | Nigeria, 77cm x 50cm*





original files



On Sunday 11th September 2016, evening, a suspected female suicide bomber was seen approaching troops check point located at Kara Cattle market axis, Dikwa, towards Antul and Mukdala, Dikwa Local Government Area, Borno State.

She was challenged from afar by the vigilant duty sentry, she refused to stop claiming to be coming from Monguno to see her parents in Dikwa.

Troops sensing the direction of approach was suspicious and abnormal, fired a shot at her and the sentry gallant sentry was proven right as she was carrying a Person Borne Improvised Explosive Device (PBIED) which exploded with a loud bang, killing her instantly and causing minor injury on 2 soldiers and a Civilian JTF assisting them. The injured soldiers and the civilian have been treated and have continued with their duties.

Sani Kukasheka Usman, Abuja

source: link: <http://breaking.com.ng/nigeria/nigerian-troops-kill-female-suicide-bomber-setting-off-her-bomb-graphic-photos/>

# 2018, *Suicides*

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Maiduguri, 16.10.2015 | Nigeria*





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At least 26 people were killed when Suicide Bombers struck the outskirts of Maiduguri in north-east Nigeria on Friday, hours after scores of worshipers were killed in an attack on a nearby mosque. Three female suicide bombers blew themselves up in Mulai village, killing close to 27 people. About 20 people who received various degrees of injuries are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals and medical facilities. The attack was carried out about 5:12 am, when Muslim worshipers were preparing for morning prayers. Four people also died when a female suicide bomber prematurely detonated her bomb in a separate attack. Maiduguri and its environs has been bedeviled by Suicide Bombers since the Nigerian Army increased attacks on the Terrorists and their Camps.  
Maxwell Ashiuloka.

link: <http://www.thebreakingtimes.com/suicide-bombers-invade-boko-haram-borno-26-killed/>

# 2018, *Suicides*

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Baghdad, 3.03.2008 | Iraq*





original files



Samira Ahmed Jassim is seen in a detention facility in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Jan. 27, 2009. The woman, nicknamed "Umm al-Mumineen," suspected of recruiting more than 80 female suicide bombers has been arrested, the Iraqi military said Tuesday Feb. 3, 2009, dealing a major blow to one of the most effective forms of attacks in Iraq. Iraqi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said the suspect had recruited more than 80 women willing to carry out attacks and had admitted masterminding 28 bombings in different areas.

AP Photo/Qassim Abdul-Zahra

# 2018, *Suicides*

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Peshavar, 4.12.2007 | Pakistan*







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A soldier stands next to the body of a suicide bomber in Peshawar December 4, 2007. A woman suicide bomber blew herself up near a military checkpoint in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday, but caused no casualties among the troops, police said.

REUTERS/Ali Imam

# 2018, *Suicides*

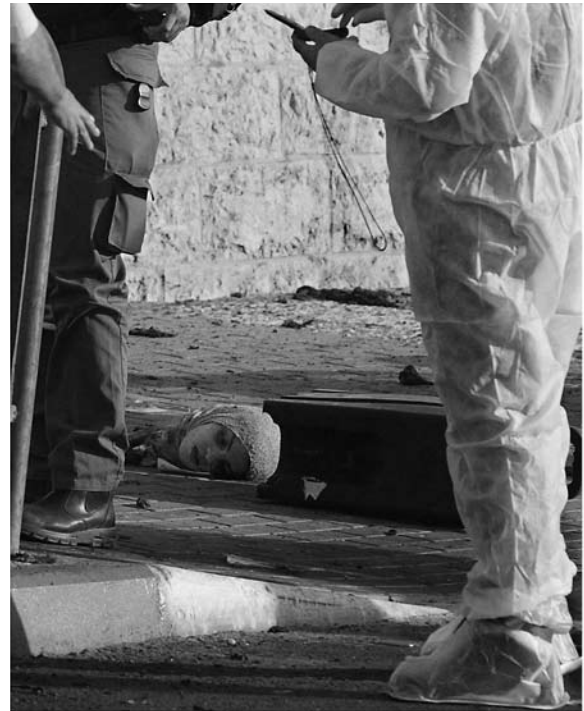
digital print, mdf, wood, aluminium profiles

*Joanna Rajkowska, Jerusalem, 22.09.2004 | Izrael/Palestyna*





original files



The head of a Palestinian female suicide bomber is seen on the pavement as Israeli policemen and forensic experts inspect the scene of the attack which killed two people in Jerusalem 22 September 2004. At least three people were killed, including the attacker, when a young woman blew herself up near a large Jewish district in Jerusalem, Israeli rescue services and police sources said. According to a spokesman for the Magen David Adom rescue service, at least seven other people were wounded in the attack. A spokesman for Zaka, the organisation which recovers body parts after attacks in the Jewish state, said that the victim appeared to be a member of the security services. A spokesman for the radical Palestinian group, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to AFP's offices in the West Bank town of Jenin.

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Tushino, 5.07.2003 | Russian Federation*





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Police tape seals off the body of one of the two suicide bombers at the explosion site at Tushino airfield Saturday 5th July 2003 at the scene of a rock festival. Latest reports say that 18 music fans were killed and 45 injured in a terrorist act at the airfield during the open air rock concert when two suicide bombers blew themselves up. Police found a passport in the name Zalikhan Elikhadjiyeva, 20, born in the Chechen village Kurchaloi, on the body of one of the bombers (seen in picture).

EPA PHOTO/IGOR KUBEDINOV

# 2018, *Suicides*

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*Joanna Rajkowska, Aden, 26.03.2016 | Yemen*





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Yemenis take pictures of body parts on March 26, 2016 at the site of a suicide bomb attack that struck the day before checkpoints of Yemeni loyalist forces in Shaab district, on Aden's western outskirts. Three suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State group killed 22 people, including 10 civilians, a security official said. Two bombs went off simultaneously at separate checkpoints in Shaab district, before gunmen launched an attack on the nearby base of the Saudi-led Arab pro-government coalition which recently turned its guns on jihadists in southern Yemen. A third explosive device planted in an ambulance was detonated at checkpoint near Mansura, in central Aden, the official said.

AFP PHOTO/SALEH ALOBEIDI

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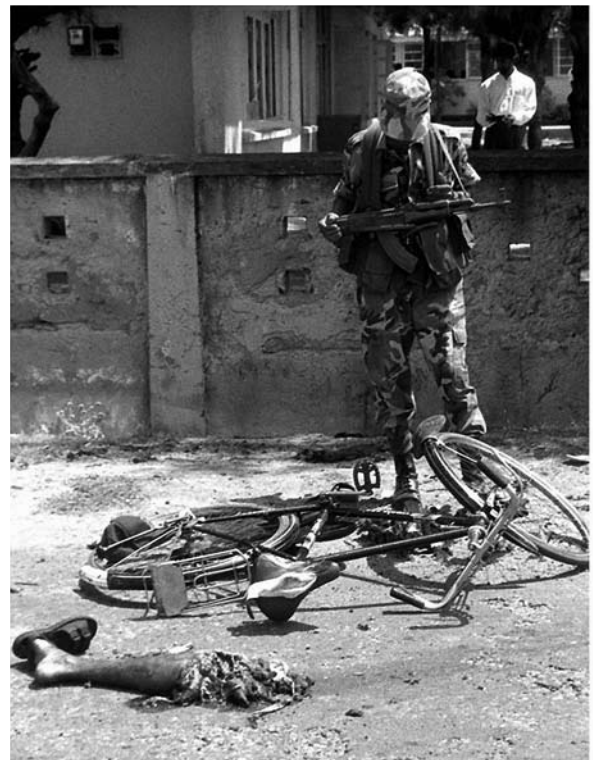
*Joanna Rajkowska, Trincomalee, 2.03.2000 | Sri Lanka*







original files



A Sri Lankan soldier stands guard, 2 March 2000, at the site of a suicide bomb attack in the northeastern town of Trincomalee where limbs of the woman bomber were strewn on the main road in the city centre. A top army officer, who was the intended target of the assassination attempt, escaped unhurt but his driver was killed and two others wounded.

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