

News

A comic chronicle about the life of refugees in the Middle East



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Comic panel. Image: GQ.



"Rolling Blackouts" cover. Image: Amazon.



Sarah Glidden, author of the comic. Photo: Wikipedia.

Sarah Glidden tells her experience from post-war Iraq until civil revolution in Syria through vignettes.

"Rolling Blackouts" is the end result of North American **Sarah Glidden's** trip to Turkey, Syria and Iraq, a comic

book that portrays the life of **refugees** in the Middle East. It all began in 2010, when the young illustrator joined two of her friends in a journalistic nonprofit organisation called [The Seattle Globalist](#). Her original idea was to stick to these two journalists and write a book documenting their work. This book is now 300 pages long and has been edited by [Salamandra Graphic](#).

Previously, in 2011 Glidden had already published an autobiographical report which featured vignettes called *"How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less"*, which made her won the Ignatz award of Best New Talent. The journalistic NGO reporters had the objective of giving refugee's witness to expose **consequences of the Iraq War**. The war in Syria had not started yet and the regime of Bashar El Assad suffered demonstrations by civilians demanding freedom and rights. A childhood friend and former Marine joined the trio, whose service in Iraq provided an unexpected and disconcerting view to both people they met along the way and herself.

What is **journalism**? How are stories spread? When do memories and truth blend? These are some of the questions that the comic addresses, translated into Spanish by [Regina Lopez Muñoz](#). Glidden claims that reporters are only news hunters and shows the difficulty of being independent in this profession. Some characters appearing in the comic are an Iranian blogger, a representative of the United Nations, a taxi driver and an Iraqi expelled from the United States.

This **non-fiction graphic novel** shows the results of several interviews that the artist had with different characters. Her work places her among the most original voices of non-fiction at the time. Other authors have also published graphic reports like Glidden are the alternative comics author [Joe Sacco](#), with his graphic novel *"Notes on the foot of Gaza"* and *"Gorazde: Protected Zone"* or [Guy Delisle](#), with works like *"Pyongyang"*, *"Burma Chronicles"* or *"Reports from Jerusalem"*.

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