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# Mohammad Al Attar

Writer, playwright

## Berlin

Born in 1980 in Damascus  
Studied English Literature at Damascus University, Theatrical Studies at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, Damascus, and Applied Drama at Goldsmiths, University of London

### ARBEITSVORHABEN

## If the Dead Could Speak

A theater piece that traces the long struggle of a group of Syrians for justice. And what is the meaning of justice for them today?

In recent years, several criminal complaints have been filed in Europe against senior officials within the Assad regime. In November 2017, nine Syrians filed a criminal complaint alleging crimes against humanity and war crimes with the German Federal Public Prosecutor General. The complaint is directed against ten high-ranking officials of the National Security Office and Air Force Intelligence. The crimes alleged - killing, persecution, torture, and sexual violence - were committed between September 2011 and June 2014 in five Air Force Intelligence branches in Damascus and Aleppo. In addition, more cases have been filed or are about to be filed in France, Sweden, Spain, and Austria. By seeking legal accountability, these prosecutors are trying to overcome the sense of helplessness and abandonment that is pervasive among exiled Syrians who are scattered across the globe today.

The play is an attempt to explore the relevance of art and theater in contributing to urgent political and legal discussions. Furthermore, it will ask about the meaning of justice today for those who survived the war but now see war criminals still in power in Syria with even more impunity than before. Russia has declared the Syrian regime victorious over the ruins of Syria. On the other hand, none of the other international and regional powers who are actively involved in the proxy war in Syria seem to object, as long as their own interests are protected. So how will Syrians who survived the horrors of oppression and war cope with this harsh reality? Is seeking justice via universal jurisdiction the answer? Or will it only expose the gap between symbolic legal prosecution and political decisions on the ground? And what are the borderlines between the personal and the political for the survivors who filed the complaint? What are their real motivations behind it?

The journey of making the play will include reaching out to some of the victims who filed these legal cases. But it will also include conversations with lawyers and legal organizations that have been working closely together with the complainants.

### Recommended Plays

Al Attar, Mohammad. "Aleppo: A Portrait of Absence." Premiered September 21-23, 2017 at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. [https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2017/why\\_are\\_we\\_here\\_now/why\\_are\\_we\\_here\\_now\\_mohammad\\_al\\_attar/aleppo\\_a\\_portrait\\_of\\_absence\\_mohammad\\_al\\_attar.php](https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2017/why_are_we_here_now/why_are_we_here_now_mohammad_al_attar/aleppo_a_portrait_of_absence_mohammad_al_attar.php).

Al Attar, Mohammad, and Omar Abusaada. "Iphigenie." Premiered September 30, 2017 at the Volksbühne Berlin. <https://www.volksbuehne.berlin/en/programm/27/iphigenie>.

Al Attar, Mohammad, and Omar Abusaada. "The Factory." Premiered August 11-18, 2018 at PACT Zollverein, Essen. Coproduction with the Volksbühne Berlin. <https://www.volksbuehne.berlin/en/programm/4935/the-factory>.

## Neun Jahre, zwei Monate und elf Tage

An einem sonnigen Tag treffen sich Anas und Yasser zufällig in einem Berliner Park. Schon einmal sind sie einander begegnet, in Damaskus vor neun Jahren, zwei Monaten und elf Tagen, an einem schicksalhaften Tag, der ihr Leben radikal verändern sollte. Dennoch hätten sie sich niemals vorstellen können, dass sich ihre Wege erneut kreuzen würden, an einem weit entfernten Ort, in einer Begegnung, die ihr Leben wiederum verändern sollte. Dies ist der Handlungsumriss eines Bühnentextes, an dem ich gerade arbeite. In meinem Vortrag möchte ich die tatsächlichen Ereignisse erörtern, die mich zu diesem Text angeregt haben, dazu zählt ein aktuelles Gerichtsverfahren in Deutschland. Ich möchte Sie auch an der Mühsal des Schreibens eines Textes teilhaben lassen, in dem ich den Begriff der Gerechtigkeit durch die Verschmelzung von dokumentarischen und imaginären Elementen zu dekonstruieren suche, oder vielmehr über die Unmöglichkeit sprechen, ein Theaterstück über die Unmöglichkeit von Gerechtigkeit zu schreiben.

Al Attar, Mohammad (Gent,2022)

Catalogue of resistance

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1814916520>

Al Attar, Mohammad (Gent,2022)

Theatrer's open endings

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1806735881>

Al Attar, Mohammad (2021)

Conversation with contemporary playwright Mohammad Al Attar

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1806739690>

Al Attar, Mohammad (2020)

A constant journey of doubt and experimentation

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1806243520>

Al Attar, Mohammad (Berlin,2018)

The factory : a play ; english draft

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1764228715>

Al Attar, Mohammad (S.l.,2017)

Aleppo : a portrait of absence

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1772132098>

Al Attar, Mohammad (S.l.,2017)

Aleppo : a portrait of absence

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1772131830>

Al Attar, Mohammad (Berlin,2017)

Creating art in time of crises : between market trends, moral acts and political involvement

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1764226356>

Al Attar, Mohammad (2014)

Und jetzt bitte direkt in die Kamera : ein Theaterstück in 19 Akten ; Auszug

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1806245418>

Al Attar, Mohammad (2014)

Theater in Zeiten des Krieges : Einführung in das Theaterstück "Und jetzt bitte direkt in die Kamera"

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1806244454>