

THE HUMAN STRUGGLE

FOREWORD, PARTING THOUGHTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY HOWARD G. BUFFETT

ISBN 978-0-9990207-0-8
Library of Congress Card Number 2017942281

© 2017 The Howard G. Buffett Foundation
145 N. Merchant Street
Decatur, IL 62523



Countries represented in this book.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Afghanistan | Ecuador | Lesotho | Rwanda |
| Algeria | Egypt | Liberia | Senegal |
| Angola | El Salvador | Libya | Sierra Leone |
| Armenia | Equatorial Guinea | Madagascar | Somalia |
| Bangladesh | Eritrea | Malawi | South Africa |
| Belarus | Ethiopia | Malaysia | South Sudan |
| Belize | Gabon | Mali | Sudan |
| Bolivia | Georgia | Mauritania | Swaziland |
| Bosnia | Ghana | Mexico | Syria |
| Botswana | Guatemala | Mozambique | Tajikistan |
| Brazil | Haiti | Namibia | Tanzania |
| Burundi | Honduras | Nepal | The Gambia |
| Cameroon | Hungary | Nicaragua | Togo |
| Central African Republic | India | Niger | Tunisia |
| Chad | Iran | Nigeria | Turkey |
| China | Iraq | North Korea | Uganda |
| Colombia | Israel | Pakistan | United States of America |
| Cuba | Italy | Papua New Guinea | Vietnam |
| Czech Republic | Ivory Coast | Paraguay | Yemen |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Kenya | Peru | Zambia |
| Djibouti | Kyrgyzstan | Romania | |



Photo: Laura Parker

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

FOREWORD

The first time I had any experience with a military conflict was when I was 14 years old. I traveled to Czechoslovakia in 1969 (page 70), about nine months after the Soviet Union invaded and occupied the country. Back then I was aware only of the inconveniences of conflict; I would not comprehend the human tragedy until much later in life.

Nearly 30 years later, in early 1997, I went to Bosnia, as the conflict was ending. I met people who lost loved ones, people who lost arms and legs to landmines, and people who lost their homes and all of their possessions. It made a lasting impression.

Our Foundation has worked in a number of countries experiencing conflict or emerging from conflict: Afghanistan, Bosnia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Sudan. These countries and their neighbors often grapple with large populations of internally displaced people, refugees and high rates of extreme poverty. I consider Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico to be countries in conflict due to the presence of organized criminal elements that control large parts of these countries—gangs in Central America and drug cartels in Mexico. Many people in these countries experience violence and live in fear. The most difficult places are those where conflict is so persistent that it is considered the norm.

I have learned, and in some cases witnessed, how inhumane people can be to one another. Actions that are unimaginable. And yet for millions of people, fear of the unimaginable is something they live with every day of their lives.

Part of my journey in understanding conflict has been to document its effects through photography. These photos only tell part of the story—when I look at them, I fill in the blanks in my mind, recalling the sights just outside of view, the smells, the sounds, the emotions and the many conversations. This book has children working in diamond mines; kids picking through garbage for a meal; children carrying loads most adults could not carry; young women who have turned to prostitution for survival; victims of modern day slavery; individuals displaced by militia groups; families rationing food assistance; children who cannot attend school because of violence. Conflict magnifies and perpetuates every difficulty a person can experience.



Photo: Howard W. Buffett

AFGHANISTAN



Photo: Jane Olson

BOSNIA

The photograph on the adjoining page is the only image I have included in this book that is not mine. It was taken by Anja Niedringhaus, a friend who was shot and killed in Afghanistan while on assignment to cover the presidential elections for the Associated Press. She provided it to me years ago to include in my book *Fragile: The Human Condition*. I am including it here as a tribute to Anja and to all of the journalists who take risks every day to capture images and record events that should demand the world's attention.

Many places in the world are difficult, and this book reflects reality. The World Bank estimates there are two billion people in the world whose lives are affected by conflict and violence. We cannot ignore them; we must be committed to improving the human condition for everyone. Bearing witness is an important first step.

**“I CAN’T CHANGE EVERYTHING. I
CAN’T SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM,
BUT I’VE GOT TO DO AS MUCH AS
I CAN IN THE TIME FRAME THAT I
HAVE TO DO IT.”**

There is also hope captured in these images: in the smiles of the children in refugee camps or at food distributions. They prove to me time and again the strength and resilience of the human spirit.



Photo: Anja Niedringhaus

BOSNIA



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANISTAN



ALGERIA



ANGOLA



ANGOLA



ANGOLA



ANGOLA



ANGOLA



ARMENIA



ARMENIA



ARMENIA



ARMENIA



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH



BELARUS



BELARUS



BELIZE



BELIZE



BOLIVIA



BOSNIA



BOSNIA



BOSNIA

BOSNIA





BOSNIA



BOTSWANA



BRAZIL



BURUNDI



BURUNDI



CAMEROON



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC



CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC



CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHAD



CHINA



CHINA



CHINA



CHINA



COLOMBIA



COLOMBIA



COLOMBIA



CUBA



CZECH REPUBLIC



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



DJIBOUTI



ECUADOR



EGYPT



EGYPT

EL SALVADOR





EL SALVADOR



EL SALVADOR



EL SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR





EL SALVADOR



EQUATORIAL GUINEA



EQUATORIAL GUINEA



ERITREA



ERITREA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



ETHIOPIA



GABON



GABON



GEORGIA



GEORGIA



GHANA



GHANA

GHANA





GHANA

GUATEMALA





GUATEMALA



GUATEMALA



HAITI



HONDURAS



HONDURAS



HUNGARY



HUNGARY



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA



IRAN



IRAQ



ISRAEL



ISRAEL



ITALY



ITALY



IVORY COAST



IVORY COAST



KENYA



KENYA



KENYA



KENYA



KENYA



KENYA



KYRGYZSTAN



KYRGYZSTAN



LESOTHO



LESOTHO



LIBERIA



LIBERIA

LIBYA





LIBYA



MADAGASCAR



MADAGASCAR



MADAGASCAR



MADAGASCAR



MALAWI



MALAWI



MALAYSIA



MALAYSIA



MALI



MALI



MALI



MALI



MAURITANIA



MAURITANIA



MEXICO



MEXICO



MEXICO



MEXICO



MEXICO

MAY-29-2006 09:11A DE :CAMINO A CASA

662209E600 (121)

A:49*0763*90163131229F,2



CONFERENCIA NACIONAL DE PROCURACIÓN DE JUSTICIA
REGISTRO NACIONAL DE NIÑOS EXTRAVIADOS, SUSTRAIDOS O AUSENTES

¡AYÚDANOS A ENCONTRARLA!

PGR
PROCURADURÍA
GENERAL
DE LA REPÚBLICA

Denisse Cenobio García



| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| SEXO: | Femenino |
| EDAD: | 4 años 8 meses |
| ESTATURA: | 1,10 Mts. |
| COMPLEXIÓN: | Dolgada |
| TEZ: | Morana Clara |
| CARA: | Ovalada |
| TIPO CABELLO | Lacio |
| COLOR CABELLO: | Castaño Oscuro |
| FRENTE: | Mediana |
| CEJAS: | Semipopladas |
| TIPO DE OJOS: | Grandes |
| COLOR OJOS: | Cafe Oscuro |
| NARIZ: | Recta |
| BOCA: | Pequeña |
| LABIOS: | Dulces |
| MENTON: | Ovalado |

B3-1/06

SEÑAS PARTICULARES:

En la frente cicatriz pequeña, en la pierna izquierda un lunar pequeño.

LUGAR Y FECHA DE EXTRAVÍO:

Barrio Tejedores, Chimalhuacan, Estado de México
el día 30 de marzo de 2006.

FECHA DE NACIMIENTO

03/09/2001 **EXPEDIENTE:**

161/EXT/20

CUALQUIER INFORMACIÓN FAVOR DE REPORTARLA A LOS TELÉFONOS :
53-46-42-68
EN EL DISTRITO FEDERAL

01-800-00-252-00
DEL INTERIOR DE LA REPÚBLICA SIN COSTO

VIA INTERNET A LA DIRECCIÓN ELECTRÓNICA servscom@pgr.gob.mx
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE PREVENCIÓN DEL
DELITO Y SERVICIOS A LA COMUNIDAD

ESTE SERVICIO LO PROPORCIONA LA PGR EN FORMA GRATUITA, SIN INTERMEDIARIOS. INCLUYE INTERNET

Mendez R

MEXICO

MOZAMBIQUE





MOZAMBIQUE



NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA



NEPAL



NEPAL



NICARAGUA



NICARAGUA



NIGER



NIGER



NIGER



NIGERIA



NORTH KOREA



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



PARAGUAY



PARAGUAY



PARAGUAY



PERU



ROMANIA



ROMANIA



RWANDA



RWANDA



SENEGAL



SENEGAL

SENEGAL





SENEGAL



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SIERRA LEONE



SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA



SOMALIA



SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN





SOUTH SUDAN



SOUTH SUDAN



SOUTH SUDAN



SOUTH SUDAN



SOUTH SUDAN



SUDAN



SUDAN



SWAZILAND



SWAZILAND



SYRIA



TAJIKISTAN



TANZANIA



TANZANIA



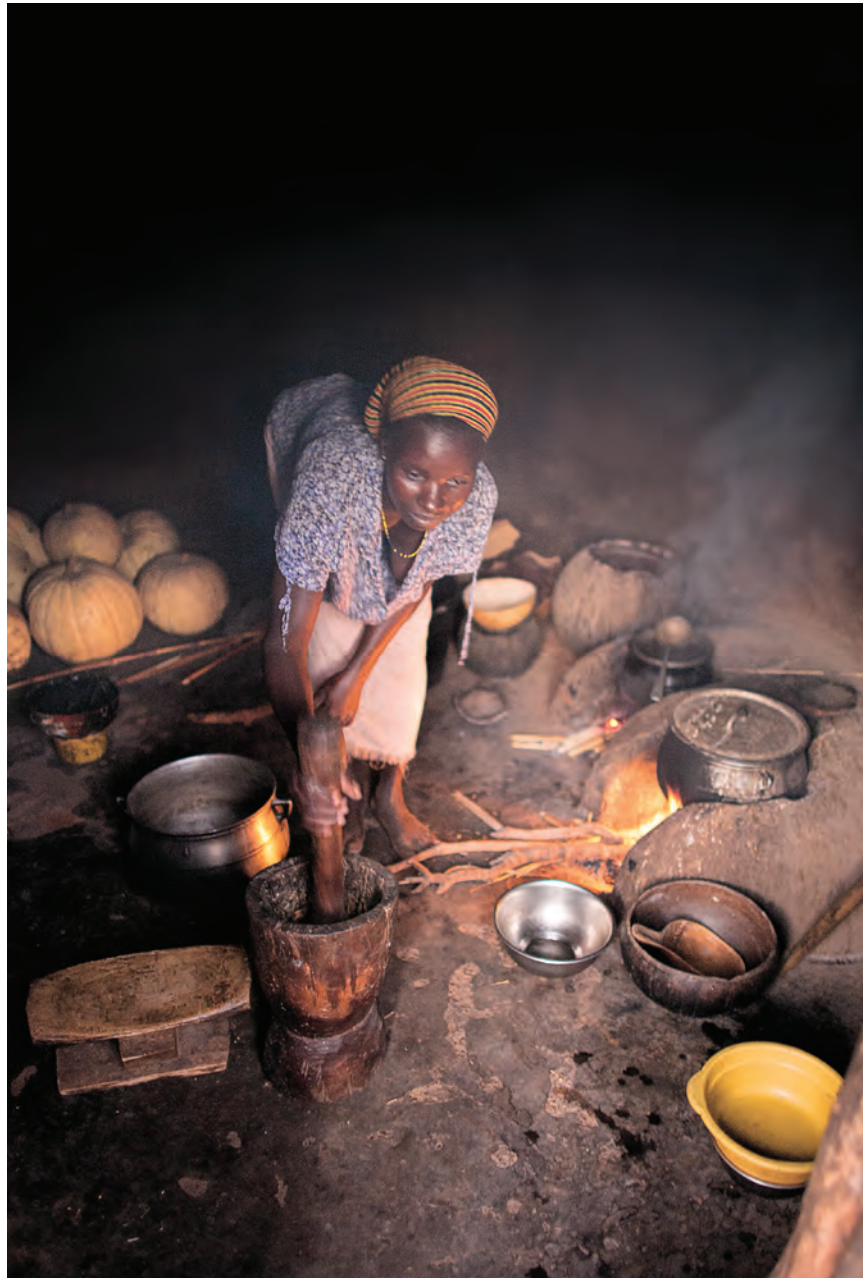
THE GAMBIA



THE GAMBIA



TOGO



TOGO



TUNISIA



TURKEY



UGANDA



UGANDA



UGANDA



UGANDA



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA





UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



VIETNAM



VIETNAM



YEMEN



YEMEN



ZAMBIA



Photo: Shannon Sedgwick Davis

SOMALIA

IMAGES CAN HELP TELL POWERFUL STORIES, BUT THEY DO NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS.

By Howard G. Buffett

I have traveled to many conflict and post-conflict areas. The greatest devastation is not the physical destruction of buildings and homes, it is the emotional toll on the people left behind and the fear they feel regarding what comes next.

In post-conflict Sierra Leone, I have interviewed young men and women mining for diamonds, living on the hope of finding one stone that could change their lives. It is a false hope. It is rare to find much of anything and what they do recover is filtered through buyers and middlemen who pay them little.



SIERRA LEONE

Photo: Jeannie O'Donnell

Yet, many people live on this false hope without ever having an opportunity to escape the circumstances that keep them poor.

Few people are aware that the average refugee camp is operational for 17 years. Camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are a complete disruption to normal life. The challenges in these camps are enormous: inadequate food and water; minimal or no health care; no formal education for children; and no opportunity to work. These conditions can persist for months and years, undermining the futures of an entire generation. Refugee and IDP camps are meant to be temporary solutions to crises but there is a single factor that makes a temporary solution a near permanent reality in certain parts of the world: the absence of rule of law.

The enduring presence of refugees and IDPs are the most visible examples of a lack of rule of law. However, sexual abuse, domestic violence, daily criminal activity and corrupt and failing justice systems are what keep people poor. The United Nations has noted that most poor people live outside the protection of the law. In most communities, poor people do not benefit from law enforcement and in most of the countries represented in this book, rich people simply buy protection through private security while everyone else continues to suffer.

Today, despite a half-century of global anti-poverty programs, there are more people enslaved than at any other time in human history. It is estimated that 35 million people, or the population equivalent of Canada, live in slavery. This can only occur when you are subjected to corrupt and failing justice systems.



Photo: Dan Cooper

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

I have been held at gun point in Central African Republic and Ethiopia, arrested in Bosnia, and detained for several days in Congo. There was no due process, no “one phone call” or 911 number to call. These incidents were a result of drunken military personnel, unchecked police officers abusing their powers and corrupt institutions.

Having these kinds of experiences is illuminating, but then again, I got to return home in each case. Imagine living in this type of environment every day of your life. Most of us cannot.

I remember visiting a woman in Sierra Leone; she described how she fled her village with her children when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) started shooting people. They survived for weeks in the forest, eating bark and leaves to try and fill their empty stomachs; not everyone survived.

I once got up the courage to ask a mother in Zambia if she had lost any children to hunger. She said yes and painfully explained that she had faced the choice of which child to feed, based on who was more likely to survive. I remember holding the hand of a mother in a small rural hospital in northern Ghana as she watched her daughter’s life slipping away from malnutrition and malaria. I couldn’t speak her language, but it didn’t matter. This child would have lived if she had access to the basic healthcare most of us take for granted in the Western world.

Years ago, I visited a small farming village in southern Sudan. I asked the elders to tell me about the greatest challenge they faced. I expected them to talk about farming and their need for better seeds or more fertilizer. Instead, they answered in unison: “the LRA” (Lord’s Resistance Army). At the time, I had never heard of the LRA or Joseph Kony.

As I sat on an old tree stump, these men described how the LRA would move through their village, steal their crops, burn their homes, rape the women and kidnap their children. I remember my first reaction was to wonder how this kind of violence and lawlessness could continue unchecked; then I realized there were no police, no military, no functioning justice system to help — no rule of law. These people were on their own.

Almost 15 years later, I had an opportunity to involve our foundation in a humanitarian effort to rescue victims of the LRA. This experience taught me two things: how little I knew about what goes on in distant places in the world, and that 15 years after I first heard of the LRA, they were continuing to terrorize people—meaning nothing had changed. The amount of people still living in slavery, fear, persecution, and violence is enormous and should be unacceptable to all us given the modern era that we live in today.

In the photo on page 270 I am with a group of Ugandan soldiers who are part of a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. When we arrived in Mogadishu, we were told that because of bomb attacks the previous day, our travel was restricted. We moved in Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, wore armored vests, and the area we could travel through was very limited. We visited a bombed-out building that was being used as a staging area by the soldiers. The dozens of weapons, ammunition, and communications devices laying on the ground were the result of a successful raid on insurgents the day before. When we returned to the base, one of the guys asked if we wanted to stay the night. I looked at the shipping containers covered with sand bags and politely declined. I had the choice to leave; none of the Somalis I photographed that day had that choice.

Most people reading this live in an environment governed by functioning rule of law. We make many assumptions every day because we know help is a phone call away. We have someone to call for safety or medical reasons and we trust that we will quickly get the help we need. Almost no one shown in these pages can call anyone, for anything.

Images can help tell powerful stories, but they do not solve problems. They are a message, not a solution. I hope this message is one you cannot ignore and you are moved to action. It doesn't matter how small or how large your action, what matters is that you care enough to pay attention and demand change.



UGANDA