



World Press Photo of the Year: "Children, victims of land mines, Angola" – 1996, Francesco Zizola, Italy, Agenzia Contrasto. This photograph was shot in Kuito near a centre for children traumatised by war. To date, 70 000 Angolans (8 000 of them children) have been disabled by exploding landmines.

The winning picture

This year's jury came to the decision that they wanted a picture "which speaks not just of the past, but of the future", according to the chairman, Neil Burgess. "If Zizola's picture makes people think again about the inheritance of the nine million uncharted land mines which we are leaving to our children, then something will have been achieved."

Francesco Zizola, was born in Italy in 1962. He studied anthropology at Rome University and took up photography in 1982. He is working on a photographic project called "Heirs of the Year 2000" which he



says is "an attempt to explain what it is like to be a child on the threshold of the third millennium".

Of his winning photograph he says: "The story of the anti-personnel mines scattered all over Angola confronts us Italians with the fact that we produce and sell these cowardly devices."

"Italy is one of the biggest producers of anti-personnel mines in the world."



Portraits First Prize: "Gail Devers" – 1996, Joseph McNally, US, Life Magazine.

The World Press Photo jury receive 35 650 photographs from 3 663 photographers in 119 countries for this year's competition. "Their variety and quality were unsurpassed," said Neil Burgess, chairman of the 1997 jury.

"The globalisation in recent years of media interests and the vast corporations that now run these media are a far cry from the publishers and newspaper barons of old. What this new breed of publisher is interested in is the bottom line of the balance sheet – not the quality of the journalism. It is clear that the large profits generated by the multinational corporations are not channelled back into journalism, but into other ventures. At the same time editors across the world complain that they are being starved of editorial resources."

"In this climate, the most important thing the World Press Photo Award does is honour professional photographers."

"Those of us who work as photojournalists know that they can be opinionated, egotistical and irascible, and that they have complex and even dysfunctional personalities. But we forgive them for most of this, because they bring to our lives something we could never experience first-hand, with an intensity and clarity of perception that can change our understanding of the world and sometimes even our lives."

"Photojournalism endures."



ABOVE: World Press Photo Children's Award: Hortense, Puerto Rico, 10 September –

TOP, RIGHT: Spot News/Stories First Prize

BOTTOM, RIGHT: General News/Stories

November – 1996, Yungih Kim, US, Con

and will endure because of the singular experience it provides."

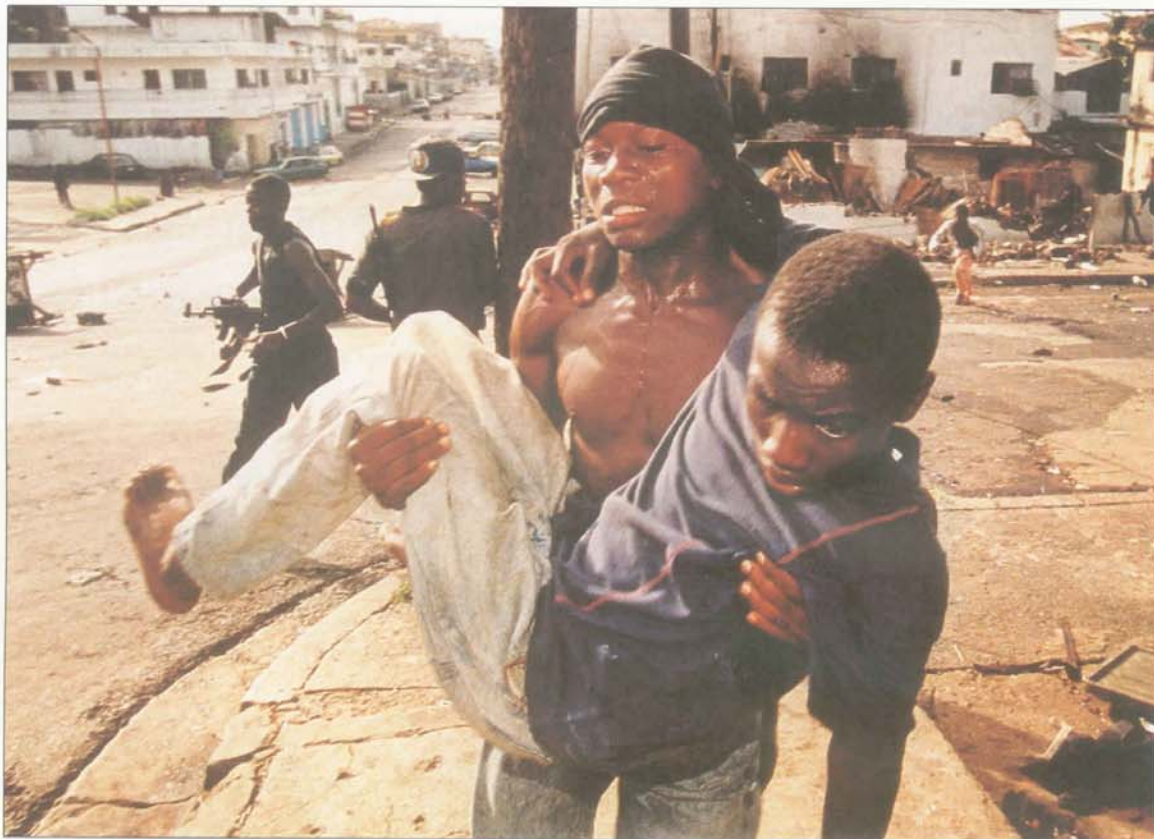
The World Press Photo Foundation is an independent platform for international press photography founded in 1955. Each year the foundation holds the World Press Photo of the Year Contest and a corresponding yearbook and exhibition.

An independent international jury consisting of nine members judges the thousands of entries submitted by photojournalists, agencies, newspapers and magazines from all over the world. Since 1983 there has been a children's jury which separately selects the World Press Photo Children's Award (this year won by John McConnico of Associated Press).

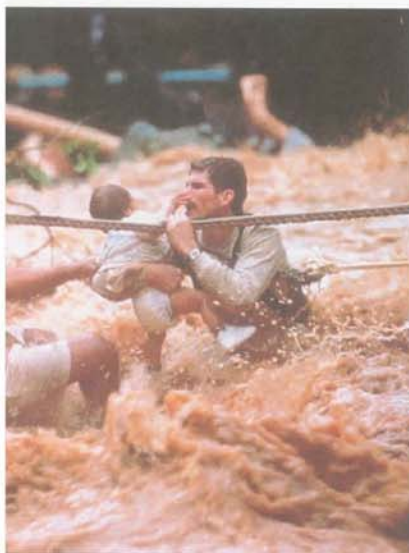
The foundation organises debates and seminars to further the professionalism of photojournalism and to promote the free flow of information worldwide.

This year 47 South African photographers submitted work to the competition. But their selections were not included in the judges' final selection, meaning that South Africans do not get to see their work in the exhibition which tours the world.

From next year, Richard Steyn of the Standard Bank, has announced that in addition to sponsoring the World Press Photo Exhibition the bank will also host an exhibition of the South African photographers' work at the Castle in Cape Town.



World PRESS Photos



rd: "Rescue from floodwaters caused by Hurricane 96. John McConnico, US, Associated Press.

; "Liberia, April-May" - 1996, Corinne Dufka, US, Reuters.

irst Prize: "Rwandan refugees return from Zaire, ct Press Images.

