

STATE OF THE WORLD 2024

7th Annual Edition (2024)

A Curated Selection of Photographic Essays

PX3

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Founder: Hossein Farmani
Program Director: Hannah Lillethun
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1318 E, 7th St., Suite 140, Los Angeles, CA
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L'ETAT DU MONDE 2024

STATE OF THE WORLD 2024

Chaque année, j'ai l'honneur et le privilège de passer en revue les sujets envoyés par des photographes aux quatre coins du monde. Cette année, de nombreux sujets sont alarmants, reflétant la dure réalité du monde dans lequel nous vivons. Chaque sujet partagé avec nous a son propre intérêt - capturé par des photographes qui documentent des lieux où ils vivent ou ont voyagé. Malheureusement, je n'ai pu sélectionner que 33 sujets à exposer.

En Afrique, en proie au désespoir, nous assistons au rêve d'un jeune homme rêvant d'économiser suffisamment pour émigrer vers une vie meilleure, alors que nombre de migrants perdent la vie de manière tragique en mer. Nous sommes témoins de la résilience ces communautés queer, luttant pour être acceptées. Aux Etats-Unis, dévotion religieuse et aux armes se juxtaposent, côte à côte avec la faim, la pauvreté, et les manifestations contre les massacres commis en Palestine. L'Amérique du Sud présente les traditions de ses peuples autochtones et les horribles rouages de la traite d'êtres humains. Le continent Antarctique est en déclin sous le coup des effets de la crise climatique.

Au Moyen-Orient, l'attention est concentrée sur le le conflit entre Israël et la Palestine. La gestion des déchets est de plus en plus problématique, alors que des personnes sont contraintes de fouiller dans des décharges pour gagner leur vie. Dans les Sundarbans, dans le Delta du Gange, les femmes sont livrées à elles-mêmes alors que les hommes partent en recherche d'emploi. Le photographe Robert Lie nous laisse entrevoir l'envers du décor à Dubai, en nous montrant Al Satwa, scène des rêves brisés des travailleurs migrants.

Nous terminons en Europe, où dévotion extrême, solitude et pénurie de logement se côtoient. Malgré les ravages de la guerre en Ukraine, les population Roms s'efforcent de perpétuer la richesse de leur culture et de leurs traditions. Enfin, de nombreuses manifestants sortent dans les rues au sujet du conflit israelo-palestinien.

J'espère que ces reportages, sans manipulation ni biais politique, vous permettront de mieux comprendre le monde dans lequel nous vivons. Je vous encourage à partager ces images avec vos proches, dans l'espoir qu'elles suscitent compassion et une meilleure appréciation des valeurs communes qui nous unissent, plutôt que de se concentrer sur ce qui nous divise.

Hossein Farmani, curateur de l'Etat du Monde 2024

Each year, I have the honor and privilege of reviewing stories submitted by photographers from around the globe. This year, many of the submissions have been especially heartbreaking, reflecting the state of the world we live in. Every story shared with us is significant—captured by photographers documenting the places where they live or have traveled. Unfortunately, I could only select 33 to showcase in our global exhibition.

In Africa, where hopes often fade, we see a young man dreaming of saving enough to migrate for a better life, while many refugees tragically lose their lives at sea. We witness the resilience of queer communities, fighting for acceptance. In America, there's the juxtaposition of devotion to God and guns, alongside hunger and poverty, and protests against massacres in Palestine. South America presents the traditions of indigenous peoples and we are confronted with the horrible reality of human trafficking. In Antarctica, we witness the environmental crisis and the decline of the continent.

In Asia, particularly the Middle East, the world's focus remains on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We also see massive waste problems, with people sifting through garbage to make a living. In the Sunderbans of the Ganges Delta, women fend for themselves while the men leave in search of work. Photographer Robert Lie gives us a glimpse of another side of luxury in Dubai, showing us Al Satwa, where the shattered dreams of migrant workers play out.

Our last stop is Europe, where we encounter ferocious devotion alongside homelessness and loneliness. Though the war in Ukraine has taken a severe toll on its people, the Ukrainian Roma still hold on to their rich culture and traditions in this challenging world. We also see widespread demonstrations from Palestinians and Israelis.

I hope that these stories, captured through the lens of photographers without manipulation or political bias, help you better understand the world we live in. I encourage you to share these images with those around you, in the hope that they foster compassion and appreciation for the shared values that unite us, rather than focusing on what divides us.

No Woman's Land
Veronique de Viguerie



Twenty years of Afghan women persecution either because of conservatism, religion or lately the profoundly misogynistic Taliban Regime. Afghan women are losing their dreams one after the other, being stripped of their most basic rights. But they don't give up, protesting, fighting back, organizing clandestine schools.

Postcards From Albania

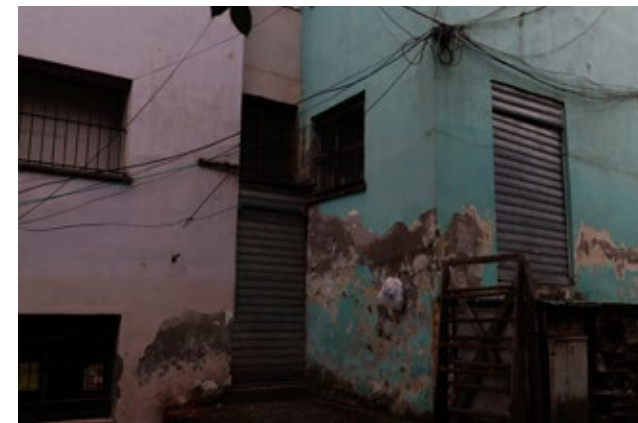
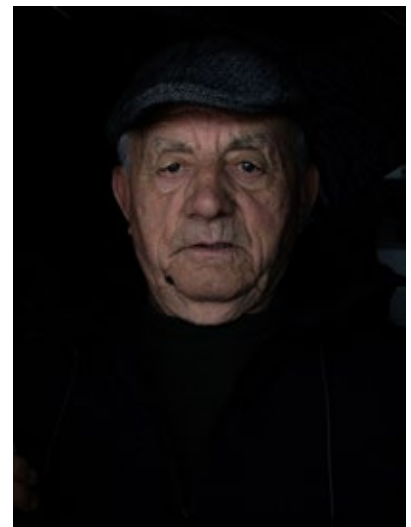
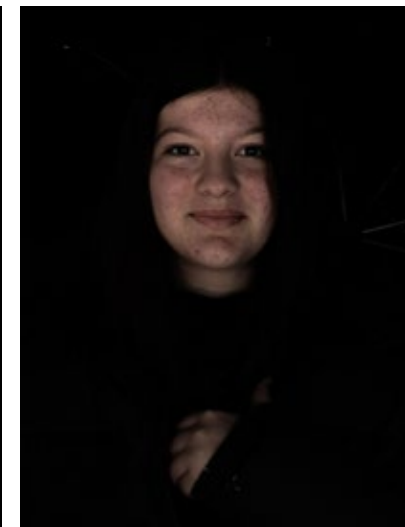
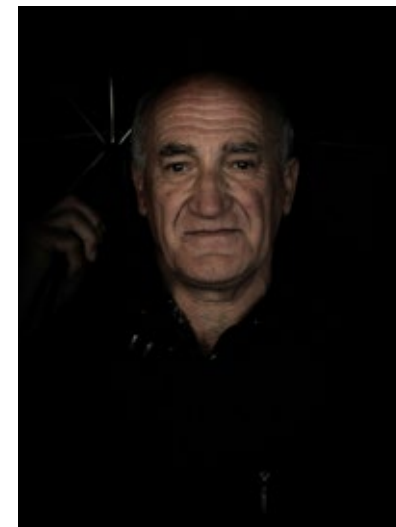
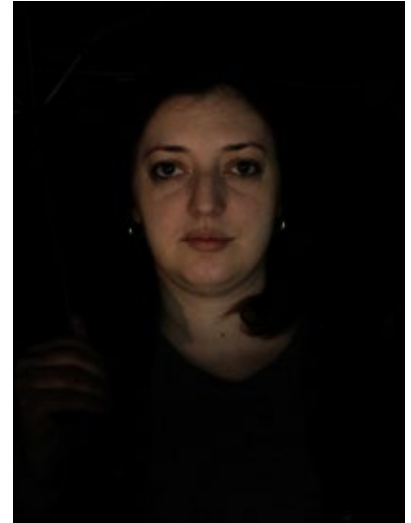
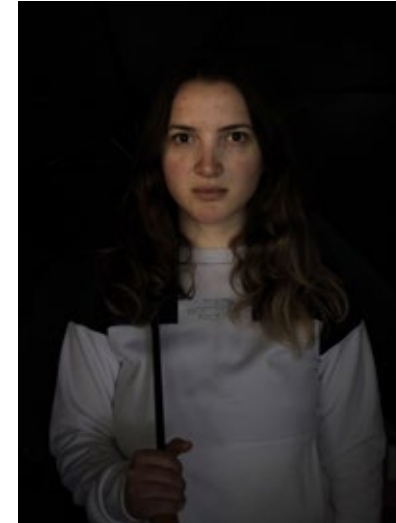
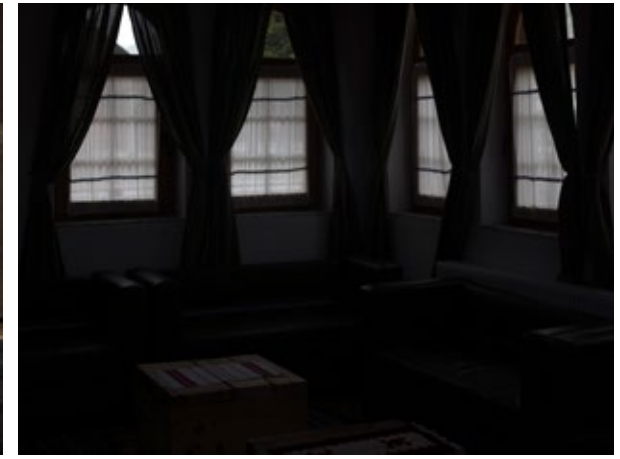
Mieke Douglas



Everyone we meet in the northern Albanian town of Bajram Curri has stories of a brother, a sister, a cousin, a friend who has left in search of a better life or to provide for their families.

Unemployment in Albania is widespread. Remote northern towns like this one have been disproportionately affected. Driven by desperate poverty and hopelessness for the future, more than a million Albanians (mostly men of working age) have left, to find opportunities abroad.

This is the story of those who have remained. Portraits of ordinary people I encountered on the street and the area they live in.



The Wrong Side of Freedom

João Coelho



Abandoned buildings are home to many youths in Luanda. They were forced to be outcasts and live on the run from the police. Some escaped from orphanages where they were mistreated, others were thrown out of their homes by their parents. They survive precariously in a city that has always been hostile to them and has never given them opportunities for a normal life. Drugs are part of their daily lives, helping them to stave off hunger and tolerate the fevers caused by malaria. But their worst enemy is the police, who constantly chase them and want to expel them to a place that doesn't exist.



The Decline of the Sixth Continent

Michel Groleau

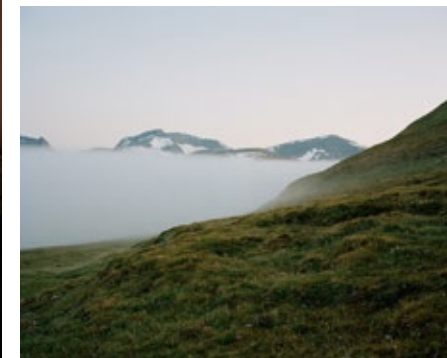


The white surface of the Antarctic ice cap has been protecting Earth for millions of years. By reflecting most of the sun's energy back into space, it acts as a protective shield and contributes to cooling our planet. For millennia a fragile balance has been maintained, the sea ice growing and receding with the seasons. This is no more the case now. Antarctica is the place where the temperature is increasing most steeply in the world: the vicious circle has begun. Inexorable global warming risks ensuing since the 6th continent plays a regulatory role in the climate of the entire planet.



Borealia

Peter Holliday



Myths about the Arctic have persisted for centuries. When the Dutch cartographer Willem Barentsz first set sail for the Northeast Passage in the summer of 1594, he believed the Arctic Ocean would be ice-free, since the sun shone for 24 hours a day. To the contrary, his expedition reached as far as Novaya Zemlya, before being forced to turn back due to unfavourable ice conditions. It is histories such as these that raise many challenging questions about how the Far North is imagined in the 21st-century during a moment of profound environmental crisis.

Climate Injustice

Alain Schroeder



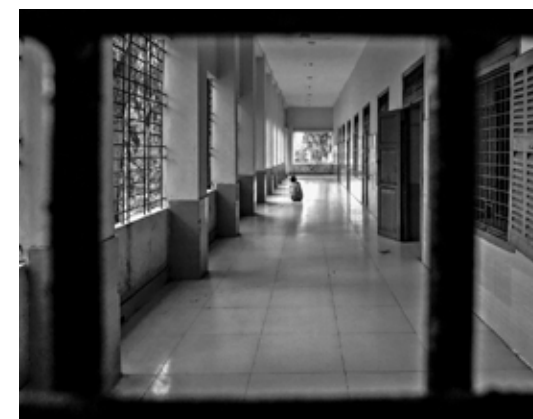
Bangladesh is severely impacted by climate change and its intensifying consequences. More frequent droughts, floods, powerful cyclones, melting Himalayan glaciers exacerbating riverbank erosion, rising sea levels threatening coastlines and increasing the salinity of rivers and soil, are causing significant losses in crops, property, and human lives.

Climate events also lead to escalating unemployment and poverty. Forced internal migrations are becoming commonplace, with approximately 2,000 people arriving in (already overcrowded) Dhaka daily. Many climate migrants end up in urban slums.

Whispers of the Forgotten
MD Rashid Un Nabi



In the small town called Pabna, nestled in the western side of Bangladesh and established in 1957, lies an imposing institution known as Pabna Mental Hospital. This venerable hospital, encircled by rivers has a storied past filled with both despair and healing, its walls bearing witness to countless tales of suffering and recovery.



Flood

Prashanta Hridoy



Heavy rains and rush of water from upstream in India's northeast have started flooding Habiganj, after Sunamganj and Sylhet have been submerged. Electricity and communication have been cut of the Sunamganj upazilas. Closure of many schools as they have been turned into makeshift flood shelters, and vast areas being inundated, with locals saying the flood is worse than the ones they experienced in 1998 and 2004. Floods of higher magnitude caused by heavy rain upstream in Meghalaya-Cherrapunji have surpassed most records of the past. 40 lakh people stranded in Sylhet, Sunamganj flood 2022.

Railway Community

Steff Gruber



Over 300 families live in Phnom Penh's "Kilometer 6" commune, which is located alongside railway tracks. The families live in self-built shacks, usually consisting of a single room. Because of the lack of space, the residents spread out over the train tracks during the day, which are still in use. Every time they hear the train horns, they quickly gather up their cooking utensils, chairs, sunshades and children to clear the track. Like many landless poor Phnom Penh families, the Railway Community faces eviction, as the authorities are planning to build a concrete road along the railway line.



Dying of Hunger and Thirst in La Guajira

Antonio Cascio



La Guajira, in the north of Colombia, is witnessing an humanitarian crisis with an high number of child deaths from malnutrition among the Wayuu indigenous communities. Historically abandoned by institutions, inhabitants live in an extremely poor condition. The lack of water in this desertic region, intensified by the El Niño phenomenon, makes the Wayuu existence even more challenging. In addition, the difficulty of accessing the health system increases the chance of dying from diseases, especially for minors. In 2023, 70 children died due to acute malnutrition in La Guajira.

Behind Dreams

Robert Lie



Dubai is famous as one of the greatest city in the world. Everything in Dubai is assumed as luxury and great in the world. We can not denied that Dubai is great place to live in and became new American Dreams. Dubai is a living dream city with many great expectation for many people. But just few kilometers inside luxurious Dubai, we can see different place that different what we think. It was a palace where immigrants live and from there they became part of global Dubai. These all pictures were taken in Al Satwa, where many community gathers here.



Hope in Her Hands: A Young Voice for Peace

Esra Belgin

"There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in"

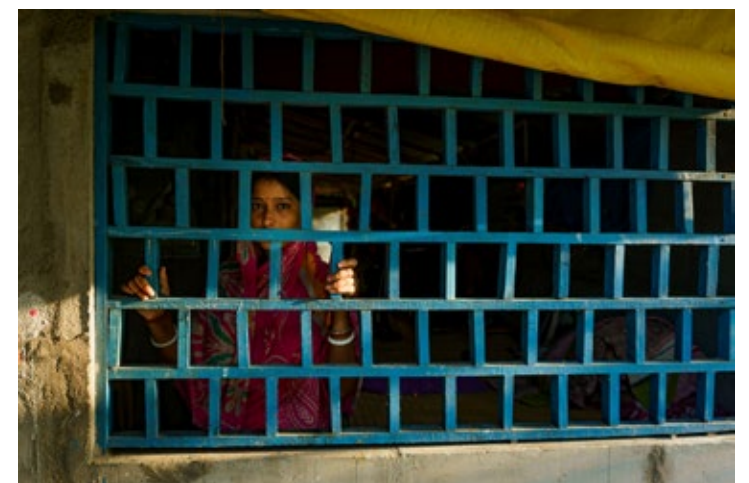
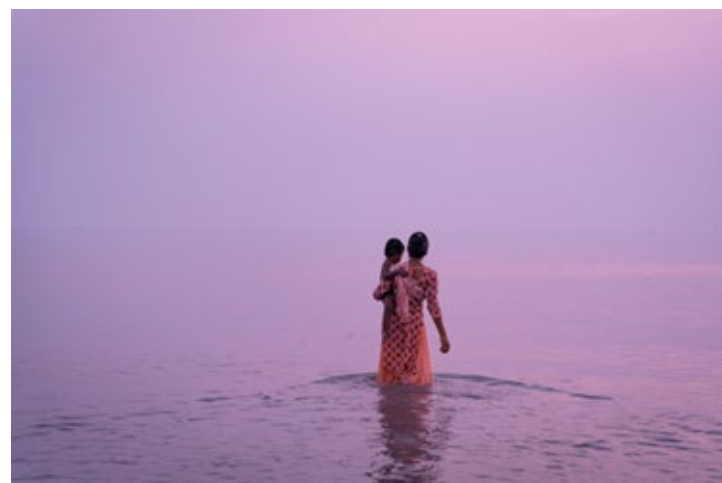
Leonard Cohen, lyrics from Anthem

I captured this moment at the pro-Palestine demonstration in Munich last May. The world bears witness as thousands of innocent lives, many of them children, are being brutally taken. I was moved by the sight of hundreds of children, Jews, and elders standing together hand in hand in the crowd. In their eyes, I saw the promise of a brighter future, a glimmer of hope. Peace to the world!



The Women of the Sundarbans

Davide Bonaldo



The women of the Sundarbans, in the Ganges delta, are left alone to face the worsening consequences of climate change. While most of men have emigrated looking for jobs in the cities, they have to take care of the household, the family, and still help make ends meet, with often precarious informal jobs. But they have also found ways to cope with their situation, knowing that if they do not take the future into their own hands, no one will probably do it for them.

Garbage in Paradise

Luís Godinho



Gili Trawangan, which is about 2 by 3 kilometres long and has over 200 hotels and 150 restaurants, receives around 1 million tourists a year. Many come to the turquoise waters for diving and snorkelling, while others come for the nightlife. This growing increase in tourism has created a lot of jobs in the hotel and restaurant industry, but it has also had negative impacts. 20 tons of garbage are produced every day. Mountains of garbage, where cows graze and eat garbage. Some people work here at the dump on their own, separating garbage to have some sustenance for their families.



Not in Our Eyes

Barbara Zanon



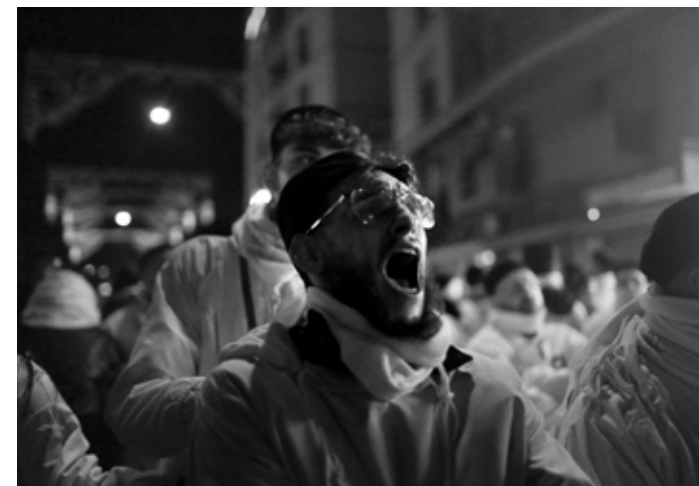
Silo is a huge space occupied by migrants from the Balkan route entering Italy in Trieste, a wealthy city on the border with Slovenia. Between 100 and 500 migrants fit inside, depending on the period. There are no chemical toilets and no one removes the waste. Resting on the dirty, pebble-filled soil are hundreds of makeshift tents. Rats run through them at night. Migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Iran and Syria, are all young and live in those conditions for months, making dignity and beauty survive, after a journey that sometimes lasted years, waiting to receive refugee status.

A Ferocious Devotion

Antonio Denti



Religion in the age of doubt. A colossal religious festival in a secularized society. A furious, visceral devotion that erupts for 3 days in a European city, transfiguring her inhabitants, before everything goes back to normal. A hard, dark, at times violent city, that gathers around a fragile saint-girl - who chose martyrdom not to give herself to the town's strong man. A photographic full immersion in search of this ritual's sense. A sense - everyone has got a worth that must never be surrendered - that goes far beyond Catania and far beyond religion.



Student Intifada

Marioluca Bariona



Pro-Palestinian peaceful protests referred as “student intifada” have spread in the world’s university campuses in response to the Israel’s invasion of the Gaza Strip and its war conduct, accused of violating international law and targeting civilians. Protests, including occupations, rallies, demonstrations and campaigns, demand that the universities sever academic ties with Israel, support a ceasefire, and disclose investments. Every one of Gaza’s 12 universities has been destroyed. Israa University, the last remaining one in Gaza was demolished by the Israeli military on 17 January.

Queer Resilience

Laia Ros Padulles



In Kenya, laws criminalize homosexual acts between consenting adults. However, it's not illegal to identify as homosexual or to organise for LGBTQIA+ rights, despite the loud complaints of religious groups in the country. This peculiar setup has given activists and members of the community some space to associate and reunite, and to celebrate their identity in safe spaces through demonstrations of queer culture such as ballroom or drag performances. Performers were invited to write down what performing meant to them and how it made them feel.



Hearts Praying for the Kidnapped

Yana Raaga



I was visiting Amsterdam in October 2023. Every day during my stay I saw activists who brought on the main square footwear, heart-shaped balloons and pieces of paper with information about kidnappings by Hamas.

Where Is God?
André Clemetsen



This exhibition deals with different destinies. A woman who has survived the war in Ukraine but still faces an uncertain future. A poet and journalist who was just killed by terrorists in Syria. A young woman who has escaped from Palestine, but lives undocumented since she does not have a residence permit. A man suffering from post-traumatic stress and anxiety. A woman who was abused in childhood in a free country, but feels that freedom is forever gone. A child without parents who died in an earthquake in Nepal. A woman who was born a man, but no one accepts her sexual orientation.



The War on Gaza: Using Food and Water as Weapons

Abed Zagout



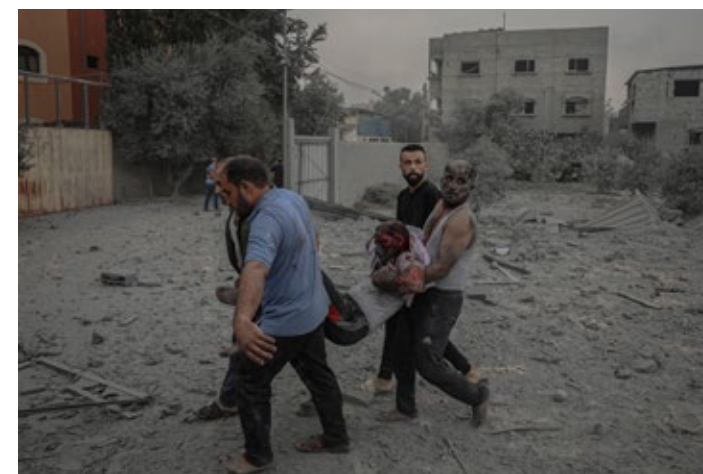
The ongoing war on Gaza in 2023-2024 has had devastating effects on civilians, preventing Palestinians from accessing basic life necessities. In violation of international humanitarian law, food and water have become weapons of war. This has exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

This report documents the plight of Palestinian civilians under Israeli siege and bombardment during the six months between October 2023 and March 2024. Palestinians suffer severely from a lack of access to water and food. At the same time, people are using creativity to find alternatives.



Agony, Death and Destruction in Gaza

Mohammed Hazem Al-Masri



The situation in Gaza has been described as catastrophic due to a combination of ongoing conflict, economic hardship, and humanitarian crises. The current conflict has caused massive casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and displacement of people. The blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt also severely restricts the movement of goods and people, leading to shortages of essential supplies like food, medicine, and fuel. Repeated airstrikes and shelling have devastated Gaza's infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and water and electricity networks.

Kids at Camp

Andrew Raymond



The kids who call Palestine's Aida Refugee Camp "home", exist within an open-air prison. Playgrounds are surrounded by barbed wire, claw machines that should be filled with toys are mainly filled with cash and cigarettes, and colourful murals painted by children depict men with guns.

Whilst their lives are unimaginably different to the free children of the world, they still play, they still act out like kids do, and (remarkably) they still laugh.

These images were taken in July 2023, just one week after a young boy was shot and killed in the camp's streets by Israeli soldiers.

Gaza In Ruins
Saher Alghorra



Alghorra was born in 1997 in Gaza City, Palestine. Since he got his first camera in 2017, he set out to document the daily life and beauty of his city, until the wars changed his focus to narrating the destruction and suffering he witnessed.

More Dignity for Palestine
Sandra Chen Weinstein



I walked through the checkpoints and past the separation wall, originally built on the 1967 border but continually extended to divide not only land but also faith, dignity, and humanity. Since the Nakba in 1948, when Palestinians were exiled from their homeland and Jerusalem, their lives have been marked by enduring hardships. They have lived under occupation, facing constant disruptions from expanding settlements. Physical, social, political, psychological, and military barriers severely limit economic growth and quality of life under the apartheid-like system of Israel's ongoing occupation.



Quechua Indigenous Traditions

Denys Kutsevalov



That is the only reason you might meet a Patacancha villager from the high Andes down in the town of Cusco region. He will be selling something made of alpaca. Otherwise living a traditional Quechua life, they are barely interested in city life and TV shows.

When faced with government-imposed price regulations that threatened the livelihoods of the entire community, they rallied together. Learning Spanish, they persisted until fair prices were secured for their goods.

It was a collective effort, a testament to the resilience and determination to uphold their ancestral way of life.

Cultural Resilience

Thibault Gerbaldi



Alpaca farming in Peru fosters economic growth, enhancing education and healthcare access. Modern Peruvian society embraces alpacas as family, showcasing pride in cultural traditions. The seamless integration of humans and alpacas underscores their symbiotic relationship. Weaving, integral to Quechua culture, shapes regional identities and fosters intergenerational communication. However, climate change pressures farmers, altering traditional practices. Warmer temperatures force crops up mountainsides, while mountaintop mining destroys vital pastures, necessitating cultural adaptation.

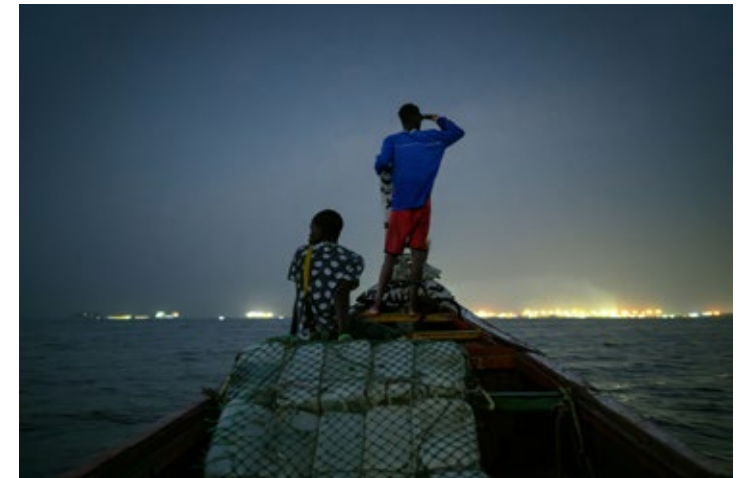


The Younger Man's Uncle and the Sea

Christian Bobst

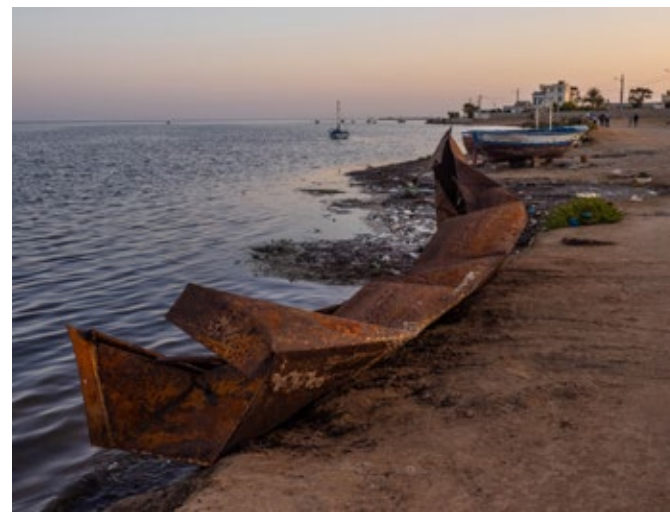


Abdou Niang says he wants to get on one of the fishing boats in which countless Senegalese embark on the often deadly journey to Europe. But the 42-year-old still has to catch a lot of fish to pay the traffickers. And there are almost no fish left to catch on the Senegalese coast. That's why most fishermen want to leave. Not so Abdou's uncle, Moustapha Kane, who made his money in Europe and can now rest while others work. Niang dreams of Kane's life. Kane has nightmares about Niang's death. 4 of Kane's nephews have already drowned in the sea trying to follow his example - could Niang be next?



Oliveraies Tunisiennes

Selene Magnolia Gatti



With 3,041 people reported missing or dead in 2023, the Central Mediterranean Sea is the deadliest border to Europe. Departures from Tunisia, mostly from the area of Sfax, more than doubled. As the EU cooperates with Tunisia to stop migration, the country is slipping back towards dictatorship and is considered unsafe for migrants. In a generalized wave of violence, the government ordered a manhunt to forcibly expel refugees from Sfax into the desert. Controlled by smugglers, without water, food, or shelter, surviving migrants had to turn olive trees into homes while waiting to cross the sea.

The Unique Roma Culture of Keldelari

Michael Dorohovich



These mysterious Roma live in the village of Korolevo in Podvinogradovo, Transcarpathian region, and are one of the most closed communities in Ukraine. There is a strict law here that women must wear long skirts or dresses. Skirts are often made up of so many layers and padding that they can weigh up to ten kilograms. Girls get married at 12-13 years old and have children. Their clothes, culture, traditions immerse you in a completely different amazing world.

Gun Nation

Alexandra Buxbaum



The US faces the 28th-highest global gun-violence death rate, with more 2023 mass shootings than days in a week. Guns, central in American society due to the Second Amendment, symbolize personal identity and contribute to political polarization. The AR-15 is now a tool of domestic terror for far-right militias anticipating civil unrest. Once fringe, these ideologies infiltrate mainstream politics, with ties to some candidates. A concerning resurgence in white supremacist ideologies, anti-government militias, and conspiracy theories undermines trust in institutions.





Students throughout the United States oppose their government's arming of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza against Palestinians. The White House responded by denouncing the protestors as "anti-semitic." The day that NYU students' encampment was removed there was a protest on campus that included this group of Haredi Jews from the group Neturei Karta. Their statement in support of the student protestors included a powerful response to the White House: "Labeling People as Anti-Semites Cannot Justify Occupation and Brutality"

Woman Rising: Sex Trafficking in America

Matilde Simas



Woman Rising is a documentary that exposes the dark reality of sex and human trafficking in America, and the hope for change that lies within the courage and resilience of survivors. The project follows the journey of Cary Stuart, a young woman from Maine who was trafficked for years, and who managed to break free and rebuild her life with the help of a dedicated network of supporters. Through Cary's personal testimony and interviews with experts, advocates, and law enforcement, the project reveals the prevalence and complexity of modern-day slavery, and the urgent need for more awareness.

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