

IT'S FOR EVERYONE LIKE THAT?

We tend to remember our childhood like something happy and nice, yet is it for everyone like that? Do people who haven't been lucky to be born in countries with good conditions like ours, think the same? Have they been able to live their childhood like us? Or maybe they had to grow up faster because of a war and, therefore, they couldn't have an easy childhood? We can think about these questions with this image.



This photo was taken by the Italian photojournalist Francesco Zizola, in 1996 in Kuito, Angola. The image was photographed during the last Angolan civil war. This conflict began immediately after Angola became independent from Portugal and it was a power struggle between two former anti-colonial guerrilla movements. The black and white photo shows us the victims of the minefields, specifically three children. In the foreground, there is a girl with a doll in her hands. On the right, next to the girl, there is a boy with crutches who doesn't have one leg. And on the left, on the other side of the girl, there is another little girl who is the youngest one. The three are dressed in dirty and worn-out clothes and they don't wear shoes. We also can see that the wall in the background is full of holes caused by mines.



The three children can't be more than ten years old, and they could be siblings as we can notice that each one of them are different ages. They could be in a place with more children like them and they must play all together. They may be orphaned because we can't see their parents nearby – these could have been death because of the war- and so, they must be taking care each other. The boy must have stepped on a landmine or something similar and that's why he doesn't have one leg. The little one can't be understanding anything and seems very confused. On one hand, the children could feel sad and scared and also, they must be desiring that the war ended soon to live and play safe and happy. Nevertheless, on the other hand, they could be accustomed to the situation as the conflict must have started before they were born and, for that reason, they can't know how living in peace is. It is so distressing the fact that they haven't had the opportunity to live without war.



I have realized that we don't appreciate enough everything we have just by being born here. Moreover, sometimes we even complain about it. I'm pretty sure that, if we just spent a few days there and saw how they live, we would become aware of how lucky we are. In my opinion, I think it's very unfair that children have to suffer the consequences of something they practically don't know what it is.

By Anais Alberich