



Lucy with orphaned boy

CRISIS IN UGANDA

ONE PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOURNEY

www.LucyObryan.com

Photographer Lucy O'Bryan has dedicated her life to changing the world through bringing awareness to human rights abuses via innovative and creative channels. She has travelled to many of the world's most dangerous places, often with her children in tow, documenting and exposing human rights abuses and atrocities. Among many others, she has visited Haiti, Cuba, Bosnia, and Albania - during the high point of the Kosovo War. She is currently supported by Nikon camera, which is providing equipment for her upcoming trip to Uganda, where she will be documenting the current conflict brewing in the region.

While a virtual alphabet soup of rebel armies operate in the area, none are more feared or more brutal than the so-called Lords Resistance Army. Commanded by a man named Joseph Kony, the LRA actively uses mutilation, torture, and rape as weapons against the general population, with no particular attention payed to who is on the receiving end.

Perhaps the most horrific quality of the LRA, however, is their use of child soldiers to do their dirty work. During the night soldiers of the LRA sneak into villages, rape and kill adults, and kidnap children. Often these children are forced to execute their own parents as a kind of perverted initiation ceremony. The children, often as young as seven or eight, are then put through rigorous brainwashing that involves violence on the most unthinkable scale. Those that refuse or are unable to continue are needlessly mutilated, the girls kept as sex slaves.

For the last 12 years, Sam Childers, a former motorcycle gang member, has been fighting back. He constructed an orphanage on the border of Uganda and Sudan and, along with his private army of about 30 soldiers, hunts down the LRA and kidnaps the children back. Once in his care he rehabilitates them and attempts to find family members for them to be reunited with. When that is not the case, he raises them at his orphanage. In 10 years of the orphanage's existence, Sam and his militia have rescued over 800 children and continue to do so every day.

While visiting the orphanage and surrounding villages, Lucy plans to distribute 20 disposable cameras to the children and villagers so that they can document daily life from the unique perspective of ones who are living it. She also intends to bring art supplies for the children, that they may express themselves creatively - empowering them through art.

Upon returning from Uganda, Lucy will be showcasing the images captured on this human rights mission at A&I Hollywood, one of the world's elite print labs.

Lucy lives in Los Angeles, California, with her three children, Duncan, Daisy, and Charlie.

If you would like more information on this topic, please call Lucy O'Bryan at 323.708.8786 or e-mail Lucy@LucyObryan.com