

the dark side of the war

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Sadness, suffering and despair: these are some of the feelings we relate to when we talk about war, a matter that few people know what it really is about. Nowadays thousands and thousands of people are living these horrible fighting situations and especially children, boys and girls who are truly innocent and pure. They don't know what's really going on and their parents try to protect them from this cruel reality.



This photograph literally shows what I was referring to before. Jean-Marc Bouju has taken this image on 31st March 2003 at a holding centre for prisoners of war, the photographer was outside the base camp of the US Army 101st Airborne Division as you can see the spiked wires over the fences. This military camp was located near Najaf, Iraq. The protagonists of this image are a man and a child that they are father and son. The Iraqi man comforts his 4-year-old son by reason of the boy had become terrified when, according to orders, his father was hooded and handcuffed. A US soldier later severed the plastic handcuffs so that way the man could comfort his child. It seems that the father is

saying something to him, he must tell him that his father is well, everything was a game and they would soon go home. Hoods were placed over detainees' heads because they were quicker to apply than blindfolds. The military said the bags were used to disorient prisoners and protect their identities.

This scene makes you think about realize that in some areas of the world they have to live these situations unfortunately. We must learn to relativize and be aware of the day to day that people live in countries at war. While here all the children have a good childhood, the girls and boys of those places struggle to survive leaving away their innocence.