

# growing in the midst of the chaos

BY HELENA RABASA BROTO

Have you ever wondered what would happen if your son or daughter learned to take her first steps in the middle of your city all in debris with soldiers walking around? Michael Kamber photographed this specific moment for a section of the famous newspaper called The New York Times. He's a very famous journalist that takes photos in countries that war or with political problems. For example, he has taken photos in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Somalia, and Congo among others. His photographs are always creepy, like the photo of this kid who is walking and discovering the world among a lot of a lot of Members of the 82nd Airborne (Delta Company). What does this picture really hide?



The image was taken on 22nd April 2007 on the streets of Khadamiya, a mainly Muslim part of Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. The author explains that while he was walking around this place, he found a mother with her child in her arms. The man stared at them for a while until, suddenly, the little boy got up and took a few steps. The mother began to cry with emotion and the photographer deduced that these were his first steps. At that moment, he opened the camera and took the photo. Michael explains that he wanted to take the photo from the ground so that people could appreciate the perspective that young children live from. In addition, he wanted the child to

be on his back so that the contrast of the child walking forward and the soldiers that are walking to the other side could be seen. Just a moment later, when the photographer was already satisfied with the result, he stood next to the little boy and gave him a very strong hug. He says that he found it necessary to show him affection. Kamber was really aware of the suffering the kid was hiding. Afterward, he showed the pictures to the mother and she told him she loved them all. From my point of view, the protagonist of the photo must be very sad and his whole family and he must be having a very bad time. While he was taking the picture, Michael Kamber must have been horrified too, thinking about how would be the hard life of this little boy.

This is definitely one of the toughest photos I've ever seen. I think this picture is very well achieved by the light and perspective it gets. Besides, it made me think a lot about the difficult lives that people can endure. I sincerely hope that there will come a day when there will no longer be problems between different governments around the world and the war will end. I believe that if we all do our bit, there will come a time when we stop using violence as the law of life.