

Cockfighting, Balibo.

East Timor Dances Alone

A PHOTO
ESSAY BY
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ColdType



ACCORDING to the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, East Timor is ready for the withdrawal of hundreds of international peacekeepers stationed there. East Timor (officially titled the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste), a Portuguese colony for three centuries, suffered 24 years of brutal Indonesian occupation that left more than 250,000 dead and much of the country's infrastructure destroyed. International armed forces entered the country in 1999 and, although formal independence was declared in 2002, extreme poverty, internal rivalry and mistrust, riots and violence required the blue-helmeted soldiers to stay for five consecutive missions. A decade later, Asia's youngest country, has made significant progress towards stability but, with the departure of UN troops, will have to prove to be able finally to bring a conclusion to its bloody history and keep peace on its own. These photographs show how the young country's people are adapting to life after those brutal years



Ready for a peaceful life free from foreign intervention, Young Timorese enjoy a concert in Dili.



A family in a tradition house near Zumalai. The parents hope the next generation will have a future free from the agony of war



Too young to remember the bad days, children have fun on a beach near Manatuto.



An old cemetery at Maubisse is the playground for a group of youngsters



Children play in a destroyed and abandoned building at Baucau



Fishermen get their nets ready for another day's work in the harbour at Dili.



Young boys make their living washing taxis in a Dili parking lot. In the background is a destroyed building



Waiting for their future: Youngsters play billiards in a dilapidated room at Bobonaro



A family in a small hut near Tutuala. Now is the time to rebuild a nation almost destroyed by a genocidal war



A basic gym has been set up in a former prison at Balibo.



Remembering the past: An image of “the resistance” displayed at “Chega!” exhibition in Dili



Eating out on the Dili waterfront



Children play on the beach in the golden sunset; their parents hope for a life free from the flames and pain of war



ALBERTINA D'URSO focuses mainly on social and humanitarian reportage. Her dedication to this kind of issues began in 2004 when she went to Mumbai with a charity: Her work resulted in a book, **Bombay Slum**, and an exhibition at Libreria degli Atellani, in Milan.

In 2007 she won the Canon Young Photographers Award with her project **Welcome to Compton**, covering gangs and violence in Los Angeles. In 2008 she exhibited **Spirit of Shekhawati** in Trento, Milan and Rome and was awarded at the festival Orvieto Fotografia.

In 2009 Albertina exhibited her work **Bodies for Sale, Mumbai**, in Insa Art Center in Seoul and in the Rivus Gallery in Incheon Catholic University.

Her book **TI MOUN YO, Children of Haiti**, was published by Contrasto with an exhibition in Forma, Centro Internazionale di Fotografia in Milan. The book was voted “documentary book of the year” at the International Photography Award-IPA.

The following year one of her photographs won second prize at the Lens Culture International Exposure Award. Again in 2010, with her work **Nehru Nagar**, Albertina was among the finalists of the “Deeper Perspective Photographer of the Year” at the Lucie Awards.

Her project **Haiti's Generation of Amputees** was exhibited in 2011 at MIA-Milan Image Art Fair and Festival Fotografico Italiano in Busto Arsizio.

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