

# The Hidden Cost of War

A view of war's lasting devastation on the most vulnerable persons - children

## About This Exhibit

The Eastern Oklahoma Pax Christi Community is presenting this exhibit to help us understand some of the hidden costs of war, especially its lasting impact on children. These innocent victims are most vulnerable to the nuclear legacy of depleted uranium that is left on battlegrounds which become children's playgrounds.

The photo collection included here, "Children of the Gulf War", features photographs by Japanese photojournalist Takashi Morizumi. His images draw attention to the devastation of war and economic sanctions against Iraq, in particular to the effects on children. From his works we learn of the real, yet still largely unknown, human and environmental prices being paid day-to-day by the Iraqi people.



## About Pax Christi USA

Pax Christi USA strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation.

Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Pax Christi USA is a section of Pax Christi International, the Catholic peace movement.

## Note to Parents

Please be sure you judge for yourself if your children are old enough to view this exhibit and to understand what they see. Look at the photographs together, and discuss the effects of war.

We all, adults and children, need to understand that the sanitized version of war that we see on the television news and in the movies is not realistic.

Takashi's photographs are both delightful, when they show the universal joy in a child's face, and shocking, when they display the effects of depleted uranium on a child's body.

## This Exhibit Sponsored by the Eastern Oklahoma Pax Christi Community

We are a community of Pax Christi USA members, representatives from parish social justice committees and other friends who meet on a regular basis to pray, study and act for peace with justice. We embrace the Pax Christi USA statement of purpose and priorities.

Our local Pax Christi community meets from noon to 1:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Church of the Madalene. We are currently studying *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*, the pastoral Letter on War and Peace by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. We also sponsor other events, most recently an ongoing poster exhibit commemorating the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 2004 we conducted a workshop, "The Challenge of Faithful Citizenship...The Body of Christ at Work," presenting the Bishops' vision for how Catholics can participate in the political process.

For more information visit our web site at [www.paxchristitusa.org](http://www.paxchristitusa.org) or contact Fr. Richard Bradley at 272-3710.