

all roads film Project



2007 All Roads Photography Program Award Winner

Akintunde Akinleye (Nigeria)

The Troubles of a Blessed Country



Bio:

Akintunde Akinleye took up photography as a hobby during his school days before joining Daily Independent Newspapers in Nigeria as a staff photographer in 2003. He completed a degree in social studies at Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria, in 1997. He received a postgraduate diploma in journalism from the Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Lagos, Nigeria, and went on to earn his master's degree in Educational Technology from the University of Lagos in 2001. Akinleye is the first Nigerian photographer to have received the prestigious World Press Photo award.

<http://www.akintunde1.com/?s=2&x>

Personal Essay:

On Tuesday, December 26, 2006, a ruptured petroleum pipeline burst into flames while scavengers were collecting fuel. The pipeline was punctured during the night by an armed gang who siphoned fuel into road tankers, and a stream of stray petroleum gasoline was left behind for hundreds of resident scavengers near Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos. At least 269 people were killed, and dozens more were injured, trapped and burned on the ground next to a ramshackle automobile workshop in the densely populated district of Abule-Egba, an outskirt of Lagos. Nigeria, Africa's oil giant, is the eighth largest producer of crude oil in the world, and its earnings soared due to the rise in the world market. But it is also one of the world's poorest countries with a great number of its 140 million people enduring extreme poverty amid widespread graft that makes a handful of people wealthy. This inequality motivates those who sabotage oil pipelines and the villagers who pilfer fuel to sell on the black market. While the response of the emergency fire service — who are equipped with leaky water hoses — was delayed, other villagers assisted, using water collected in buckets, trying to subdue the fire that lasted four hours.

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