



Kim Phúc, *The Napalm Girl*

Kim Phúc was only nine years old when this photo was taken in 1972. It shows Kim and other children running in anguish from the burning effect of a napalm bomb.

This photograph was quickly shown around the world. Some say that it hastened the end of the war as it had a huge effect on public opinion. Seven months later the Paris Peace Accords were signed, leading to the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from South Vietnam.

In the beginning, says Kim, she hated the photo. It embarrassed her and she struggled with the publicity that surrounded it. This had been a highly personal experience. The photo captured a moment of torment she wanted to forget.

But after a long struggle, Kim says that she realised that the photo was important because it captured the anguish of napalm bombing and, because of this, served a good purpose. Eventually, the photo became much more than a depiction of a moment in time. Instead it became what she calls "a path to peace."

"I realized that if I couldn't escape that picture, I wanted to go back to work with that picture for peace. And that is my choice."

Kim Phúc currently lives in Canada with her family. She is the founder of Kim Foundation International, a private charitable organization dedicated to providing medical and psychological assistance to children who have suffered in war.

The use of napalm

Napalm is a flammable liquid used in warfare. It is a mixture of a gelling agent and petroleum or a similar fuel. It sticks to the skin and causes severe burns when on fire.

The Dow Chemical Company was the main manufacturer of napalm for the U.S. government from 1965 to 1969. Because of this DOW received a storm of protest,

particularly after this photo was circulated. College students mounted many protests, calling DOW staff "baby killers".