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THE ULTIMATE IN UNFAIR - REACTION ESSAY

Instructions: Study the adjoining photograph and the obituary. Then (since there are no comparisons) write a 4-paragraph Reaction Essay of between

(Introduction; 2 body paragraphs; Conclusion.)

REMINDER

Introduction:

- Hook
- Background Information (name of photographer/date of work/other general information)
- Thesis statement (message or mood of photo)

In your body paragraphs you should comment on:

- Main centre of interest (Child and Vulture)
- Periphery (outer edge of photo)
- Foreground
- Background
- Emotional Response

Conclusion:

- Conclude your statements and explain your reasons for your thoughts..

The Ultimate in Unfair

“War doesn't determine who is right, war determines who is left.”

- Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), English philosopher, author, 1950 Nobel Prize-winner in Literature.



This photograph showing a starving Sudanese child being stalked by a vulture won Kevin Carter the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.



Obituary: Kevin Carter 1960 - 1994

Johannesburg - Kevin Carter, the South African photographer whose image of a starving Sudanese toddler stalked by a vulture won him a Pulitzer Prize this year, was found dead on Wednesday night, apparently a suicide, police

said yesterday. He was 33. The police said Mr. Carter's body and several letters to friends and family were discovered in his pick-up truck, parked in a Johannesburg suburb. An inquest showed that he had died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Mr Carter started as a sports photographer in 1983 but soon moved to the front lines of South African political strife, recording images of repression, anti-apartheid protest and fratricidal violence. A few days after winning his Pulitzer Prize in April, Mr Carter was nearby when one of his closest friends and professional companions, Ken Oosterbroek, was shot dead photographing a gun battle in Tokoza township.

Friends said Mr Carter was a man of tumultuous emotions which brought passion to his work but also drove him to extremes of elation and depression. Last year, saying he needed a break from South Africa's turmoil, he paid his own way to the southern Sudan to photograph a civil war and famine that he felt the world was overlooking.

His picture of an emaciated girl collapsing on the way to a feeding centre, as a plump vulture lurked in the background, was published first in *The New York Times* and *The Mail & Guardian*, a Johannesburg weekly. The reaction to the picture was so strong that *The New York Times* published an unusual editor's note on the fate of the girl. Mr Carter said she resumed her trek to the feeding centre. He chased away the vulture.

Afterwards, he told an interviewer, he sat under a tree for a long time, "smoking cigarettes and crying". His father, Mr Jimmy Carter laid last night: "Kevin always carried around the horror of the work he did." - *The New York Times*

Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* Saturday 30 July 1994

What are the odds the little girl is alive today? Not very high, I'd say. If she is alive, what quality of life is she likely to have? She almost certainly has permanent damage from her period of starvation during crucial development, both before and after birth. It is easy to criticise Kevin Carter. Why? Because he took a photo of one starving child among thousands? *Let those who send all their spare cash to the needy cast the first stone...*

