



*I want to be
a pilot*

Poem by Diego Quemada-Diez & the Kids of Kibera

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preface



After the amazing experience of working in the film *The Constant Gardener* I wanted to make my own film in Kibera. My intention was to find a powerful story that would show the extreme situation in the slums of Nairobi. So I went back to listen to the kids from the ghetto, to hear their stories, their feelings, their dreams.

On August 2005 I interviewed about 50 orphan kids in one of the classrooms from Raila's School. David Mugambe and the school's principal helped me organize the interviews. David passed away just a few weeks later in a car accident. Wherever he is now, I thank him deeply from my heart. The film would not be what it is without his help. This film is dedicated to him as well as all the victims of AIDS, poverty and social injustice around the world.

Most of the kids I listened to had lost both parents at a very young age, and all of them from AIDS. The parents were all in their twenties at the time of death.

The kids told me about their feelings of loneliness, their sorrows, their complaints about corruption, pollution, the lack of clean water and sanitization, religious fanaticism, the exploitation by adults, and most importantly, the lack of love in their lives, the absence of hope for a better future.

I will never forget how an eight year old kid explained to me how he used decantation to get clean water from black, extremely infected, polluted water. It took him hours, just pouring from one glass to another, waiting for the solids to settle, over and over, so at the end he would boil it and drink it.

All the kids cried for help, one after the other. They asked me for school uniforms, for books, for food, for water, for money to pay the school's tuition, for pencils/pens and many other things. I was overwhelmed, I just listened as deeply as I could.

When asked about their dreams and hopes most of them wanted to be airline pilots, doctors or nurses.

After a few hours, I left home very moved. Suddenly, it was as if something hit me:

80% of them wanted to be airline pilots!

I thought: "I Want to Be A Pilot".

Then I started writing.

I started crying.

Writing, crying. I could not stop either one.

Somehow the words were pouring out of me.

After two days the poem was completed.

Then I went back to Kibera with the sound crew to record the kids reading the poem. After eight kids read the poem, there was one that had a powerful sadness in his voice. It was as if he carried everyone's sorrow.

I had found him. It was Collins, who in the film plays Omondi.

A year later I went back with a Super-8 camera and shot the images for the film.

That's a little bit of the story of how this came into being, I really don't know where it was heading... I just wanted to listen to them and create something that would inspire us to want to take action.

There are millions of kids in the world victims of the injustices of our industrial civilization, while we are distracted buying things, evading reality. Our neocolonial policies are taking their toll on our children, on mother earth and all living beings we share this planet with.

**THEIR SUFFERING IS OURS.
WAKE UP!**

DIEGO QUEMADA-DIEZ

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**DIEGO QUEMADA-DIEZ
BURGOS, SPAIN**

forward

context



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**DIEGO QUEMADA-DIEZ
BURGOS, SPAIN**

Every single day **30,000 children** die as a result of poverty

The poorest countries have **95% of the AIDS** cases worldwide

The three richest people in the world control more wealth than all **600 million people in the world**

facts

I want to be a pilot



70% of them cannot meet their daily basic food needs

By 2010 if all continues at this growth rate, **50 million orphans** are estimated

78% of HIV world deaths happen in sub-Saharan Africa

One in six children **die** before age 5

The average life expectancy in Africa is **41 years**

More than **1 billion people** lack access to safe drinking water

More than **40 percent** of Africans suffer from malnutrition

Over 3 million people died from AIDS in 2004. **2.3 million of those were in Sub-Saharan Africa.** That amounts to 8,493 people dying from AIDS every day and six people dying every minute. Aid to the 28 countries with the highest HIV adult prevalence rate declined by one-third between 1995 and 2000.



the poem









I want to be a pilot





My name is Omondi







It means that when
I was born
I woke up my mother
early in the morning







I am twelve years old





I live in Kibera
the biggest slum
in East Africa











My last meal
was on Sunday





today is Wednesday





I want to be a pilot





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Most of the
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national exan

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counsellors.
gramme is t
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challenges t
growth, ex

to fly very high



Flying young

Eight
admis
Last y
canon
out of
Form C
schools
344,614
It is for the
has con
ments
secon
active
investors.

Locate



far away from the ghetto







to a place
where kids have parents
that do not die of HIV



everyday





to a place far away



where guardians of orphan kids
cannot abuse us





everyday



to a place far away





where I am treated
as well as white people are

I want to be a pilot





to wear a uniform
and fly very high







to a place far away





where I don't need
charity from distant lands





to a place far away





where white men
cannot test medicines on us



to a place far away



Attorney General's view being sought on pending suits against NSSF.



orders to have them... although the court ruled the land belonged to it, the trespassers still live on the land. In 2003, the land used Mr. Eligh Ogere and six others for encroaching on its land registered in the name of the board of trustees. The court has issued eviction orders, but the defendants have filed a restraining injunction. The NSSF has pending fraud cases amounting to \$4 billion, involving prominent individuals and organizations, according to its board of directors. It is also seeking \$872 million from a company associated with the late Tony Gachoka. The firm in 1997, it signed a contract with Park Consultants to organize for the year 2000.

seeking the cancellation of a title for property bought by the NSSF. In 1998, the property... decision to terminate a contract by Mr. Jirongo for the Hazina South "B" housing project in 1993.

corruption



...hope Judge... and it's up... We just hope it... by June, we ought... of the fight... relationship... the AG as regard to... The administra... official is a

Government's commitment to fighting corruption leaves a lot to be desired. Legal issues about corruption take time. But things are not moving as fast as they should. The State should move fast to prosecute high-profile cases. "Corruption should be confronted. The corrupt should be dealt with like criminals. But the government paints a picture as if it

High-profile cases that have been filed in court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and others is definitely needed. The PS alluded to events in the past week where Cabinet Ministers...

where the leaders we elected stop filling their pockets and start caring for us



to a place far away





where there are school books



so one day
I can fly
far away





I want to be a pilot



It must feel so good
to go places





where I can walk barefoot
on the green grass



where water is clean
with rivers and springs





where I can feel the sun
shining on me



I want to be a pilot

difference
at large

The

qu

