

CAPTIONS :

« CHILDREN BEHIND BARS »

by

Lizzie SADIN

1999 - 2007



Photo 01 –

01 - Lebedeva Remand Centre, Juvenile Block, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Painting at the entrance of the corridor which leads to the cells of the juvenile detainees.



Photo 02 –

02 - Lebedeva Remand Centre, Juvenile Block, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The juveniles are locked up for 23 hours a day in medieval conditions, in the same cells as adults who impose a reign of terror. They have no proper supplies for food or hygiene, and no healthcare; aspirin is given to anyone suffering from TB or AIDS. They are victims of rackets and violence, have no visits from relatives as they are a long way from home, and quite often are held for periods well above the normal sentence for their offences.



Photo 03 –

03 - Lebedeva Remand Centre, Juvenile Block, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

These prisoners have even less freedom than the others; they are in quarantine, as indicated by the sign. They suffer from AIDS and/or tuberculosis; the only medication they are given is aspirin.



Photo 04 –

04 - Lebedeva Remand Centre, Juvenile Block, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Dimitri (13) is bullied by the adults imprisoned with him in the notorious cell number 90, cited by Amnesty International and the International Prison Observatory (OIP). It has a grim reputation for the treatment which tough prisoners inflict on juveniles: torture, rape, humiliation, and tattooing of anyone considered as inferior. There are six beds for the 24 inmates who must take turns to sleep.



Photo 05 –

05 - Lebedeva Remand Centre, Juvenile Block, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Sacha (17) has already been in jail. After serving his sentence, he was released in mid-winter, with literally just the shirt on his back; he had no job and no rehabilitation support; he was hungry and resorted to stealing, again. Recidivism is inevitable when there is neither rehabilitation nor social support.



Photo 06 –

07 - Casa de Acolhimento ao Menor penitentiary center, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

Inmates here are juveniles who have committed minor offences such as theft and drug-taking. A dormitory for inmates under sedation.



Photo 07 –

07 - Casa de Acolhimento ao Menor penitentiary center, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

Inmates here are juveniles who have committed minor offences such as theft and drug-taking. A dormitory for inmates under sedation.



Photo 08 –

Instituto Padre Severino, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, juvenile section.

After the meal (ten minutes in silence, with heads down), inmates return to their cells, also in silence and still with their heads down. The prison has a sad reputation for treatment inflicted on juveniles by the guards who certainly look threatening.



Photo 09 –

09 - Centre for juvenile offenders, Fleury-Mérogis, France.

During the exercise period in the yard, an offender tries to talk to a fellow inmate inside his cell.



Photo 10 –

10 - Centre for juvenile offenders, Fleury-Mérogis, France.

An inmate in his cell.



Photo 11 –

11 - Remand centre for juveniles, Bogotá, Colombia.

The offenders are brought in by the police section in charge of juveniles, and are later tried by the judges who rule each case, either returning them to their families, releasing them on parole or placing them in enclosed or semi-enclosed centres.



Photo 12 –

12 - Telmond Prison, Juvenile Section, Ha Sharon, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Shackled hand and foot, fourteen Palestinians in an armoured van arrive from the Russian Compound. Prisoners are usually tried in military courts; following an investigation and their confessions they are placed in cells in the high security wing for Palestinian and Arab Israeli juveniles posing a threat to the security of the State of Israel.



Photo 13 –

13 - Telmond Prison, Juvenile Section, Ha Sharon, Tel Aviv, Israel.

The high security wing for Palestinian and Arab Israeli juveniles who are considered to be a threat to the State of Israel. The 81 inmates aged between 14 and 18, some with sentences of 20 to 25 years, are housed in 27 different cells.



Photo 14 –

Children Observation Home N°2, New Delhi, India.

Inmates in this State-managed prison are locked up under very strict conditions. The guards do the rounds, above the prisoners, all day and night.



Photo 15 –

15 - Moramanga Prison, Madagascar.

Evariste and Philibert, aged 13, are both in prison for stealing rice from the paddy-field because they were hungry. They have just asked if their families have sent them a basket of food. The prison gives them nothing but cassava which they have to cook themselves. One of the major problems in Madagascan prisons is malnutrition, with severe, sometimes fatal cases; (twenty adults died in 2005). Members of church and non-governmental organizations help by distributing rice and vegetables to inmates.



Photo 16 –

16 - Mouramanga Prison, Madagascar.

This 13-year-old boy was arrested when caught stealing rice in a paddy-field to feed his family. He has never been to school; he is too poor. He has no idea how long he will have to stay here. He says he is hungry and bored. He is also scared as many juveniles are preyed on by adults.



Photo 17 –

17 - Delta Boot Camp, Katy, Texas, USA.

5am. Every morning, 90 juvenile inmates spend more than an hour doing exercises, mainly press-ups, obeying orders from the guards. They wait in position then together they must call out the name of the exercise and do a series of 25 movements in time to a whistle, without collapsing. The weaker ones can't keep up.



Photo 18 –

18 - Elkhorn Correctional Facility, Fresno, California, USA.

Stage 2 in the admission process: the boys now have to move forward, following the footprints marked on the ground; if they don't, they are yelled at, sent back and made to start all over again. They then read a "warning" sign which explains everything the guards are allowed to do, which includes the use of teargas. They have to read it out loud, then reread it, while being screamed at, without understanding where they've made a mistake until they realise they must read out the punctuation. Then they are sent off to have their hair cut and shaved off in a hangar, where no one else can see them, whilst a guard bellows and hurls a bench against the wall to terrorise those waiting outside, wondering what they're in for. Inside, another guard screams non-stop into the ear of the boy being shaved.



Photo 19 –

19 - Maricopa County Jail, Arizona, USA.

Chaining the prisoners' ankles before they go outside. Inmates do community service, whilst armed guards keep watch in case any rival gangs turn up and try to eliminate one of their rivals or help one of their own members to escape. They are put on the roads "for taxpayers to see", as Sheriff Joe Arpalo proudly explains. The sheriff likes to talk about punishment, certainly not education or rehabilitation.



Photo 20 –

20 - Black Canyon School, Arizona, USA.

Video surveillance of solitary confinement cells where young inmates can be held for up to a week. They are placed there if they display aggressive behaviour towards either staff or inmates, and also if they attempt suicide.