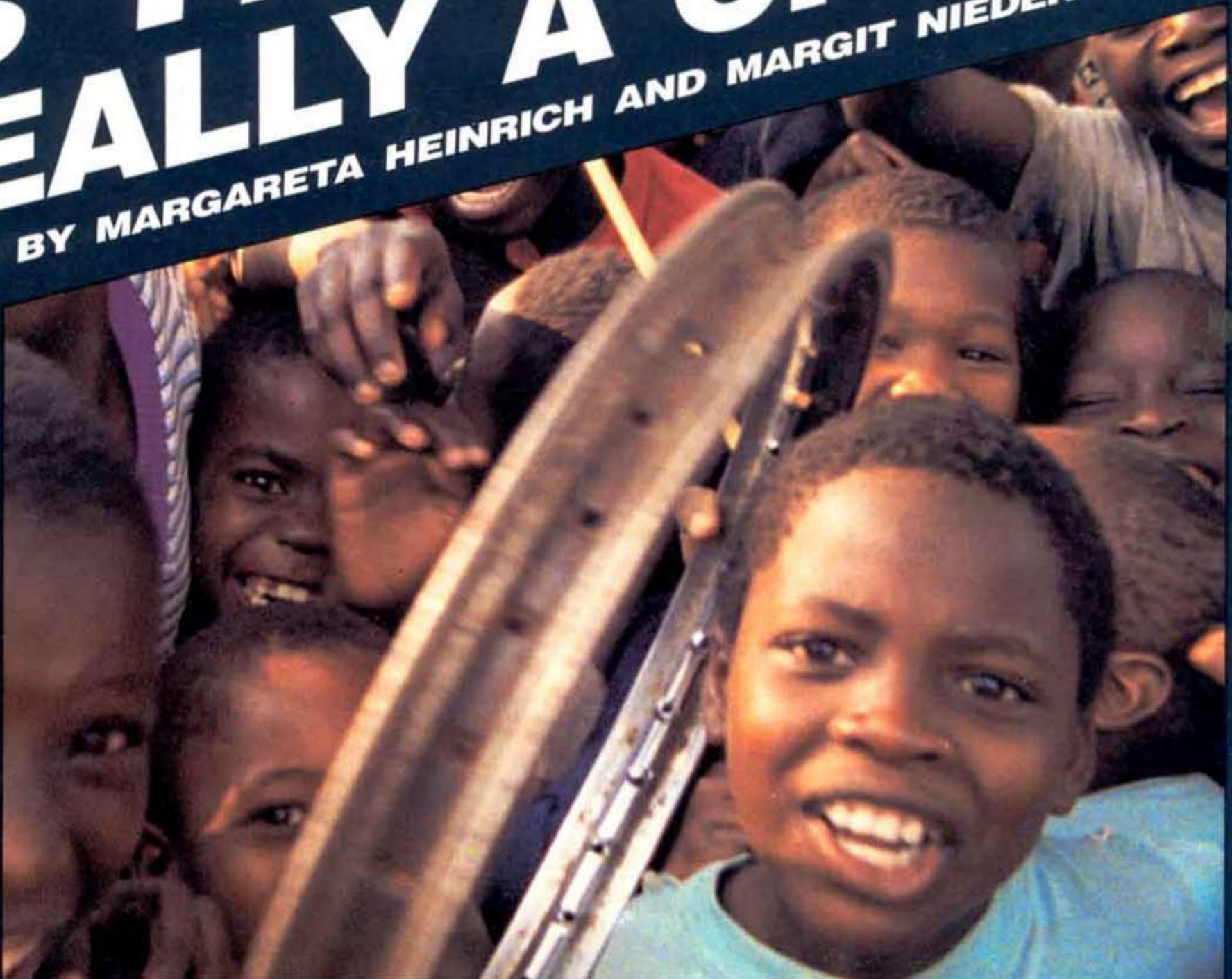




# IS THE DEVIL REALLY A CHILD?

A FILM BY MARGARETA HEINRICH AND MARGIT NIEDERHUBER



KAMERA: BERND NEUBURGER    SOUND: PAUL M. SEDLACEK    MONTAGE: KARINA RESSLER  
SHORTSTORY/KOMMENTAR: CALANE DA SILVA    MUSIK: LINDA SHARROCK    FEAT. WOLFGANG PUSCHNIG  
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GEFÖRDERT VOM BMUKS & ORF – FILM-FERNSEHABKOMMEN



**DOMINGOS MALULEQUE**

(10 years)

*Then the Matsangas arrived.*

*Then the Matsangas called father and mother and when father went out he took me by the hand and went out with me.*

*Three men went into the hut and murdered my grandmother there inside; they poured petrol on her body and the house and burned them.*

*Then they took me, father and mother...*



**JAIME PAULO**

**MUNGUAMBE** (12 years)

*– They want to know if you too were with the ones who went to the road to burn cars?*

*I went.*

*– Did you burn cars too?*

*Yes, I burned cars on the road.*

*– Where did they do this?*

*In a place near Chibuto.*

*– Jaime, how could you do this?*

*Killing people, burning cars, burning houses?*

*What did they tell you to make you do this?*

*They said we would win.*



**VANESSA PHIRI**

*They came and demanded my daughters to have sexual relations with them.*

*I said no, they could not take my daughters.*

*They insisted. They said: "We need your daughters to have sexual relations with them.*

*Since you are denying us your daughters, we shall take your clothes and three sacks."*

*My children and I were left stripped of everything.*



**DAVID MACHINE** – amnestied Renamo member

*Recruitment of these children was an order.*

*We had to recruit these children because the grown-ups already had the idea of staying at home with their family.*

*Someone very small is not yet thinking about women. He only thinks about fighting seriously; if sent to attack some target, he will just attack and assault.*

*If a man is more than thirty or forty, he will be thinking: I left my child at home ill, I left my wife, she's ill. Then he will be afraid to face battle, or might desert; he will not be active in combat. That is why we were recruiting children.*

**FRANISSE SIGAUQUE**

*(8 years)*

*– But what was the reason for your struggle?*

***It was to kill people.***

*– Just to kill people?*

*They killed for what reason?*

***(silence)***

*– Was it to win the country or what? Or just to kill people?*

***...to win.***

**GOVANE (sculptor)**

*I know there are many people who endure this suffering, but not only this.*

*In the middle of last year it happened to my family in a part of Marracuene.*

*Some people appeared and took my family, my aunt and some cousins, who were tied up,*

*maltreated, beaten to death. It so happens that one of my aunts escaped and survived that day.*

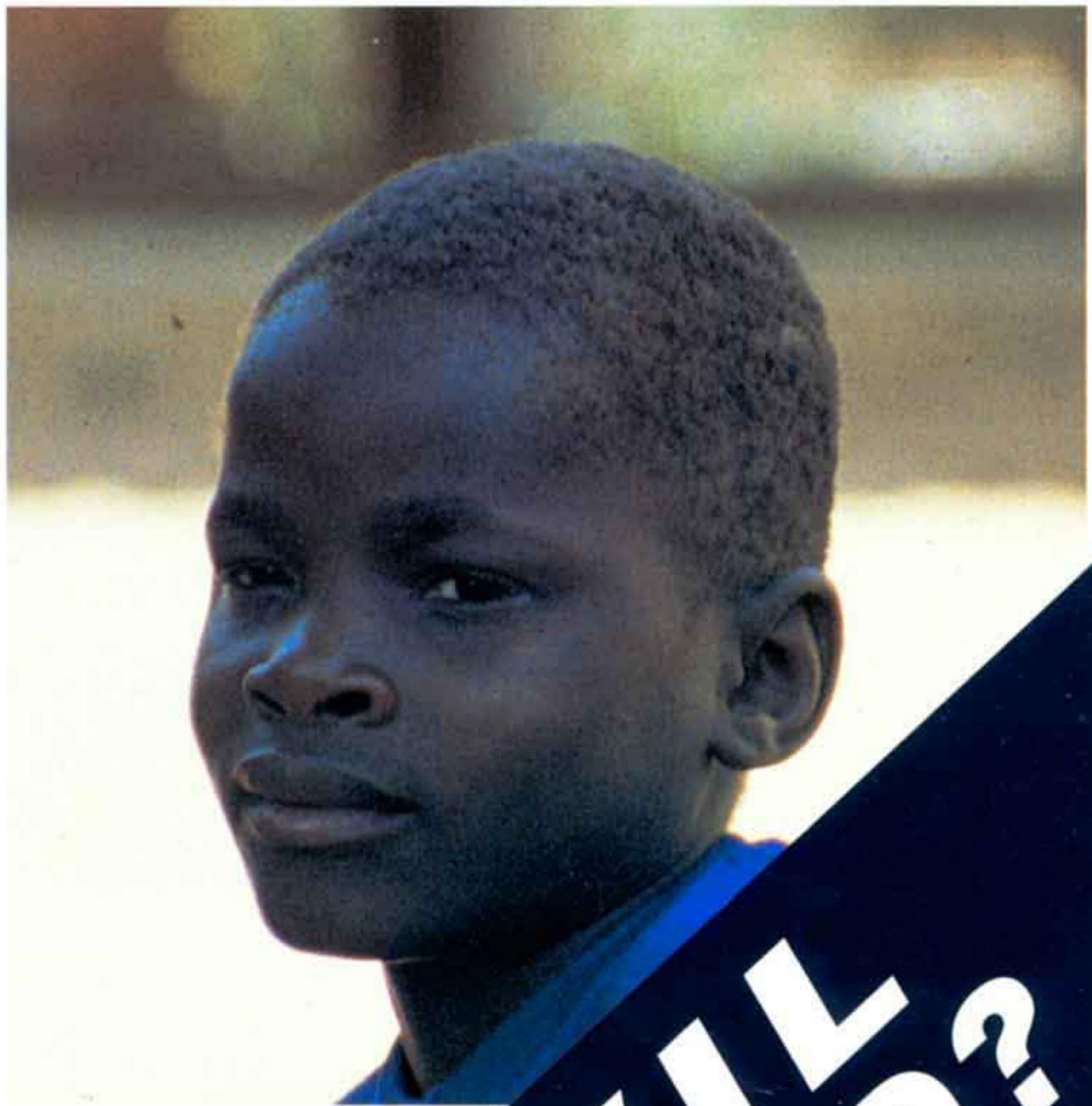
*So this is a living testimony to what goes on.*

**Ilelo-Pilelo Group song**

*Welcome, amnesty law  
carry on to peace.*

*The struggle continues  
till final victory.*

*You who are in the bush  
your mother is weeping.*



**IS IT REALLY A DEVIL CHILD?**

**DR. LEONARDO SIMÃO**

*(Minister of Health)*

*Our policy is to ensure that as quickly as possible these children return to a family environment as the social rehabilitation of these children necessarily involves their emotional rehabilitation.*

*We therefore rejected institutionalizing of these children.*

*A child stays in an institution as long as it is necessary for us to locate his own family, then the child returns to the family environment. If this is not possible as occurs in a great many cases, or if the family were all killed by the bandits, our policy is to find a substitute family.*



# IS REALLY A CHILD?

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**The truth is that routinely from north to south of Mozambique on the Indian Ocean, people of all ages and gender are kidnapped, tortured, mutilated and massacred. But within this infernal landscape there is an even greater crime: children are brutally turned into murderers – to the point of killing their own parents, brothers and sisters – burn their houses and whole villages, massacre innocent people. These Mozambican children as instruments of a barbaric terror are an accusing finger pointed at the conscience of all humankind. This appalling tragedy goes practically unnoticed in the world media. Why? Is it not another crime to remain silent about this undeclared war? Why the silence? Because it affects black children? Because it affects an African country that had the temerity soon after its accession to independance to show active opposition to apartheid? Because South Africa lies behind all the bloodshed? Calane da Silva**

**A film painting where soft brown and silvery colours are spread over the burning heat of the woman's breath like a merciful veil while she is running for her life, a startled gazelle, her long coloured skirt is fluttering and trying to keep up with her infernal pace, her eyes are signalling terrified fright.**

**The children escaped from hell draw documents of their torments. Bashful, with cast down eyes and lowered voices, they unfold scenes of brutality experienced under the reign of violence, and under their fluttering eyelids appear – for seconds only – a pair of dark eyes, cutting my heart with their alarming purity lacking any wiliness, any thirst for blood or revenge. They escaped with their hearts scorched. Yet, they will be healed.**

**Ursula Richter**