

The Casco Bay High School Sophomore Class Presents at the Salt Gallery

The Human Face of Human Rights

April 24-27, 2007

For the past few months, Casco Bay High School sophomores have been working tirelessly on the exhibit you see here today. Our goal when starting this project was to find someone's story—to draw out and capture the very essence of a person through our writing and our photography. Now, at the end of this in-depth study (called an "expedition"), we find ourselves realizing that not only have we managed to discover someone else's story, but in doing so, we have come to discover new things about ourselves. For some, this means seeing the world in a new light... for others, it means finding our voice, and bringing it out through the voices of others.

The subjects of these stories and photographs all have one thing in common: they all come from countries that have faced (or are facing) a human rights crisis. During the course of our studies, we researched the home countries of our subjects, gathering sources and information on the various human rights issues and violations that have occurred. We spent several weeks unearthing the causes and attributes to these crises, focusing on the major aspects of each of these countries and their situations: history, government, politics, geography, culture, and economics. We then moved on to the interviews, calling upon experts to give us advice on photography and the interview process. Each group conducted at least four interviews to try to capture the essence and the story of one individual, allowing each of us to bring life to the facts and figures we had previously studied. We spent weeks observing and listening intently to the answers given to us by the interviewees, trying very hard to dig deeply into their souls and to bring out their voices.

Although many of our subjects have not, themselves, experienced the horrors associated with their homelands, they each have their own story to tell. This exhibit shows the world that there are people behind these crises and it brings a human face to the concept of human rights.

Special Thanks To:

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Created by Stephanie Ewen, student, Casco Bay High School