

First consider *just the photo*, without reading the following article. What are your impressions of the narrative it presents? THEN read the article on the next page. Consider the answers to these questions. We will talk about these in class Week 11, Nov. 30. Also submit your answers in Reading Reaction Week 11.

1. *What is the news here?*
2. *What evidence is there?*
3. *What sources are used and why them?*
4. *What facts don't we know yet?*



Figure 10.1

Source: Reuters/Kim Kyung-Hoon



This Reuters photo (figure 10.1) by Kim Kyung-Hoon of a woman dragging her diaper-clad twin daughters away from the fumes of tear gas became the dominant image during Thanksgiving weekend in 2018 (Poynter). The tear gas was fired by U.S. border agents after some people attempted to unlawfully breach the border fence between Tijuana, Mexico, and the United States. More than 5,000 migrants and refugees from Central American countries had marched towards the border attempting to pressure the US government to allow them to enter, after having sheltered in a Tijuana stadium complex with capacity for only 3,000.

Kim's photograph is the type of image that becomes iconic; it appeared on online news sites and on the front pages of numerous newspapers, provoking worldwide outrage. Both children are clad only in T-shirts, and one appears to be wearing a pull-up diaper. One child is barefoot, another wears flip-flops. The woman clutching their arms and dragging them out of harm's way is wearing black leggings and a T-shirt emblazoned with the smiling cartoon faces of the Anna and Elsa from the Disney movie "Frozen" (Gutierrez and Siemaszko, 2018).

The jarring portrait was captured on camera by veteran Reuters photographer Kim Kyung-Hoon moments after a group of Central American migrants approached the border crossing into San Diego and were forced backwards by tear gas canisters hurled by U.S. border agents. In an interview with NBC News, he said, "I saw the woman and two children running away. One girl was barefoot from the beginning. The other was wearing beach sandals and lost them in the chaos" (Gutierrez and Siemaszko). Kim said he could hear the little girls coughing and crying and he immediately aimed his camera in their direction and started shooting.

According to NBC News, the woman, Maria Mesa, was a 39-year-old mother from Honduras traveling with her five children and trying to reach their father who lives in Louisiana. Her 3-year-old son, who does not appear in the picture, was also with them and fainted after getting a lung-full of gas.

Kim Kyung-Hoon is a South Korean based in Tokyo who has worked for Reuters for 16 years covering news events and tragedies, including plane crashes and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan. When asked if he was rattled by what he witnessed and the heartbreaking sounds of children crying, he said "my job is to document what is happening. I try not to let my emotions get involved in my work" (Gutierrez and Siemaszko, 2018).

Sources:

Gutierrez, G. and Siemaszko, C. (2018). NBC News. Photographer reveals story behind iconic image of fleeing migrants at Mexico border. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/photographer-reveals-story-behind-iconic-photo-fleeing-migrants-mexico-border-n940271>

Poynter. (2018). Morning MediaWire. November 26.