



NEUERSCHEINUNG IM KEHRER VERLAG

## *The Human Cost of Agrottoxins*

Pablo E. Piovano

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Gestaltet von Kehrer Design (Anja Aronska)

Festeinband, 21 x 24 cm

144 Seiten

89 Duplexabb.

Englisch / Spanisch

ISBN 978-3-86828-767-7

Euro 38,00

### Die katastrophalen Folgen von 20 Jahren des rücksichtslosen Einsatzes von Monsanto-Agrarchemikalien im ländlichen Nordosten Argentiniens

1996 genehmigte die argentinische Regierung den Anbau transgener Sojabohnen und den Einsatz von Glyphosat-Herbiziden auf genetisch modifizierten Nutzpflanzen, wobei sie sich ausschließlich auf Studien der Firma Monsanto verließ. Nach fast zwei Jahrzehnten, in denen ein Drittel der Landesbevölkerung direkt oder indirekt von Glyphosat-Spritzmitteln betroffen war, ist Argentinien zu einer Feldstudie für Giftkatastrophen geworden.

Hunderte wissenschaftlicher Studien und medizinischer Untersuchungen bestätigen die tödlichen Wirkungen des Unkrautvernichtungsmittels: Die Krebsrate bei Kindern hat sich verdreifacht, die Häufigkeit von Fehlgeburten und Geburtsschäden mit ungeklärter Ursache ist dramatisch angestiegen. Atemwegs- und Hautkrankheiten, geistige Behinderungen sind nur einige der nachgewiesenen gesundheitlichen Auswirkungen auf die Menschen, die im Bereich der Spritzmittel leben. Trotz dieser unbequemen Wahrheit hat es bisher keinerlei systematische Information von offizieller Seite gegeben.

*The Human Cost* (Auf Kosten der Menschen) dokumentiert die Folgen von 20 Jahren des wahllosen Einsatzes von Agrarchemikalien im ländlichen Nordosten Argentiniens und dessen katastrophale Auswirkungen auf die Menschen und ihre Umwelt.

*»I followed my way and visited villages in the provinces of Entre Rios, Chaco and Misiones. As I was entering into the shore and into the north the scenery became more and more tragic. It was very easy in the impacted areas to meet those people affected. One led me to the other. Dozens and dozens of people opened up their homes to me and I found myself again and again before the same kinds of suffering: congenital malformations, miscarriages and cancer. Intimately, the repeated circle of stories and affections was disfiguring the faces to fuse them into a single pain and a single name: drip genocide, silent genocide. (...)*

*Endosulfan, methamidophos, chlorpyrifos, DDT, atrazine, 2,4-D (a component of Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War) along with others, are used in the country, although some of them have been prohibited.«*

– aus dem Text *Scared Land. Drip Genocide* von Pablo E. Piovano

**Pablo E. Piovano** (\*1981), Fotojournalist und Multi-Scholarship-Gewinner, wohnhaft in Buenos Aires (Argentinien), arbeitete bereits mit 18 Jahren als Fotograf für die überregionale argentinische Tageszeitung *Página/12*. Für *The Human Cost* gewann er u.a. den Philip Jones Griffiths Award 2016 (London), den Sustainability Award 2016 (Hanover) sowie den Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for Documentary Photography & Film Grant 2015 (New York).

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Kehrerverlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, D – 69123 Heidelberg  
Fon 06221/64920-25, Fax 06221/64920-20  
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## Bildunterschriften

1.  
04/15/2015 Colonia Alicia, Misiones province.
2.  
09/23/2015 Monte Maíz, Córdoba province.  
Alfredo Cerán worked for nine years as an agrochemical land applicator in the soybean fields. The beds of his nails were burned, and at present his clinical condition includes nonalcoholic cirrhosis and three herniated discs. Medical results showed residues of glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, azatrine, 2,4-D and cypermethrin in his blood.
3.  
04/09/2015 Pozo Azul, Misiones province.  
Student in the immediate vicinity of a rural school. In Argentina there are 10,200 rural schools, more than half of the country's educational facilities. Most of these schools are located in areas of agricultural production, which are continuously fumigated. As a result of this, the "Stop fumigating schools" campaign was born in Argentina.
4.  
12/02/2014 La Leonesa, Chaco province.
5.  
12/10/2014 San Vicente, Misiones province.  
Mónica Gabriela Rais. Her mother was 15 when she gave birth. At that time she worked on tobacco plantations.
6. 12/01/2014 Roque Sáenz Peña, Chaco province.  
The twins Aldo and Maximiliano Barrios suffer from a serious condition due to congenital microcephaly, one of the diseases associated with the use of neurotoxins in transgenic agriculture. They attend one of the many facilities for the disabled, which increase in number considerably every year.
7.  
12/11/2014 Fracrán, Misiones province.  
Jessica Sheffer is 14 years old and has a genetic mutation.
8.  
11/29/2014 Napenay, Chaco province.  
Anita Sosa cannot walk by herself but she plays together with her older sister, pretending to be a dancer. Liliana Dworak, their mother, attributes her daughter's illness to her exposure to fumigations which complicated her last pregnancy.
9.  
09/25/2015 Firmat, Santa Fe province.  
The Fontanellaz family lives surrounded by fields exposed to constant fumigations. Edgar made 34 judicial complaints. He was attacked twice with gunfire at his home by soybean farmers. His two sons were born with hearing loss.
10.  
12/07/2014 Colonia Alicia, Misiones province.  
Lucas Techeira is five years old and was born with an incurable disease called ichthyosis lamellar, caused by a gene mutation. His parents worked in a tobacco field and other plantations in the area where agrochemicals such as glyphosate and 2,4-D, one of the components of Agent Orange, are sprayed.
11.  
12/06/2014 Colonia Aurora, Misiones province.  
Marcos had leukemia at the age of ten. His father worked for more than 30 years as a fumigator in the tobacco factory and his mother was hospitalized for poisoning during pregnancy. His family had to move from the farm where they lived to the urban area of the town, far from the poisons. Marcos has been waiting three years for a kidney transplant in the Posadas IOT sanatorium.
12.  
2014 – 2017 Basavilbaso, Entre Ríos province.  
Fabián Tomasi and family.