

## Biography - John Rodsted



Born 1961, John Rodsted trained as a commercial photographer and set up his own studio in Melbourne, Australia when he was 22. Quickly bored by the industry, Rodsted hit the road in 1986 to become a photojournalist.

The world has been his studio since and the past 20 years have been spent as a true gypsy wandering the world's trouble spots. His career has taken him to Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Eritrea, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Mozambique, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Western Sahara, to name but a few locations. Rodsted mainly documents communities at risk, including ordinary people trying to survive the horrors of war.

His work has been widely exhibited in some prestigious venues including the Royal Geographical Society (London), Smithsonian Institute (Washington, DC), Sydney Opera House, and the United Nations (Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi, New York). As the official photographer of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Rodsted was part of the team that won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2006, he spent weeks in southern Lebanon documenting the civilian impact of impacts of cluster munition strikes by Israel. Rodsted is now working bring a halt to the use of these insidious weapons and his video of so-called self-destruct cluster munitions in Lebanon stunned diplomats when it was screened at the Oslo Process launch.

Rodsted is an avid skydiver with over 3,000 jumps to his credit and worked as a parachute instructor and a stuntman for films and commercials.

In 2007, Rodsted completed a book commemorating thirty years of peace in Vietnam.

On his rare time off he heads to the Arctic and Antarctic regions for a little wilderness guiding and wildlife photography. He is now considering how to use his photographs of global warming to aid on the movement to stop climate change.

When not travelling for work, Rodsted lives in Melbourne, Australia and Oslo, Norway.

- Rodsted's 2006 *Lebanon Diaries*: [http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/rodsted\\_lebanondiaries.pdf](http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/rodsted_lebanondiaries.pdf)
- Rodsted's photos and videos can be accessed from this site: <http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/>

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