

PHAN THI KIM PHUC



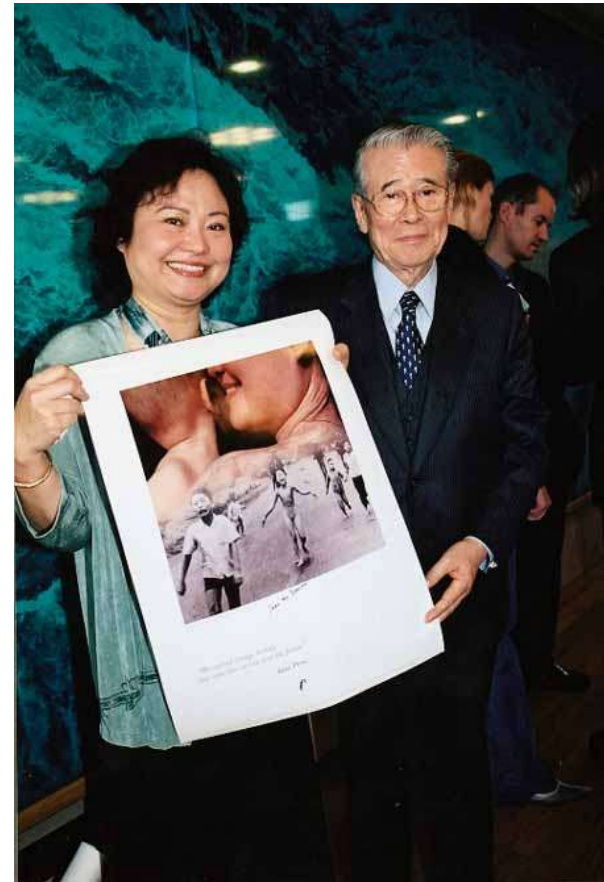
In this June 8, 1972 file photo, 9-year-old Kim Phuc, center, runs down Route 1 near Trang Bang, Vietnam after an aerial napalm attack.

Phan Thi Kim Phúc, (born 1963) is a Vietnamese-Canadian best known as the child depicted in the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph taken by AP photographer Nick Ut on June 8, 1972.

Phúc was severely burned when South Vietnamese planes dropped a napalm bomb on Trang Bang, which had been attacked and occupied by North Vietnamese forces. She was taken to the hospital where after a 14-month stay and 17 surgical procedures, she was able to return home.

As a young adult, while studying medicine, Phúc was removed from her university and used as a propaganda symbol by the communist government of Vietnam. In 1986, she was granted permission to continue her studies in Cuba where she met her future fiance Toan. While on a honeymoon in 1992 and during a refueling stop in Gander, Newfoundland, they left the plane and asked for political asylum in Canada. The couple now lives in Ajax, Ontario, and has two children.

In 1997 she established the first Kim Phuc Foundation in the US, with the aim of providing medical and psychological assistance to child victims of war.



Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi and Mr Ikuo Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors during the Annual meeting on February 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters