



HOMEMADE FOOTBALL.

Kuito, Angola. August 2002.

ONCE A CLIENT STATE OF THE USA, Liberia has become increasingly isolated by the international community. This has led to widespread economic hardship and the need for self-reliance. A tailor at 'Happy Corner' in Monrovia (above) makes up a new football kit for the growing numbers of local teams. Owing to economic hardship, importing kit proves too expensive. Teams of local tailors make all football strips for the numerous teams. Monrovia, Liberia. May 1999.

FROM 1990 TO 1997 LIBERIA was the scene of one of the most violent and surreal civil wars. President Charles Taylor's personal bodyguard was comprised of the notorious Small Boys Unit (SBU), many of whom had seen their parents die in the conflict. By 1999, the Liberian capital Monrovia had become home to a large number of street children, many of them ex-combatants. They survive by collecting scrap metal from the ruins of Monrovia and selling it by the kilo. Many depend on charitable institutions for food and education, but the ritual of afternoon football was of their own making. Street children (top) gather for a football training session at a makeshift pitch in downtown Monrovia. Monrovia, Liberia. May 1999.