Hungary
The young girl learned to fear the color red;

It was the color of the flag that hated her and her friends.
It was the color that her father bled after he refused to leave home.
It was the color of his tie, the man who stopped the train.
Yet, his tie was not a violent, blood chrome;
it was red like the girl’s favorite strawberry sorbet.
The girl cowered in the dark; in the corner she was told to stay,
as the man in the tie stepped aboard the verminous train.
His eyes slowly gazed as though he felt their pain,
then one by one he carried them out to the grass ahead.
When he came to the little girl, who so shook with fear,
He knelt beside her to wipe her mother’s tear.
And when the man leaned close and softly said;
“‘I’ll save you from the scary soldiers,’”
that’s when the little girl learned to love red,
For it always reminded her
of the man with the gentlest whisper
and the most courageous heart;
Raoul Wallenberg.¹

¹ Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish humanitarian who rescued and saved lives of many Jews during the Holocaust in Hungary. He created fake Swedish immigration cards for the Jews, often saving those on the 'Death March' and trains to labor camps.
Cambodia
People drowned in black and red

as the violent, vibrant tsunami spread.

The land that was abounding in prospering crop,

was now a field where innocent men drop.

The hopeless country pleaded in vain,

only to be imprisoned in heavy chain.

The whole world continued to turn away,

leaving the land in a desperate, muddled grey.

Grey was the color of the water once so clear

in a little rice farm one man loved so dear.

He was chosen by the Rouge men

to report the innocent as guilty again and again.

As a leader, he knew this wasn’t right.

As a leader, he knew he had to fight.

So, he hid fruit beneath the banana tree

to break the chains of starvation free.

In money, he was the most poor,

yet in compassion, he was the richest savior:

Van Chhuon.\(^2\)

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\(^2\) Van Chhuon was a peasant farmer in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge rule. He was chosen as the commune leader of his village; the poorest were considered the purest. Though Van Chhuon knew that sharing extra food rations was a crime punished by death, he always hid extra food rations by burying them underground for locals. In addition to saving lives from starvation, Van Chhuon is also known for saving a man from being executed in an execution field nearby his home.
Rwanda
Like a raging wildfire, burning bullets flew,
creating chaotic flames of the bloodiest hue.
Yet, while the men continued to fire away,
one man seemed to be missing from the fray.
The man’s mind told him that this could kill him,
yet saving his party’s enemy was his heart’s courageous whim.
Through the chained fence he went,
escaping before his team’s dissent.
Five pairs of eyes timidly stared,
but none moved; they were too scared.
Like a father, he gathered the children close,
protecting them from the battle’s harsh blows.
And as his soldiers angrily began to demand,
he stood tall and raised a brave hand.
“As Captain Mbaye, they are my responsibility.
To kill them, you must first kill me.”

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3 Captain Mbaye Diagne was a UN peacekeeper during the Rwandan genocide. He prevented numerous Tutsi deaths by hiding survivors in his car and driving past military borders to get them to safety. In addition, he protected and saved the lives of Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana’s children during a Hutu extremist attack.
Conscience
Three men.

Different worlds.

Same dilemma:

Which is right: my mind or heart?

Same answer:

“I know this is wrong.

But I feel in my heart,

that it is right all along.”