



When I first started to publish the ZoneZero website nine years ago, one of the primordial

questions that I was asked, was: “will my photographs be safe on the Internet”?

Since that time, all photographers who have asked me that question, have received the same candid response: there is only one way, I know of, to protect yourself 100% against someone misusing any image, do not publish at all and that includes all media, not only electronic.

From my personal experience, it turns out that the only images that have been used without my permission have been taken from printed pages (books or magazines), not electronic media. In a bit of peculiar irony, it has been thanks to the Internet that people who saw them published somewhere “out of place”, informed me of what was going on. The electronic medium has made it possible for a larger audience, world wide, to be aware of whose images belong to whom.

Scanning images from books or magazines is something that has been done with certain regularity with absolutely no possible control on the part of the photographer. I was amused when recently one of our readers in Japan wrote to inform us, that he would solely continue to use film as a way of protecting himself against misuse of his images, since he could then prove that he held the “original” (negative), while those of us who use digital cameras could not. Probably he is not alone in coming to such an ill-conceived conclusion.

The reason I question the premise, is that it is possible to take a digital image and copy it on to film (positive or negative), if that is what is needed. Sure, there are issues such as pixelation vs. grain, but someone with the desire to do so, could probably fool most of us with such negatives

Protecting your images in a digital world

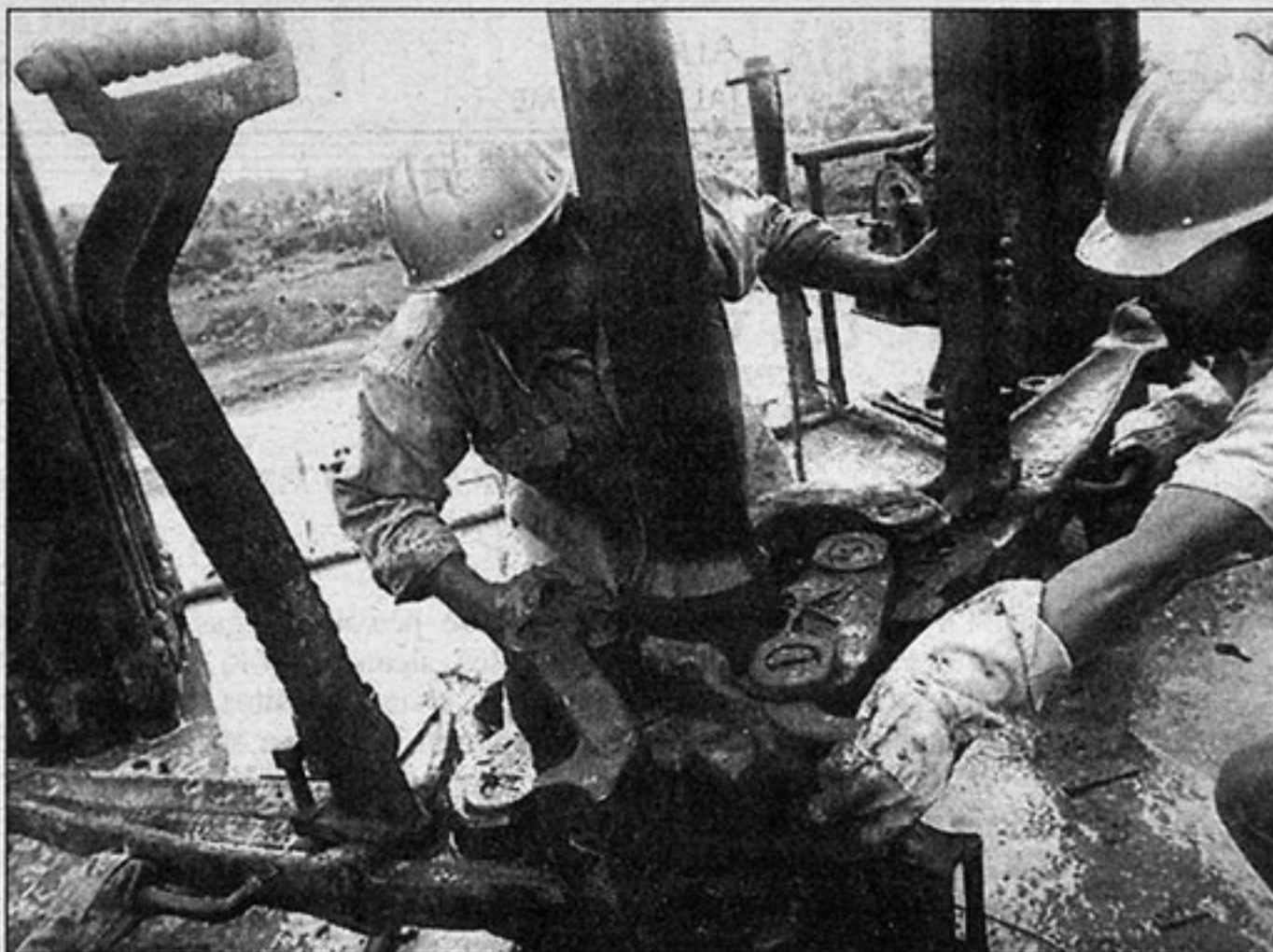
Written by Pedro Meyer

made from original pixels.

You can observe below, two images, copied from one of my books, the one on the oil workers in Mexico, these images were published on the same day in one of Mexico's major dailies (La Jornada), just last week, and without my permission.

In exhibit A - you will see that the credit for the picture is given to me, but not the source from where it was taken.

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El régimen impositivo de Petróleos Mexicanos será discutido por el gobierno federal y diputados

exhibición. But the restriction, all the more, was taken to give to Reuters, and the caption



Con los ingresos petroleros se garantiza la meta del déficit fiscal. En la gráfica, un trabajador Pemex, imagen tomada del libro *Y los cohetes duraron todo el día*, de Pedro Méyer

<http://zonezero.com/editorial/marzo03/march.html> our forums.