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**HEADLINE:** 'HOOD' EVEN GRIMMER 10 YEARS LATER

**BYLINE:** Linda Stasi

**BODY:**

BD+>"Back In The **Hood:** Gang War 2"

[iii] (Three stars)

Tonight at 10 on HBO

IN 1994, filmmakers Marc Levin and Daphne Pinkerson went into the heartland of America - Little Rock, Ark., of all places - and captured gang warfare on film. No, not the war between Bill and Hill, but between the Bloods and the Crips.

They came back with an Award-winning documentary. Recently, Levin and Pinkerson returned to Little Rock to document what has transpired in the lives of the gang bangers from their first film.

What emerged is "Back in the Hood: Gang War 2," a powerful, interesting look at what happens to people who grow up in the life - even when they try to go straight.

Leifel Jackson (leader of OGC, the Original Gangster Crips) spent nearly 10 years in jail for dealing drugs.

He's now out, married, and the father of a baby. He's also the head of a group called Our Club, a city-funded after-school program where he works closely with kids in an attempt to keep them from ending

up like he did.

Leifel earns all of about \$140 bucks a week and works odd jobs all over the neighborhood in a desperate attempt to turn his life around. He and his family barely survive, and they have no health insurance.

During the course of filming, we meet young men who are still (or just becoming) gang bangers who often feel that joining a gang and selling drugs, despite the real danger of being murdered, is the road to the good life.

As one says, "Drugs brought a whole new breath of life to the 'hood. Before that, designer jeans . . . were just for white kids."

Says another with the wisdom of someone twice his age: "It's worse here than in Afghanistan. And up there [points to the big city] you got some m/f in a corporate office doing [worse]."

It's almost impossible to believe that kids in the U.S. live like this - like some nightmare Third World country-within-a-country. And for the record - the kid's right. It is worse than Afghanistan - at least in terms of American fatalities. Over 400 gang members (and innocent passers-by) have been killed in Little Rock alone in the 10 years since the first documentary was filmed.

**GRAPHIC:** Leifel Jackson

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