

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN STOPPING THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

CASE STUDY: NORTHERN UGANDA

By

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of the requirements for the award of the degree of bachelor of mass communication**


Of

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DECLARATION

I declare that the content of this project is my original work and research and has not been presented or submitted to any other institute of learning for any academic award.

Signed  Date 20/9/06

Chambuni Wekesa Milton

RESEARCHER

Signed  Date 25-09-06

DR. Jerome Ongora

SUPERVISOR

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my family and all my friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is greatly indebted to the following persons who assisted in various ways:

DR Jeromme Ongora my supervisor for the good advises, constant encouragement and inspiration during the collection of data and writing up this essay.

My parents and all family members who have supported me both financially and socially throughout my course, especially my father Mr. Titus Chambuni and my mum Mrs. Agnes Chambuni , and my brother and sisters.

ABBREVIATIONS:

LRA	Lords resistant army
UPDF	Uganda Police Defense Force
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IDP	Internal displaced Persons
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Terrorism	Systematic use of violence , terror and intimidation to achieve an end
Rebel	To refuse allegiance and to oppose by force an established government or ruling authority
Night commuters	Civilians who leave their homes every evening out of fear of abduction by the rebels
Displacement	To change position or place

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
ABBREVIATIONS:.....	iv
DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....	v
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Background Information.....	1
1.1 Problem Statement.....	3
1.2 Aim of the Study.....	3
1.3 Scope of the Study.....	4
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	4
CHAPTER TWO.....	6
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
2.0 Introduction.....	6
CHAPTER THREE.....	12
METHODOLOGY.....	12
3.0 Introduction.....	12
3.1 Research Design.....	12
3.2 Population Description.....	12
3.3 Sampling Strategies.....	12
3.4 Data Collection Methods.....	12

3.4.1 Questionnaires.....	13
3.4.2 Individual Interviews.....	13
3.5 Data Quality Control.....	13
3.6 Data Analysis.....	13
3.7 Ethical Considerations.....	13
3.8 Limitations of the Study.....	14
CHAPTER FOUR.....	15
PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF, FINDINGS.....	15
4.0 Introduction.....	15
4.1 Characteristics of the Sample.....	15
4.2 Children at War.....	16
4.3 Armed Political Groups.....	16
4.4 War on Children.....	16
4.5 Recruitment.....	17
4.5.2 Forced Recruitment.....	17
4. 6 Factors Leading to Recruitment.....	18
4.7 The Experience of Girls.....	18
4.8 The Challenges of Demobilisation.....	18
4.9 Uganda Government and International Response.....	19
4.9.1 International Response.....	19
4.10 Naming and Shaming.....	20
4.11 Prosecution for using Child Soldiers.....	21

CHAPTER FIVE.....	22
CONCLUSION.....	22
5.0 Introduction.....	22
5.1 Summary of Findings.....	22
5.2 Recommendations.....	24
APPENDIX.....	25
Bibliography.....	25
QUESTIONAIRES A:.....	26
QUESTIONAIRE B:.....	29

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
ABBREVIATIONS:.....	iv
DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....	v
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Background Information.....	1
1.1 Problem Statement.....	3
1.2 Aim of the Study.....	3
1.3 Scope of the Study.....	4
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	4
CHAPTER TWO.....	6
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
2.0 Introduction.....	6
CHAPTER THREE.....	12
METHODOLOGY.....	12
3.0 Introduction.....	12
3.1 Research Design.....	12
3.2 Population Description.....	12
3.3 Sampling Strategies.....	12
3.4 Data Collection Methods.....	12

3.4.1 Questionnaires.....	13
3.4.2 Individual Interviews.....	13
3.5 Data Quality Control.....	13
3.6 Data Analysis.....	13
3.7 Ethical Considerations.....	13
3.8 Limitations of the Study.....	14
CHAPTER FOUR.....	15
PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF, FINDINGS.....	15
4.0 Introduction.....	15
4.1 Characteristics of the Sample.....	15
4.2 Children at War.....	16
4.3 Armed Political Groups.....	16
4.4 War on Children.....	16
4.5 Recruitment.....	17
4.5.2 Forced Recruitment.....	17
4. 6 Factors Leading to Recruitment.....	18
4.7 The Experience of Girls.....	18
4.8 The Challenges of Demobilisation.....	18
4.9 Uganda Government and International Response.....	19
4.9.1 International Response.....	19
4.10 Naming and Shaming.....	20
4.11 Prosecution for using Child Soldiers.....	21

CHAPTER FIVE.....	22
CONCLUSION.....	22
5.0 Introduction.....	22
5.1 Summary of Findings.....	22
5.2 Recommendations.....	24
APPENDIX.....	25
Bibliography.....	25
QUESTIONAIRES A:.....	26
QUESTIONAIRE B:.....	29

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background Information

To trace the roots of the current war in Acholi land is to work through a tangle of economic, social and cultural pieces in Uganda s history .What remains at present is a history of constant insecurity and untold loss.

The Acholi live in the shadow of an ill defined rebel cause led by Joseph Kony under whose command the lords resistant army has grown into a vehicle for gross violations of human rights .In order to fuel their war and fortify their troops, the Lords resistant army rebels have made it a practice to abduct children and train them as soldiers .The children are taken from their homes and schools and pressed into a life of brutality and perpetual danger. They are used in heavy combat with Uganda soldiers and are forced to commit atrocities against their own people.

When the rebels move on, they leave behind the bodies of the dead, but often each raid, the rebels take away some of those who remain living. In particular they take young children, often dragging them away from the dead bodies of their parents and siblings.

The rebels prefer children of 14 to 16 but at times they abduct children as young as eight or nine boys and girls alike. Children who protest are killed and those who can not keep up or become ill are killed.

Their deaths are not quick – a child killed by a single bullet is a rarity, if one child attempts to escape, the rebels force the other children to kill the would be escapee, usually with clubs or matches, any child who refuses to participate in the killing maybe beaten or killed.

The rebels generally bring their captives across the border to the border to LRA's army camps in Sudan .In the bush, in Sudan a shortage of food and water reduces many children to eating leaves for survival; deaths from dysentery hunger and thirst are frequent.

Foiled escape attempts continue to be punished by death and successful escape attempts lead to retaliation: if one sibling escapes the rebels often kill the other siblings or return to the child's home village and slaughter the surviving relatives.

Once they are trained the young soldiers are forced to fight, both in Uganda and in Sudan. They are forced to help raid villages for food, and fight against the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army. In Uganda the children are made to loot villages and fight against Uganda government soldiers.

The merciless treatment of this child soldiers is not only a tool of battle but also effort to strip them of sensibility and the will to survive .Amnesty international found out that children abducted by the LRA are forced to participate in ritualized killings of others as soon after being abducted. “The intention appears to be to break down resistance to LRA authority, to destroy taboos about killing and to implicate the child in criminal acts.”

1.1 Problem Statement

It has been found that over the years the issue of child soldiers in Uganda has treated with little or no respect by different governments that have come to power over the years.

For the purpose of this study, an examination of the use of child soldiers shows that many children have been abducted by the LRA and used as soldiers in battles with Uganda government soldiers and against the SPLA rebels in Sudan.

Reports have shown that some of the child soldiers recaptured from the LRA are employed in government army as guides or to fight against the LRA.

UNICEF estimated that 8,400 children were abducted between June 2002 and May 2003. In July 2003 more than 20,000 children were estimated to seek safety each night in Gulu, Pader, and Kitgum towns to reduce the risk of abductions.

With the continued abductions and use of child soldiers this study is deemed necessary in order to suggest and offer solutions to this continuous problem.

1.2 Aim of the Study

The study aims at bringing to light the effects of using children as soldiers by the LRA and the UPDF.

Secondly the study aims at portraying the governments failure to curb this problem affecting children in the north.

The study will critically analyze the current situation surrounding child soldiers in the north and their [participation in the long running war in the north.

1.3 Scope of the Study.

The study intends to focus on the use of children's soldiers by the LRA and the UPDF

The study will be narrowed to the northern region of Uganda

The evaluation will carry out interviews and then a comparative analysis of child soldiers in the north.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study will be beneficial to the people affected by the LRA in the north of Uganda.

That is they will be able to know their human rights concerning war and criminal activities against humanity.

The findings of the study will enable the government to realize the magnitude of the situation of children in the north.

The study will also be important to mass communication students. They will be exposed to what is taking place in the north, and what roles they can play to help solve the situation.

The study will also let the rest of the public know the need to respect the human rights of others especially children's rights in relation to war activities.

The study will be a point of reference incase of any incidence of children being used as soldiers, thus it can be used in court as precedence.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The conflict in the north has received many press coverage, and it has tended to present the LRA in straight forward terms. To the media, the LRA is a group of militant Christian fundamentalists who seek to restore a government based on the Ten Commandments. The 'new York times' call them "blood thirsty ... self styled revolutionaries and Christian fundamentalists, rebels. CNN calls them "A Christian cult led by a former catholic named Kony" and the 'guardian' calls Kony a "Christian fanatic."

Kony s group underwent a number of name changes, but eventually began to call itself the LRA. For several years after Alice Lakwena s defeat the LRA continued to harass government installations and those civilians seen as wrong doors or government supporters.

At some point most observers place it as early 1991. Their tactics shifted and they began large scale operations or attacks on civilian targets, including, schools and clinics. Abductions especially of children were also stepped up. In 1991 the Museveni government responded to its inability to defeat the rebels by sealing of northern districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Lira and Apac, for "intensive military operations" against what they viewed as "gun totting and panga wielding thugs cum rebels." During the operation north, there was a total press black out and the government forbade communication or

physical movement between the sealed provinces and the rest of the country. According to Acholi Member of Parliament, operation north was a tactical and human rights disaster.

Operation north was created more problems than it solved ... private radio communications (methods) were removed from institutions and NGOs .There were massive arrests of civic leaders; the press was not allowed in the area and MPs from the area were forcefully evicted from Gulu , Kitgum ,Apac and Iira.

Indeed as the war drags on, many casualties are children, former MP for Gulu Robert Mao points out that. "The rebel commanders rarely face the UPDF themselves; it is the children who are mown down by the bullets. Kony pushes the hand of the government army on children. Children are sent to the front, and they die, so Kony is driven to abduct more children to them. The border with Sudan is long and the UPDF cannot police it, so Kony has an inexhaustible supply of children to abduct. So what we have is a terrible cycle"

After relations improved between Sudan and Uganda 10,000 troops crossed into Sudan and forced the LRA combatants back into Uganda in a military operation, 'operation iron fist' launched in March 2002. One aim of the military operation was to rescue abducted children. And between March 2002 and 2003 at least 2,000 children were recovered captured or managed to return on their own. However in the same period, 5,000 other children were abducted. The ratio of children to adults in the LRA ranks continued to rise. The government increasingly resorted to military action to end the conflict. A

growing number of LRA child soldiers and other children born captivity some as young as five, were killed in encounters with the UPDF

From mid 2003 LRA abductions spread from the north into eastern Uganda. UNICEF estimated that 8,400 children were abducted between June 2002 and May 2003, 'child night commuters' were estimated to seek safety each night in Gulu, Pader, and Kitgum towns, to reduce the risk of being abducted. On July 2003 an estimated 20,000 children marched in Kitgum to protest against continued abductions. A similar march took place in Gulu in August 2003.

The 1995 constitution requires that every citizen to "defend Uganda and render national service when necessary" and every able bodied citizen to "undergo military training for the defense of this constitution and the protection of the territorial integrity of Uganda wherever called upon to do so." (Article 17). Under article 17, it is also the duty of every Ugandan citizen to "protect children against any form of abuse harassment or ill treatment". The constitution also states that children under the age of 16 years are entitled to be protected from social or economic exploitation and shall not be employed in or required to perform work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health , mental , physical, social or moral development. (Article 34)

Under the national resistant army statute 3/34 and conditions of service regulations of 1993, recruits must be aged between 18 and 30. However, a Uganda defense bill brought

before the parliamentary defense committee recommended on explicitly excluding the recruitment of child soldiers, which the committee promised to take into consideration.

The desertion of over 20 recruits under the age of 18 in may 2003 provided evidence of the recruitment of children to the ranks of the regular armed forces. The youngest boy was 15. In November 2003 UNICEF accused the government of failing to prevent the recruitment of children. It found that 120 recruits out of a sample, 1,200 in Lugore training centre were probably under the age of 18 .In response the authorities said that any recruits found to be under 18 were withdrawn from the forces.

Children who escaped or were captured from; LRA captivity, some as young as 13 were sometimes recruited in to the army forces or forced to take part in military operations. In some cases they were used as guides to indicate LRA positions or weapon catches.

In March 2004 President Yoweri Museveni denied that child soldiers were recruited, blaming parents for lying about their children ages so they could earn salaries.

Uganda government soldiers also recruited large numbers of children into LDCs. The authorities said that recruits to these units had to be at least 18 and that local leaders were responsible for verifying their age. The government also claimed that if any recruits are found to be less than 18 years they are to be pulled out.

Pro- government militia groups armed by the government forces , were established in several areas under the a variety of names; Arrow boys in Teso in mid 2003 , and

Frontier guards in Kitgum and Pader then the Elephant brigades in Gulu region. The Arrow boys took part in military operations and received some pay and training from the armed forces. Some vigilante groups were reported to include child soldiers and measures appeared to be taken to present this. In February 2004 the government announced that it was considering recruiting educated Amuka boys and Arrow boys in to the army and police force

The amnesty act of January 2000 offering immunity and resettlement packages to all armed opponents, who surrendered their weapons, was renewed every six months. In January 2004, the government reduced the amnesty period for members of LRA from six months to three months, and indicated that the LRA commanders. The amnesty act currently includes no specific provisions on child soldiers.

The age of criminal responsibility in Uganda is twelve years. In late 2002 two boys aged 14 years and 16 years who had been abducted by the LRA were charged with treason. The crime carries a death penalty although under the constitution no death sentence may be passed on anyone under the age of 18 years. The two boys were released on bail early 2003 into the custody of a women's organization in Gulu. In April 2003 they applied to the amnesty commission for an amnesty.

Uganda ratified the Rome statutes of the International Criminal Court in June 2002. In July 2003, the prosecutor of the court announced that human rights violation in the north on Uganda by armed groups will be the subject of investigation. However, in January 2004, the prosecutor announced an investigation into war crimes committed in Uganda.

Reportedly the change took place after president Museveni sought to limit the scope of the investigation to just one of the parties involved in the conflict, LRA.

In November 2003, the UN secretary general identified the LRA and the government Armed Forces as Users of child soldiers, and in particular noted that “abducted children are subjected to brutal treatment and other egregious personal violations. In northern Uganda, LRA has abducted thousands of children and forced them to become child soldiers and to commit atrocities.” The secretary general also noted that in countries including DRC “the illicit exploitation of natural resources in particular diamond, gold, and timber in zones of conflict has become a principal means of fueling and prolonging conflicts in which children suffer most.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter shows how the researcher carried out the research on the topic.

3.1 Research Design

The study was descriptive by nature hence it employed qualitative research methods. Since qualitative methods are always information driven they gave the picture of the sufferings faced by child soldiers in the North of Uganda.

3.2 Population Description

The target population of the study consisted the top administration cadre responsible for ensuring children rights and individuals who had information about the topic.

3.3 Sampling Strategies

Due to the factor of time and limited funds a few members of the population were selected using purposive sampling.

3.4 Data Collection Methods

This comprised instruments and procedures which were used in the collection of data for the study.

3.4.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaires took both open and closed format of questions

.This ensured exhaustion of the needed information and effective management of time.

3.4.2 Individual Interviews

This went hand in hand with the questionnaire method. An interactive interview taking an open ended form was used to ensure a thorough collection of the needed information.

3.5 Data Quality Control

In ensuring minimum biasness, the responses from the population. The in-depth interviews involved a series of one- to- one interviews. A questionnaire guide was employed on several subjects in the same category to ensure that the respondents represent a wider population and that the responses represent a wider population and that they were consistent and reliable.

3.6 Data Analysis

The qualitative data got from interviews conducted and questionnaires served was grouped into main themes and analyzed accordingly, against the background of the literature and qualitative data.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Before the beginning of the study, permission was sought from the concerned offices. The permission seeking was made easier by requesting for an introductory letter from the

faculty. The respondent's individual consent was sought first before undertaking any research on them. Their responses were treated with confidentiality and used only for the purpose of the study.

3.8 Limitations of the Study

As anticipated the following were problems encountered during data collection. There was a problem of non respondents where by some respondents frankly said that they had no time to read through and answer the questionnaires due to tight work schedules.

There was also lack of adequate funds to finance the entire research study and make follow ups of non respondents.

There was a limit of time accorded for the study as the semester was on the verge of ending.

Un availability of some officials whom I had scheduled the time for meeting (interview, questionnaires.) with the excuse of having commitments elsewhere.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF, FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter gives presentation, analysis and interpretation of the research findings on the topic “The role of the media in stopping the use of child soldiers (a case for northern Uganda).” The presentation reflects the relationship between variables of interest and characteristics of respondents.

From each presentation the researcher subsequently gives the analysis , interpretes and discusses the data presented based on the background to the topic , other studies conducted on the topic , general held views , books written on the subject , expectations of the target group and other respondents.

4.1 Characteristics of the Sample

The study was conducted in northern Uganda. Ten people were reached through interviews that included local people. Then in the interest of time fifteen people were selected and given questionnaires to fill in .The overall total number of respondents in the sample was twenty five.

4.2 Children at War

Children have continued to play a significant part in the long running conflict in northern Uganda, which has ignited successive generations of children to be recruited in order to replenish the fighting forces of LRA. Abductions of children by the armed group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) dramatically increased in 2003, out of an estimated 20,000 children abducted by the LRA, nearly 10,000 were taken from mid 2002.

4.3 Armed Political Groups

The majority of the child soldiers were associated with government backed paramilitary and the armed opposition group (LRA). Government backed paramilitaries and other irregular forces like "Arrow groups, Frontier guards, and Elephants brigade" used children to fight the opposition LRA, primarily composed of children itself.

4.4 War on Children

In the pursuit of the LRA rebels it was discovered that the government army UPDF killed children who were sent to the frontline by the LRA commanders. The rebel commanders rarely faced the UPDF themselves, it was the children who were killed during the fights. Once the children were trained they were forced to fight, both in Uganda and in Sudan. They are forced to help raid villages for food, and fight against the people's liberation army in Uganda. The children are made to loot villages for food, capture other children and commit various atrocities on their own people. Children who escaped, captured or rescued from LRA captivity some as young as 13 were sometimes

recruited into the armed forces or forced to take part in military operations were many were killed.

4.5 Recruitment

4.5.1 Voluntary

Many children at the ages of 16 and 17 were recruited into the government forces. It was discovered that many under age recruits reached the age of 18 before they completed training or were not deployed to active service.

According to the respondents the lack of functional birth registration system, the recording of birth dates and provision of birth certificates, increased the risk of young soldiers being enlisted into the army. Production of birth certificates is required during recruitments as evidence of age. However, a large proportion of births were unregistered and some parents lied by giving wrong dates of births.

4.5.2 Forced Recruitment

It was found out that in order to fuel their war and fortify their troops, the LRA made it a practice to abduct children and train them as soldiers. The children were taken from their homes and schools, trained and then used in heavy combat with Ugandan forces. Sometimes they were forced to commit atrocities against their own people, looting villages and abducting other children.

The rebels preferred children of 14 to 16 but at times they abducted children as young as 8 or 9 years boys and girls alike.

4. 6 Factors Leading to Recruitment

From the research carried out it was found out that children often voluntarily joined the army and in other cases they were forcefully recruited into the LRA. In most cases they had few alternatives. Invasion, occupation, ethnic and religious discrimination, abuses against community and families, all have impelled children into soldiering.

It was discovered that poverty and lack of alternative employment are critical “push factors” in the recruitment of children into the army and local defense units (LDUs)

4.7 The Experience of Girls

Girls as well as boys were involved in the armed conflict in the north. Girls were frequented to rape and other forms of sexual violence, some girls were forced into marriages or as wives to the LRA commanders, for whom they worked long hours as domestic servants. The research showed that sometimes girls were used in combats with the UPDF which resulted in many deaths due to their inability to fight and cope up with the harsh environment.

4.8 The Challenges of Demobilization

According to the respondents demobilization disarmament and reintegration programmes have been in operation and efforts to rescue abducted children were made by the government by launching military operations , like the ‘ operation iron fist” which was launched in march 2002 and 2003 which saw at least 20,000 children recovered. The government of Uganda and more than 60 NGOs working in the north made programmes

to reintegrate child soldiers back into their communities while avoiding the recruitments or further fuelling of the conflict in the north.

There are 65 camps for the displaced in Amuria and Katakwi districts, but many of the displaced are venturing to return home. According to the United Nations office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA), 95% of the displaced people in Soroti and Kabaramaidu districts have returned home and all schools in the return areas have resumed operation.

4.9 Uganda Government and International Response

4.9.1 International Response

As per the findings the landmark development in ending child soldier use during the past years was growing international support for the optional protocol, which came into force on 12 February 2002. In 2001 only four states had ratified it and another 79 states had signed it. By August 2004, 77 states had ratified it and 155 states had signed it. Africa and Asia had a poor record of ratification, although many countries in conflict did ratify. They included the DRC, Liberia, Rwanda, and Uganda. Both Rwanda and Uganda subsequently violated their legal obligations.

The human security network, a grouping of states in 2003 adopted a strong focus on monitoring and reporting child soldier use. A small but growing number of other like minded governments demonstrated their commitment to ending child soldiering by mobilizing political support and resources to protect children in armed conflicts and meet their needs for care and recovery. Organisations like the global night commute

encouraged the U.S government and the Bush administration to push the UN and the Uganda government to do everything in their power to the conflict in the north and protect civilians and young children.

4.9.2 Uganda

According to the respondents Ugandan officials have been using diplomacy in per suit of solutions in the north of Uganda by trying to disarm the LRA, and to lobby the African union and the United States to enforce sanctions against the LRA and their leader Joseph Kony.

Secondary sources (media) showed that the defense minister Amama Mbavazi briefed the UN Security Council in New York City on LRA activities and tabled a proposal aimed at ending the insurgency.

4.10 Naming and Shaming

A number of critical media reports and official pronouncements from local FM stations and news papers including media reports in western capitals about the plight of internally displaced people, especially child soldiers, are escalating much to the discomfort of Ugandan officials.

The UN Security Council has played an increasingly important role in condemning child soldiering in the north of Uganda, and calling for the internal accountability of those who recruit and use children as soldiers.

4.11 Prosecution for using Child Soldiers

The research showed that for the first time those who recruited children into armed forces or armed political groups faced prosecution. In July 1988, the Rome statute of the international community adopted the Rome statute of the international criminal court to establish a permanent court to investigate and prosecute crimes where national courts were not willing to do so.

Uganda ratified the Rome statute of the international criminal court in June 2002. And in July 2003 the prosecutor of the court announced that violations of human rights in the North of Uganda by the LRA would be the subject of investigation.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a brief summary of the main findings of the study and it attempts to find out the extent to which objectives were reached. It further presents the conclusions drawn by the researcher from the findings of the study, recommendations and suggestions to future researchers.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study was aimed at finding the role of the media in stopping the use of child soldiers. (A case for Northern Uganda).

Research findings showed that the majority of children are involved in a variety of armed groups. These include government backed paramilitary groups (Arrow group and the Amuka boys), Self defense units operating with government support (LDUs)

The use of children by the army has declined although a few cases still exist of children being recruited. The army uses children as spies, messengers and to run errands, exposing them to injury and death.

Many of the child soldiers are between 14 and 18 years old and enlist voluntarily. However research shows that the children see a few alternatives to involvement in the conflict in the North. War itself and lack of education or work are among the factors involved.

Forcible recruitments and abductions by the LRA have continued uncontrolled. This has involved children as young as nine being abducted.

Demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) programmes specifically aimed at child soldiers have been established in the North during the conflict. Such programmes have assisted former child soldiers to acquire new skills and return to their communities

A series of international legal mechanisms provide for the protection of children from involvement of children in armed conflicts like that in the North. They include the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child in the involvement of children in armed conflicts, which directly prohibits the direct use of under 18s in hostilities. The Rome statute of the international criminal court defines the recruitment of child under 15 as a war crime and provides for the prosecution and punishments of offenders.

The UN council has continued to call for action to stop the use of child soldiers by the LRA. Its proposed measures include dialogue with the LRA and its leaders to stop the war.

Despite all the condemnation of child soldiering by the LRA and a solid legal framework, lack of political will among government officials is an obstacle to achieving lasting solution to the conflict and effective child protection.

5.2 Recommendations

A key step is that the Security Council should take action to enforce its demand to end child soldier use by the LRA.

The government should harmonize the various efforts aimed at bringing peace in the long running conflict in northern Uganda.

The government should also listen to the views and suggestions of members of parliament from the affected areas, grass root organizations such as the Acholi religious leader's peace initiative and the IDPs themselves

The UN Security Council should ensure that it is naming and shaming those using child soldiers in the North and followed by decisive action.

Those using children as soldiers should be prosecuted by the international criminal court of justice and other justice mechanisms.

APPENDIX

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UN office for the co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [http//www.ocha on line](http://www.ocha on line).

QUESTIONNAIRES A:

Please you are kindly requested to fill in this questionnaire, which will aid in the completion of a research project on “The role of the media in stopping the use of child soldiers” your responses will solely be for the purpose of this project.

Instructions

Tick in the box or fill in the spaces provided for the appropriate answer.

SECTION A: SOCIAL BACKGROUND

1 AGE

2 SEX

{a} MALE ☐

{b} FEMALE ☐

3 RELIGION ☐

a} catholic ☐

{b} protestant ☐

{c} Muslim ☐

4 MARITAL STATUS

{a} single ☐

{b} married ☐

5 LEVEL OF EDUCATION

{a} never went to school ☐

{b} secondary level ☐

{c} post secondary level ☐

6 OCUPATION

{a} farmer ☐

{b} business ☐

{c} professional ☐

{d} others specify ☐

SECTION B

1 What are ages are children considered adults in Uganda...

.....

2 Is there a minimum age for legal recruitment in the armed forces under national Law

3 Are those responsible for recruitment aware of international standards about the minimum age of recruitment YES ☐ NO ☐

4 Can it be that insufficient birth registration made it possible that under 18s may have been recruited or used as child soldiers? YES ☐ NO ☐

5 What are the methods of recruitment

{a} compulsory ☐

{b} voluntary ☐

{c} forced ☐

{i} If voluntary what are the reasons for volunteering

6 Are some categories of children more vulnerable than others? Which categories,
e.g. poor, less educated, boys, girls, those in conflict, from poor family's .etc

6 Are the children given training YES ☐ NO ☐

8 What punishments are given for disobedience?

QUESTIONNAIRE B:

Please you are kindly requested to fill in this questionnaire, which will aid in the completion of a research project on “The role of the media in stopping the use of child soldiers” your responses will solely be for the purpose of this project.

Instructions

Tick in the box or fill in the spaces provided for the appropriate answer.

- 1 Historically have children always been involved in armed conflicts (if so from what age) or is this something new.....
- 2 What specific factors led to this involvement.eg short of adult soldiers, political leadership , ideology ,vulnerability, or certain groups Of children
.....
- 3 DO families/ communities support the involvement of their children? If so why
e.g. material benefits, ideology, religion, culture
.....
- 4 Are there any specific strategies employed to reduce / prevent, child recruitment including voluntary, if so what, by whom, and how effective were they. For example sending children away from the area , reuniting separated children with families ,financial aid
.....
- 5 {a} How do the military view the involvement of children in their armed forces ?
.....
{b}How do they view the involvement of children in the LRA?

6 Is there any planning now for the future rehabilitation of children presently involved in the conflict in the North?

.....

7 Has the media played any role ending the conflict and the recruitment of children by the LRA and the Army?

.....

8 What can be the lasting solutions in ending the conflict in the northern Uganda and in stopping the use of children as soldiers?

.....

9 Can the continuous involvement of child soldiers in war be a cause of further deterioration of the security situation in the North? {a} YES ☐ {b} NO ☐