



Regional Executive Seminar on Child Soldiers and Security Forces

Botswana

2-4 December 2009

Final Report

Table of Contents

	Page
1. Agenda	3-6
2. Executive Summary	7-8
3. Proceedings Report	10-31
4. Annex 1: Powerpoint Presentations	32-35
5. Annex 2: Minister Seretse's Keynote Address	36-37
6. Annex 3: Evaluation Form	38-40
7. Annex 4: Evaluation Summaries	41-42
8. Annex 5: List of Participants	43-46
9. Annex 6: Speaker's Biographies	47-48
10. Annex 7: Readings for Participants	49-51

AGENDA

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE SEMINAR ON

CHILD SOLDIERS AND SECURITY FORCES

Botswana December 2-4 2009

DAY 1

Time	Topic
8:00 – 8:15	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Objectives • Group introductions <p>Speaker: Shelly Whitman, CSI and Dalhousie University</p>
8:15 – 10:00 am	<p>Child Soldiers Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are they?/International definition; • A general overview: numbers, location, who are the most vulnerable, trends (ie. Ongoing recruitment); evolution of laws to protect • Reasons and driving factors for child soldiers; • Discussion on participants experiences with and/or perceptions of child soldiers <p>Speaker: Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch</p>
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10.15 – 12:15 pm	Film Screening – Cry Freetown, film by Sorious Samura, a Sierra Leonean journalist
12.15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 pm	<p>Understanding child soldiering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do children/youth join?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are they recruited? • How are they recruited/recruitment techniques? • Techniques for keeping and using children and youth in armed groups? • What do we know about recruiters? <p>Speaker: David Buchbinder, Human Rights Watch</p>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 – 4:30 pm	<p>Existing mechanisms for dealing with child soldiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing the release of child soldiers • DDR processes and problems associated with DDR for children, youth and girls • What are the key gaps/problems with coordination between humanitarians and security forces? • Discussion: What training methods currently exist to deal with Child soldiers on the African continent? <p>Speaker: Guillaume Landry, International Children’s Rights Bureau</p>
4:30pm -5:00 pm	Keynote Address: Lt. General Roméo Dallaire via Video Conferencing
7:00 pm	<p>Dinner/Reception</p> <p>Keynote address: Honourable Dikgakgamatso Seretse, Botswana Minister of Justice, Defence and Security</p>

DAY 2

Time	Topic
8:00 – 9:30	<p>Speaker: Tasha Gill, UNICEF DRC</p> <p>Gender dynamics relating to child soldiering</p> <p>Challenges – securing the release, DDR, long term societal/security</p> <p>How does this relate to security forces?</p> <p>Discussion</p>
9:30 – 11:15	<p>A multi-disciplinary approach – Working with others</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary approach and the importance of civil-military cooperation: current experiences and challenges, useful tools and examples of effective collaborative action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who are the actors to consider? • What are their roles? • How do they perceive each other? <p>Speaker: Major Patrick Musibi, Save the Children Sweden (Kenya)</p>
11:15 – 11:30 pm	Break
11.30 – 12:30 pm	<p>What is the role of the military and police in stopping recruitment during conflict and preventing re-recruitment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN SC Res. 1612 and 1882 – Monitoring and Documentation <p>Speaker: Tasha Gill (UNICEF DRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What more can uniformed actors be doing? <p>Facilitated discussion (Facilitators Tasha Gill and Major Patrick Musibi)</p>
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30– 2:45	<p>Discussion Why child soldiering is a concern for African defense forces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection obligations (mandate and legal framework) • Long-term development effects on the continent • Understanding the security dimension of child soldiering • Discussion

	Speaker: Aderemi Adekoya, UN-AU (UNAMID DDR)
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30	The Perspective of a Child Soldier Speaker: Jon Kon Kelei, Sudan Discussion

DAY 3

Time	Topic
8:00 – 10:00 am	Discussion: on Planning for collaborative action Factors to consider: language, reporting, information sharing, building trust Working with communities, NGOs, the police, and the United Nations Facilitated by Shelly Whitman
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10.15 – 12:00 pm	Discussion: Training Needs on the continent Facilitated by Helen Seignior
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Recommendations for follow-up and further collaboration with CSI Facilitated by Shelly Whitman
2:00 – 3:00 pm	WORKSHOP EVALUATION
3:00 – 3:15 pm	BREAK
3:15 – 4:30 PM	Conclusion KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Professor Bojosi Otlhogile (Vice Chancellor, University of Botswana) AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO SPEAKERS

Executive Summary

In December 2009, a Regional Executive Seminar on Child Soldiers and Security Forces was held at the University of Botswana, Gaborone. This Seminar was co-hosted and organized by the Child Soldiers Initiative, the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University and the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Botswana. Funding for this Seminar was made possible through the Compton Foundation and the IDRC contributions to the Child Soldiers Initiative. In addition, the staff of each of the above organizations contributed their time and effort to ensuring this Seminar was a success.

The overall aim of this Seminar was to provide education and awareness raising related to the problem of child soldiering globally, but most especially on the African continent for middle to senior level military, security actors, government, and peace support training organizations on the African continent in an effort to fostering further relationships and training along these lines in the future. This Seminar was aimed at focusing on the “security related” dynamics of the problem and not the long-term developmental or rehabilitation needs. In total 32, participants came from the following countries: South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, the Gambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Sudan. Representatives of these countries came from offices of the President, Ministries of Defence and Security, Prison Services, Militaries, Peace Support Training Associations, the African Union, the Institute for Security Studies, and Police Services.

Presenters for the seminars represented the following organizations: Human Rights Watch, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Save the Children Sweden, the International Children’s Rights Bureau, UNICEF, the African Union, the Child Soldiers Initiative and the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University.

Key Findings from the Seminar:

1. There is a need for national level training to occur on the issue of child soldiers with military and police actors. This should not occur only during pre-deployment.
2. This seminar provided a means of opening up links and relationships to key resources, information, organizations and individuals who are concerned with the issues related to child soldiering. A network needs to be continually developed and coordinated.
3. Many organizations provide “child protection” awareness or education to the wider societies, but very few provide specific training on child soldiers for security sector actors. Specified training for security sector actors needs to be further developed and disseminated. Training of trainers on the continent needs to take place and be carefully designed and developed.

4. There is a wealth of information to be gathered from security sector actors who have had experiences with child soldiers, to recognize the importance of their experiences and the lessons to be learned.
5. All participants recognized the security dimensions that the use of child soldiers creates in conflicts and therefore the need to have increased capacity/training on the issue.
6. Participants from “non-conflict” zones also recognized the impact that child soldiering has upon the long-term development of the African continent and the need to be prepared and attentive to this problem due to border relations, refugee flows, membership on regional and UN bodies, and possible peacekeeping mission participation.

Special thanks must be given to the University of Botswana for hosting the event, to the Botswana Minister of Defence, Security and Justice, to the Botswana Defence Forces, to the Botswana Defence Attaches, to the Botswana Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Professor Othlogile, to Professor Mpho Molomo, Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies, Mr. Gabriel Malebang, Ms. Victoria Botshelo, Travelwise, the Gaborone Sun, General Henry Anyidoho, the African Union, the Institute for Security Studies, Ms. Helen Seignior, Dr. Shelly Whitman and Ms. Tanya Zayed for all of their contributions to the success of this seminar.



Group Photo of Participants and Speakers – December 4, 2009

Proceedings Report

The following reports are to be supplemented by the PowerPoint presentations used during the proceedings (see the annexes).

1. Child Soldiers: An Introduction

Presenter: Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch

The definition of a child soldier emerged out of the Capetown Principles and was reinforced with the Paris Principles in 2007. There are many misconceptions of who are child soldiers – the typical images presented are not helpful. It is a global phenomenon, in governments, rebel groups and government supported militias in 15 conflicts around the world. However, the majority of child soldiers are used in non-state groups. In Burma/Myanmar – the largest recruitment of child soldiers exists and it is an issue that affects all forces.

Children are recruited because they are young, vulnerable, easy to manipulate, make obedient soldiers, are easily intimidated, don't understand the consequences of their actions, and often they are given drugs and exploited because they are children. There has also been a significant change in the nature of warfare today, casualties are most often civilians and the clear division between civilian and combat areas no longer exists.

Some children are recruited by force, others are recruited through the use of false promises (such as school opportunities), the use of indoctrination programs, others join due to the obligation they feel to join and fight for a cause, or due to social or status recognition, and others join due to revenge seeking. Many of these factors overlap to create the conditions that cause children to join armed groups. The children that are most likely to be recruited are often from separated families, poor families, have no access to school, no sources of income, or due to the outbreak of intense conflict in a particular area.

Three specific country examples:

1. Burma – to meet recruitment quotas they go to public spaces to look for young boys. The boys are then coerced by the military and many join opposition groups due to government led violence. Often the government points the finger at rebel groups, but they fuel recruitment by opposing forces but not taking this issue seriously within their own ranks.

2. Sri Lanka – they pioneered suicide bombing, using girl soldiers to commit such atrocities. There are a large range of activities used by the Tamil Tigers, who recruit one child per family for the cause. If you are Tamil, you must fight to support the cause. If you do not “volunteer” your children will be taken away forcibly. Children wear cyanide capsules around their necks and are instructed to take the capsule if captured by enemy forces.
3. Northern Uganda – the Lord’s Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony for over 25 years has recruited children by force. Recruits are forced to commit atrocities against their families. The LRA would not exist if it were not for the children used to maintain this armed group. The LRA has no specific political agenda children join due to terror tactics. It has now devastated the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. The LRA uses a large number of girls initially used as “ting ting” or domestic servants, but at the age of 13 they become wives of commanders. Many children are born into the bush and reintegration becomes difficult for so many girls as a result.

There have been some key international developments:

1. Until ten years ago you could recruit children from the age of 15 years old. However, the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child has raised the age of use of children in armed combat to 18 years of age. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child states that children under 18 years of age should not be used by armed groups.
2. The Rome Statute and the Special Court for Sierra Leone are now convicting people who have recruited and used children in war.
3. Seven UN Security Council Resolutions now exist related to child soldiers. A working group has been set up to monitor violations of UN SC Res 1612 and now 1882.

Key Questions and Answers:

1. What is the status of domestic legislation implementation related to child soldiers?

Some countries have ratified without making changes to their national law and others have made it a criminal act to recruit.
2. International law is not consistent with the age of 15 and 18, how do advocates work with this ambiguity?

The prevailing standard is still 15, if there is a review of the ICC maybe the age can be raised to 18.

3. What is the effectiveness of the ICC in bringing commanders to justice?

There have been positive developments as well as problems. Everyone has indicted so far has been from Africa, there is a perception that the ICC is not taking global views into account and that it should be indicting commanders from other regions as well. There is however a new awareness of individual criminal responsibility and rebel leaders now know there are potential repercussions for their use of children in armed groups. This can influence negotiation tactics with armed groups in getting children out of such groups. One big problem is the length of time it takes the ICC to prosecute.

4. In the Middle East, children are born to defend their nation and religion and this affects the way we define child soldiers. What is the line between a child soldier participating in demonstrations and one that is used as a suicide bomber?

Those used as a suicide bomber are child soldiers. Children that have participated in the Intifada, as rock throwers, have not been mobilized in a formal way. Children used as human shields – are they child soldiers?

There are a lot of double standards by governments. The US military has changed deployment practices to prevent deploying US troops before age 18, but if they have kids fighting against them in Afghanistan then those children get detained in Guantanamo. Children picked up on the battlefield should not be treated as war criminals but need to be rehabilitated.

2. Film Screening: “Cry Freetown” Directed by Sorious Samura, a Sierra Leonean Journalist

Discussion groups were created to allow the participants to discuss the film and their experiences with children during armed conflict.

Group 1 Feedback:

There were three main issues:

The Military was not prepared – poor equipment, poor discipline and no medical team was present. There was a general lack of preparation on the part of the forces involved in the peacekeeping mission.

The international community should have been more positive in responding to Sierra Leone. The Nigerian troops inflicted humiliation on the communities and this should not have occurred, they did not respect basic dignity. There was also a great lack of accountability for the soldiers.

Peacekeeping troops must be prepared adequately, have a clear mandate.

Further issues that need to be discussed:

1. How does the military play a role in helping secure the release of children?
2. We need to learn from bad situations.
3. How do we train the military adequately?

Group 2 Feedback:

There was a lack of good governance and order which led to the chaos in Sierra Leone. In terms of the peacekeepers and their actions, the mandate of ECOMOG was not clear. The leadership amongst the peacekeeping troops was also not well defined. The peacekeepers were not observing humanitarian law, even those who surrendered were tortured. The dissemination of intelligence and understanding about the conflict in Sierra Leone was lacking prior to deployment of the troops.

Peacekeepers must know and understand their mandate when they are deployed. There must be good use of intelligence. The situation must be monitored by the appropriate bodies – UN, AU, etc – to allow for effective decisions to be made. The peacekeepers should have been sensitized to the local community. The peacekeepers should have tried to get children out of the armed groups firstly and then deal with the armed groups afterwards. If peacekeepers receive appropriate training they could have helped the children and the situation much better.

Group 3 Feedback:

The peacekeeping force was ill equipped for the situation, discipline was non-existent. The Civil-military relations were also inadequate. Fear amongst the civilian population was instilled by both the peacekeeping force and the rebel groups. The peacekeeping force was not prepared to deal with the issue of child soldiers – perhaps due to lack of resources, communications, equipment, etc. Did they suffer casualties? This may have put more pressure upon them in terms of how harshly they dealt with the children.

Training of the troops would have significantly altered their reactions. They need to be sensitized to international laws, rules of engagement, protection of human rights, etc.

Children as soldiers should have been part of their mandate, to come up with systematic approaches to deal with children as soldiers at various stages – during combat, post combat, etc.

There is also a need to have effective integration of various actors in peacekeeping and peacemaking – who should take over at which phase? There is a need for more resources to be given to peacekeepers before they enter such conflict zones. A holistic approach to peace building must be taken. Strong leadership is required at all levels.



Participants actively learning on Day 1

3. Understanding Child Soldiering

Presenter: David Buchbinder, Human Rights Watch – UK

The Chad-Sudan border conflict has many important lessons to teach regarding child soldiering. There is a motivation on the part of the recruiters in the field to use children, but senior military officials will often give orders not to recruit children as they are the ones who have to deal with

any repercussions. In the field there is no sense of accountability, they can rest assured that the ICC will never come after them for prosecution.

We can make progress on child recruitment with the ICC in terms of senior level officials, ministers of defence, but in the field things break down and the fear of accountability will never work. Coordinated advocacy for prosecuting recruitment of children will help.

In many African countries, especially Chad and Sudan, military men often had their start as child soldiers. A child is manageable to a military group, but as they become teenagers, they become harder to manage. At this point they become rebels and get out of control.

When money is lost due to bad economic situations, lack of profit from resources, more children get recruited because they will fight for free. Adults leave if they do not get paid. As attrition increases, more child recruitment occurs. We also need to pay attention to voluntary recruitment, in order to understand prevention needs. Prevention is the key and we have a desperate need for more secondary education in this regard.

It is also key to have women involved in the communities in order to prevent recruitment of children. If the women do not want it to occur, often the men will not do it. There are a lot of women with power – if they oppose the use of child soldiers and oppose the views of “manhood” this can alter positions in terms of use of children. War songs that women sing should also change the lyrics to reflect such views.

Key Questions/Answers:

1. What points of argument can be used to illustrate that children are not effective fighters?

Some can't hold a rifle, too small. Many shoot off stray bullets because they cannot handle the gun properly. We should promote research on how ineffective the children are as soldiers.

2. Could you expand on the volunteer aspects of child soldiering?

Member of the army will make pleas to the community when humanitarians are not present, “to come fight for your country”. Trickery and deceit are often used as recruiters take advantage of unorganized killings that occur in the border areas. Peer pressure is also a factor, children come back to visit their families in the camps and often bring back more children with them to fight. Sometimes they are given money to do so. When your circle of friends has gone into an armed group you may suffer guilt for not joining as well. Other factors include basic needs, many have better conditions in an armed group than in a refugee or IDP camp.

3. What is the role being played by the proliferation of small arms? Where do armed groups get the money to purchase? What happens to the arms dealers?

A lot of weapons coming in legally to Chad, the licit traffic of small arms is a bigger problem than the illicit. The UN Mission provides weapons to the Chadian government. Israel is a big provider as well as the Ukraine.

When oil flowed, money flowed and arms purchases quadrupled, the spike in arms procurement occurred. Bullets can also be found on the black market – you can buy beer with bullets – completely unregulated.

4. Have you ever asked commanders how they would stop child soldiering?

I have spoken with members of the Chadian army that were not happy about the situation. However, they are just doing their job, don't want their own children to join, but see not hope to stop it at present.

Others argue that “we don't have child soldiers – we have lots of dwarves.”

5. How is society using advocacy to help their situation? Has the government taken the issue to the AU? Others?

The SRSG has been in Chad, the Working Group of the Security Council, Human Rights Council – all have been to Chad.

Civil society in Chad is covered by security apparatus – they cannot talk about the issue and are very sensitive about the issue.

Not many Chadian societies are targeting child recruitment. Only 555 children to date have been demobilized. The UN gave Chad a chance to make an effort this summer to demobilize youth, all bases are wide open for UNICEF to come in but the presidential guard bases are closed.

4. Existing Mechanisms for Dealing with Child Soldiers

Presenter: Guillaume Landry, International Children's Rights Bureau

DDR is not the focus of this discussion due to the limited role of the security forces in running DDR programs. DDR is a cycle, not a linear timeline, it is a process. The key step for security forces is at the point of demobilization. It is illegal to recruit children, so the term we use is not demobilization but “release”. We should not wait until a peace agreement or DDR process starts to release children, they are entitled to be released, unlike regular soldiers.

Exercise 1:

How do you try to release children?

What kind of arguments would you use? What techniques would you use?

Responses:

1. Leverage one group against another, if you release child soldiers you will have political advantages that another group will not have.
2. Explain that they will lose any chance of political power in the future if they use child soldiers.
3. Explain that diplomatic sanctions will be used against the group.
4. Establish a good rapport first with the armed group and then explain that children are the future and do not have the capacity to lead well if they are used as soldiers.
5. Explain that it is a violation of international law.
6. Understand the philosophy of the group first as well as their goals before determining how to approach them.
7. In terms of techniques: go with someone that is deemed neutral to all groups to negotiate the release of the children, sympathise by acknowledging the government's lack of accountability, bribe?

Guillaume's Feedback:

There is an importance in establishing a connection and a link with the armed groups, understanding where they are coming from. It is also important to understand why they are using children despite legal prohibition to do so, acknowledge these reasons. Use a carrot and stick approach. Anticipate the arguments to be used so that you can counteract them.

The African Charter is a key argument to be used to counteract ideas that Western norms are being pushed when talking about the ending of the use of child soldiers. The Lome Agreement of Sierra Leone is another useful document as well as the Special Court and the first trials to prosecute for the use of child soldiers.

There are categories of action to stop child recruitment:

1. Collecting data and information for formal and informal purposes upon which to base these arguments. Don't limit your collection of data to just child soldiers, focus also on child trafficking, forced labour, and prostitution, etc.
2. Advocacy and awareness raising to prevent and release child soldiers.
3. Institutions need to use local capacity from families, communities and governments to prevent and release child soldiers.

Exercise 2:

What role can security forces play? What kind of actions?

Responses:

1. Follow rules on age and recruitment.
2. Protect children's rights.
3. Educate the masses on children's rights.
4. Generate a discussion through the media on this issue.
5. Inform the government because they must lead by example and not use children.
6. Innovate with ideas on how to deal with combatants.
7. Refer cases of child recruitment to appropriate services or departments.
8. Coordinate and collaborate to take child soldiers out of armed groups.
9. Avoid false promises.
10. Punish violators of children's rights.
11. Use military justice to punish your own forces when they recruit children.

Guillaume's Key Points:

Despite good intentions, all military interaction has an impact on children.

Example: in Cote d'Ivoire children came around the military barracks to do small tasks and beg, the soldiers thought that giving these children money for these

tasks was helping them, but essentially you are training them to do military tasks.

We also need to build the understanding of what a child soldier is and how to identify by those in the field. This will help when it comes to how the military interacts with the children.

The best actors are local communities, if the communities and children can do things to protect themselves this is the best option. The priority should be to allow the children, family and community to protect themselves. We need to recognize the agency of children and act with or on behalf of the children.

The military need to avoid giving direct assistance to children as much as possible. They need to find ways to assist those working in the communities.

Key Questions/Answers:

1. What are the mitigation mechanisms that can be taken to avoid child soldiering?

Yes, in Cote d'Ivoire, the leader had a Masters in Law and in Sierra Leone this was not the case. The actors that were involved during the armed conflict were told of the international human rights legal obligations by the ICRC, sometimes this works and sometimes it does not.

We need to also make sure children have a say in what happens to them. Those youth above age 18 are not well served by international programs. Some children lie about their ages to get access to adult rehabilitation programs – such as monetary gain.

2. Have any longitudinal studies been done in Sierra Leon to see how the child soldiers are coping now?

A lot of research has been done, but not of high quality, which does not help us to make connections with what we have learned.

Sierra Leone is a good example for the UN in terms of a good DDR program. UNICEF published a report on the DDR experience in Sierra Leone and this documented the successes and failures. Liberia benefitted from the lessons of Sierra Leone.

One of the key problems is that we wait until the situation is grave before we jump in to do something. We need long-term support after a conflict.

IBCR is now publishing a book outlining all of the international standards on the Children and Armed Conflict that exist, Guillaume will provide a link to this website.

5. Why Child soldiering is a concern for African Defense Forces?

Presenter: Aderemi Adekoya, Head of DDR for the UN-AU in Sudan (UNAMID)

Resource wars are one of the most important causes of conflict on the African continent. If we look at the case of the Nigeria we see that 90% of the wealth of Nigeria is concentrated in the Niger Delta. Most people do not have access to schools, hospitals, or wealth. Good governance is lacking and if we do not address the root causes, then we will never address the problem of child soldiers. DDR does not solve national issues; it is part of an issue. Quantity and quality equals effectiveness. Parents are dependent on their children to make money to survive, so why are we spending so much money on weapons?

In the case of Sudan, child soldiers are part of the SPLA, the government says they do not have child soldiers. UNICEF is spearheading the release of children. But once the children leave the military and go home they do not go to school or settle in to their villages. Often they go back to the barracks because it is where they feel they get their needs met. In Darfur, 2000 children have been identified as associated with an armed group. If the child is taken out during an ongoing conflict, how do you ensure they will not go back? If you have development programs, people can call their own, they may not need DDR, they will put down their weapons.

In the case of Sierra Leone, how do you measure success in Sierra Leone? Politics drives success, short term programs do not work. DDR in Sierra Leone created a platform for success.

In terms of peace negotiations and child soldiers, sometimes we negotiate agreements with the wrong people. If you have Generals that know how to play with minds they will be able to manipulate negotiations. Internal interests and external factors are important in negotiations. You can never go in assuming you know how it will end. Things can change at the last minute due to external support of external actors.

Key Questions/Answers:

1. Somalia, are you involved in any peace process there?

Right now we are fighting an ideological war, which is very difficult to fight. The AU and UN is presently in Somalia trying to help build good governance. But the solutions will lie with the people ultimately, if they are ready for a solution it will come.

2. Can you tell us more about the DDR program in Darfur for children?

It has been implemented by the government of Sudan, UNICEF is the lead agency. UNAMID provides logistical support. There is an AIDS awareness program and medical screening. The challenge is where you have the ongoing conflicts, how will the government construct schools in those areas? The responsibility of providing education lies in the hands of the government, but requires the will of the people for things to move forward. We are building 5-star IDP camps – camps that have more than the villages, this is a huge problem.

If we do not address the needs of parents, civil society and children as a whole it will fail.

6. Gender Dynamics Relating to Child Soldiering

Presenter: Tasha Gill, UNICEF DRC

Sexual violence is a prevalent weapon of war. Girls are targeted and it is an effective way to attack a whole population, to terrorize a population. At the moment we have figures that 1000 girls per month are being raped as of 2009. These are only figures of those who reported incidents. This is a public health, development and violation of human rights dilemma.

Girls and women are used as instruments of war. Many girls enlist with an armed group after witnessing violations to their family members and seek protection. In Liberia this was the number one reason for joining – to avoid sexual violence. The girls are raped at the time of abduction and then handed over to commanders as wives.

In terms of their roles in armed groups, the girls are used to pillage, carry food, work in mines, carry the minerals out of the mines, they also share the roles that boys undertake, as well as playing the roles as wives. The consequences are unwanted pregnancy, HIV, STDs, abortion, difficult births, loss of self worth, psychological damage, etc.

When trying to secure the release of girls, armed groups often don't see the girls as being child soldiers. They say that UNICEF is breaking up family units. There is a fear of vengeance from the commander husband, making reintegration difficult.

It is not a black and white situation when it comes to the perceptions of girl soldiers, when girls are seen as defending the community, there is less rejection. At the same time, those who fought with a perceived enemy are automatically rejected. Many girls don't see that they have an option to leave they fear the repercussions of their families.

The national army is still using children. There has been an increase in the number of girls released in the DRC – 21%. We need to rebuild the self esteem of girls and allow them to use the skills they need to overcome the shame and desire to be invisible. We need to include girls in collective activities.

Simulation Exercise:

Group 1 – Child Protection NGO

Group 2 – International Peacekeepers

Group 3 – Military Commander

Each group must come up with talking points for a meeting where they need to determine how to negotiate the release of child soldiers. Make sure you think of boys and girls needs.

Negotiation Debrief:

1. The Military Commander was more convincing than other actors;
2. We need to be able to exchange something for agreement;
3. NGO persons could not offer or commit anything to guarantee action;
4. It was clear the commander would not listen or agree;
5. The assumption was made that girls were not fighting, just given supporting roles;
6. The Military raised the issue of human rights;
7. Peacekeepers need to be aware of the cultural ways of the country;

7. A Multi-disciplinary Approach – Working with Others

Speaker: Major Patrick Musibi, Save the Children Sweden (Kenya)

When we started doing child protection training in Kenya for the military, the initial reaction was, “oh, this is about child soldiers and we don’t have that problem.” So, why do we want to put children on the military agenda? This is in large part, because we have moved from a time of intra to inter-state conflict. We do not always know that our countries will be peaceful.

We used to have laws to protect the innocent when it came to conflict, “don’t target the children, don’t target the elderly, etc.” Now being in a uniform is often safer than being a civilian during an armed conflict. Fifty-two percent of Africa’s population are children, hence the need to put children on the military agenda.

SAVE the Children Sweden began training of military groups in Africa after the UN SC Res. 1261 was implemented. SAVE focused on 4 out of the 8 areas the military could focus upon: 1. Child soldiers, 2. Refugees and IDPs – separated children, 3. Landmines, and 4. Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Initially the training focused on the Western Africa and then some of Eastern Africa. UN and AU peacekeepers were trained for Sudan, the national militaries and police in South Sudan and training was done on location in Darfur.

There are now 12 countries in Africa that have child protection units in the military: Uganda, West African countries, one is starting in the DRC, and the SPLA is starting a child protection unit. Another nine countries have incorporated children’s rights training into their curriculum, some of whom do it as an ongoing training process. In Burkina Faso and Togo, officers must pass an exam on the subject of child protection to be promoted.

There is mutual suspicion between the humanitarian and military actors when it comes to collaboration on this issue. We need to see the military personnel as key allies in the protection of children. We are often the first on site and humanitarians only come once peace is restored. If we equip the military with the skills and knowledge needed, they can provide first line support before handing over to the humanitarians. The more we complement each other’s work, the more we bridge the relationship. We need to find a champion in the militaries we are dealing with, such as retired military officers that can be strategic allies. The same could be said for the police forces. We can pool our strengths in support of children.

It is important to perceive children as children first. Previously we did not see children in the context of conflict, but as our own children. We need to recognize that children have special needs. As an individual country, Uganda is way ahead on the training of personnel on child protection; they have trained over 1000 personnel on a yearly basis.

There is a challenge in getting defence forces to mainstream child protection issues into their training. We therefore need the support of senior leadership everywhere. Having champions within the forces and understanding the arguments that resonate will assist with this effort.

We need a network of trainers on the African continent who expertise we can draw upon related to child protection. At the moment we have too few trainers to carry out this work. This training should also be relevant to the police forces, especially given urban crime and youth gangs that exist. In Kenya the riot police have a current Rules of Engagement during civilian riots that states, “if it moves hit it.” We need to change this to “if it moves, look first to see if it is a child.” Prison officers could also benefit greatly from such training.

The benefits of training the military on child protection have been the following:

1. Raising awareness on child protection issues;
2. It helps to decrease child recruitment;
3. It helps to decrease sexual exploitation of children;
4. It gives an increased role in monitoring and evaluation to the military on the protection of children’s rights.

There is a report being released by SAVE entitled, “Behind the Uniform, Training the Military on Child Protection.”

A key point to be made is the need for birth certificates for all children. In Kenya you do not need a birth certificate to obtain an ID card. This contributes to the use of underage soldiers as a result.

We need to understand that children are subjects of rights. Children should not be lumped with “vulnerable persons” but treated distinctly as a special group that requires special programs and attention.

Key Questions/Answers:

1. The training of soldiers on the issue of child soldiers is very necessary. If what happened in Sierra Leone happens to us, we will have the same problems.

It was recommended that following this conference, formal linkages between South African trainers and Save the Children Trainers will take place. Sandra Oder of ISS suggested that she will speak to relevant partners in South Africa in the new year. At the moment training happens in a general sense on trafficking, refugees, and IDPS, “we don’t train specifically on children.”

2. Collaboration on this issue is required for success. There needs to be more emphasis on the building of the capacity of communities to support reintegration of former child soldiers. We hope to build a closer relationship with CSI. Currently, there is such ongoing training in Uganda so that the military can work with communities.

8. What is the role of the military and the police in stopping recruitment during conflict and preventing re-recruitment?

Speakers: Tasha Gill, UNICEF DRC and Major Patrick Musibi, Save the Children Sweden

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms and UN SC Resolution 1612 found in the annexes.

9. The perspective of a child soldier

Speaker: Jon Kon Kelei, Network of Young People Affected by War

Kon relayed his powerful and moving story about his time with the military in Sudan. At the age of 5 years old he was told that he was going to school. He left his parents who wished him well as they too believed he was going to be educated. Children ended up walking for a very long time, days, and many were crying due to hunger and fear. Others tried not to show their emotions due to fear.

Children were attacked by villager, wild animals and disease. Many children died all around him at that time and he and other children were forced to bury these children. They were beaten if they cried and forced to fend for themselves. Some women accompanied their children to the camps, some would cook for these children along the way. The problem with this was that these children did not learn to cook for themselves and therefore were often the first to die.

Being associated with the armed group made the children hard, your heart had to turn to stone to be able to survive. We were forced to train like adults. I learned

how to use an AK-47, how to dismantle and put it back together again. When Kon was trained and ready to fight on the frontlines, he was rejected by the armed group because they felt he was too small. Suddenly he was now being treated as a child, but he felt he had become a man.

Eventually he then escaped, but his options were so few. He then had the opportunity to go to Holland as an asylum seeker. This experience was very humiliating and difficult for many reasons. He had nightmares due to his experiences as well.

“What I fear most, is myself,” stated Kon. Kon fears the brutality and violence he experienced may surface.

There is a need for stable support for former child soldiers when they are reintegrating. There is too much stigmatization when it comes to the resources for post-conflict peace building.

“What have you as military actors done to help? What has the AU done? We need to stop blaming the West. If war breaks out again in a country that has children who were used as soldiers, it will be even worse, more brutal, due to their training and sensitization to violence.”

10. Group Discussions

Question 1 – Give Specific Examples of Interactions you have had with children in armed conflict.

Responses:

- Experiences were recounted from the DRC in working with joint military commissions. Many children were displaced, and as a result were looting and robbing everywhere. One officer recounted a story where 3 children came to him for assistance, they wanted to go back to school. These children were separated from their parents. The boys stayed with him for 3 years, he paid for their education. He now stays in touch with the children, as they have gone back to their aunt.
- In the DRC – when the war started children volunteered to fight. They did some screening initially to separate children from adults, but they kept coming back to join the army. Sometimes children join the army for protection, they don't have food, or guns, so they found security in the army.

- In Somalia – some officers recounted stories of being involved in a peacekeeping mission and having children take refuge in the trees and then begin to shoot indiscriminately.
- In South Africa – due to the many economic and social problems, children joined the fight against apartheid at a young age. Many did not go to school.
- In Angola – one officer recounted seeing children in armed groups, but he said the children looked happy to be in the rebel forces. The deduction was made that the child soldiers were brainwashed and made to believe that what they were doing was correct.
- In Mozambique – post conflict, an officer recounted travelling to Mozambique via train. After going through the immigration on the Zimbabwean side, he encountered a check point manned by adults, who were commanded by a child from RENAMO. This boy declared that he was a brigadier. The boy proceeded to ask where this officer had come from and stated that because he had not expected their arrival, they should go back to Zimbabwe until he clarified the need for their presence with his superiors. While this officer was annoyed, he did abide by the instructions and spent the night on the Zimbabwean side of the border. In the morning they returned to the border and the young boy allowed them to go through to Mozambique. A key lesson was that you have to show respect to the child soldier, do not question his orders, let him know you will respect his wishes and build trust. When the officer asked later how such a young boy could be commanding adults, the response was given that children take instructions as they are, they do not question, so they command well.

Question 2 – What training exists in your own country relating to child rights?

Responses:

- In Botswana there is no specific training for the military, but general awareness on children’s rights does exist.
- In Zambia there is also no specific training for the military, but general awareness on children’s rights does exist.
- In Angola there is training for the police, army and the air force on child protection.

- In South Africa peace support training exists on women and children's rights but nothing specifically related to child soldiers.
- In Uganda the programs are specific for the military and children.
- In Tanzania there is no training specifically for the military on child soldiers, but awareness is being promoted on children's rights generally.
- In Mozambique, Tanzania, Botswana and the Gambia there is domestic legislation that exists to address the issues of children's rights. The Gambia suggested that funds should be set aside to fund additional training or small business, entrepreneurs to alleviate the problems of youth unemployment.

Question 3: Scenarios

1. You are on a peacekeeping mission and you come to a checkpoint manned by a child soldier, how do you react?

- Acknowledge that they are children first, not a soldier. Talk to the children with respect.
- Find out who the leader is, take him aside and negotiate with him.
- Get down to the level of the child, if need be sit down. If children get interested in a dialogue they will put down their weapons and talk to you.
- Interaction is difficult due to cultural dynamics at times, you must be prepared to deal with this because if not your reaction could cost you your life. (speaker was referring to the fact that in African culture children must respect their elders, in this situation such cultural dynamics must be reversed)
- You have to comply with what they ask you to do, keep calm and don't ask too many questions.
- You have to be patient.
- Create an environment of trust before you begin any negotiations.

2. Scenario: You are taken hostage by child soldiers, how do you react?

Responses:

- Stay calm, be patient, find out what they want.
- Do not look at them as children; look at them as your captor.
- Secure your release through coercive means.
- Be mindful of not making promises that you cannot deliver upon.
- We have to make them feel good, if they offer food, accept it no matter how horrible it may be.
- When you are taken hostage you should just obey, don't talk to them, others will be doing negotiation on your behalf.
- Be mindful of your tone of voice, and the language you use.
- The UN does not pay ransom, so your country and your organization will be most likely the ones to intervene. In some parts of the world they kidnap not to kill but for money.

11. Recommendations for Follow-up and Further collaboration with CSI

What have you learned from these sessions?

- Talk to child soldiers with respect, show understanding for their situations.
- It is possible for children to come out of such experiences and become something.
- Child soldiers are a problem for multiple stakeholders.
- It is time to put together preventative measures rather than DDR alone.
- It shed light on the extent of the problem not just in Africa, but in the world.
- There are international legal obligations that are relevant to child soldiers specifically.
- We need a holistic approach to address this problem. Even if it is not a problem in your country, you still have children and they have rights. Children are children and if one country suffers we all suffer.
- Solutions need to be found with governments and civil society.

- There is a need to do more sensitization on this issue with military.
- If you don't sort out the long term conflict problems in these countries you have groups of young people who can address things with aggression only. If war starts up again then the atrocities will be even worse next time around.
- Would like to hear the perspective of the recruiters next time.

Who are you going to talk to about this workshop when you go back home?

- To our families and friends;
- To school educators;
- Will talk with our superiors by writing reports on this course and making suggestions on how this issue needs to be part of the training in our country;
- Material from this course will help with policy decisions;
- Will follow-up with our various ministries to see how we can integrate this material into our training.

How do we get the military to engage on the issue of child soldiers?

- Workshops and research seminars on child protection should happen more regularly.
- If you have organizations like UNICEF and SAVE the children in your country, liaise with them.
- The first step has already been taken by this workshop, need for extensive training for military professionals, who can include this information into their training programs.
- The Peace Support Mission Training Centre in South Africa will recommend that we put child soldiers as part of the curriculum for training in peace missions.
- Trainers need to be properly trained on the issue, need to be careful about what information is being given.
- Information on this issue needs to be embedded in the military academies, not with consultants who do not wish to share their knowledge.

How can we (CSI) help you on this issue?

- We would like to propose another such session of this nature in West Africa.
- We need help with developing training tools.
- Encourage continuity – do not let this work stop here.
- Help to develop networks of professionals working on this issue in Africa.
- Assist us with access to resources, reading and research materials.

Annex 1: PowerPoint Presentations

Simply click on the PowerPoint presentation you wish to view below and automatically it will load for your viewing.




Regional Executive Seminar on Child Soldiers and Security Forces

Gaborone, Botswana December 2-4 2009



CHILD SOLDIERS: AN INTRODUCTION



Presentation by Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch
Regional Executive Seminar on Child Soldiers and
Security Forces
Botswana, December 2, 2009

1



Securing the Release of Child Soldiers

Training Session organised as part of the Regional Executive Seminar

Child Soldiers and Security Forces

2-4 December 2009
Gaborone, Botswana

Guillaume Landry

Director of Programmes

International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

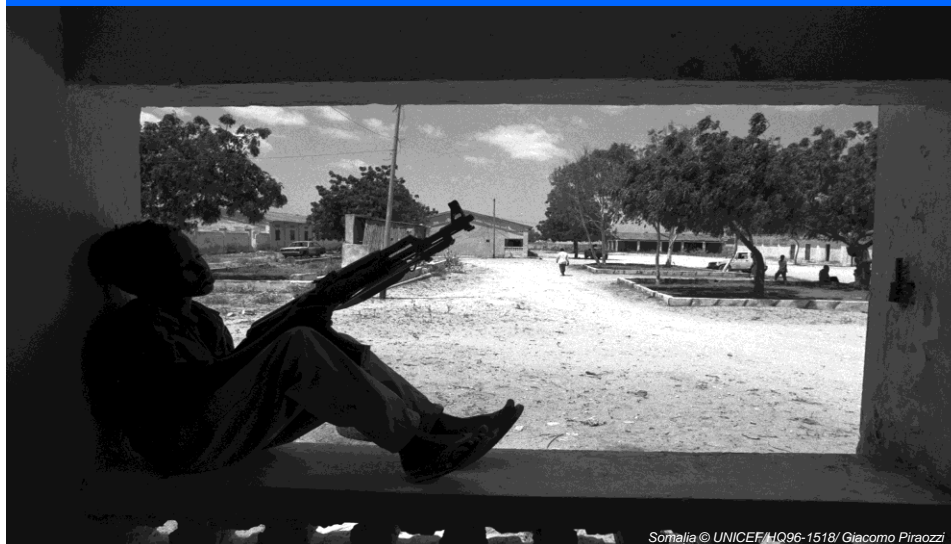
Coordinator

Canadian Forum on Children and Armed Conflict



unicef 

Overview : MRM on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict



Somalia © UNICEF/HQ96-1518/ Giacomo Piraozzi

Monitoring and Reporting

**UN Security Council
Resolution 1612 (2005)**

unicef 

Gender dynamics related to
child soldiering:
where are the girls?

Gaborone, Botswana
December 2-4, 2009

Tasha Gill, UNICEF DRC

unite for
children

unicef 

CHILD SOLDIERING

A MULTI-DISPLINARY APPROACH

Annex 2: Keynote Address by Honourable Dikgakgamasto Seretse, Minister of Justice, Defence and Security

It is my honour and privilege to officiate at this August gathering which aims at looking into one of the world's and indeed Africa's woes being, "the use of child soldiers".

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that according to the United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, there are about 250 000 child soldiers globally. To this end, in many of the current and recent ended African conflicts, many child soldiers have been used.

I believe that this Executive Seminar is a significant step in the right direction. Botswana is therefore proud to host such an event to contribute towards finding African Solutions to African problems in conjunction with global partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an undisputed fact that every nation's future lies in its children, hence the need for their protection. Botswana as a country believes that we all need to come together and work tirelessly to avert this terrible state of affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the use of children as soldiers leaves an indelible mark on the minds of children for many years after the conflict is over. Not only does this rob us of responsible future leadership, it catapults children into the states of adulthood while they are still children. It entrenches undesirable notions like the use of force as the only and right way to achieve ones objectives.

It is therefore our responsibility to build mechanisms in a collaborative way to ensure that children are not used as soldiers in armed conflict, for there can be no worse crime against humanity than abuse, and exploitation of our own children.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Botswana is committed to defending Human Rights and Democratic Development. As you may all be aware, Botswana is signatory to a number of International and Regional Conventions, Treaties and Protocols on Human Rights and the Rights of the Child. Botswana has acceded and ratified a number of Conventions on the Rights of the Child such as; the Convention on the Rights of the Child (14th March 1995), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (4th October 2004), the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child (10th July 2001) to mention just but a few. Consequently, the Parliament of Botswana passed the Children's Act in 2009 to domesticate these Conventions.

Although Botswana has never had the problem of child soldiers, and has never experienced armed conflict, we believe it is important to participate in this kind of dialogue and sensitize ourselves of the dangers of such practices.

The values and principles of democracy and good governance are part of our culture, as I said somewhere; it is like swimming is to fish. This is not a result of ratification of all the Conventions already mentioned but a result of our country's upholding the values and principles of democracy and good governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me thank once more the sponsors for choosing Botswana as a venue for this important seminar. Exchange views but always have the interest of the child at heart.

On this note, allow me to officially declare this seminar open. PULA!

*The Speech was delivered by Defence Minister Dikgagamatso Seretse at the opening of University of Botswana Centre for Strategic Studies Executive seminar on security forces and child soldiers

EVALUATION FORM

Regional Executive Seminar on security forces and child soldiers

2-4th December, 2009, University of Botswana, Gaborone

1. Did you find the Seminar:

- i) Relevant Yes No
- ii) Useful Yes No
- iii) Practical Yes No

a) If yes, how? Please give examples. If no, why not?

2. Do you think the military should have a role in dealing with child soldiers?
If yes, why and how?

3. What type of training/tools do you think would best assist you in a mission where child soldiers are present?

- Simulations On line training modules
 Field Guide Pre deployment and in mission workshops
 In class training Other _____

4. Which sessions of the Seminar did you enjoy most and why? _____

5. Which sessions of the Seminar did you enjoy the least and why? _____

6. What would you recommend to make this Seminar better in the future? _____

7. Would you recommend this Seminar to your colleagues? Yes/No. Why? _____

8. What are three things that you learned during this 3 day Seminar?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

9. Will you apply the things you learned during the past three days? Yes/No, Why?

10. Other comments?

Thank you for your participation and for your comments.

Annex 4: Evaluation Summaries

Did you find the seminar useful?

Participants responded that they found the seminar insightful, that it raised their awareness on the issues, the seminar allowed reflection on the issues, their eyes were opened to many new perspectives, and they found the reflections on specific experiences to be extremely helpful.

Do you think the military should have a role in dealing with child soldiers?

Most participants responded “ yes” with the following reasons listed (in order):

1. They are the first response/front line workers;
2. Protection of children and child rights;
3. Assisting with NGOs;
4. Assisting with DDR;
5. Teaching and training of others.

What type of training/tools do you think would best assist you in a mission where child soldiers are present? In order of answers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| [2] Simulations | [5] On line training modules |
| [4] Field Guide | [1] Pre deployment and in mission workshops |
| [3] In class training | [] Other |

Which sessions of the Seminar did you enjoy most and why?

In order of answers

1. The former child soldier’s perspective (Kon’s presentation)
2. the video
3. simulation
4. discussion groups
5. CS introduction

Which sessions of the Seminar did you enjoy the least and why?

Understanding Child Soldiering. Presentation too fast, speaker not clear

What would you recommend to make this Seminar better in the future?

(no particular order):

1. invite former recruiters of children,
2. increase the days of the workshop,
3. make sure to keep the time,
4. invite more conflict affected countries,
5. sitting arrangement not too good for interactions,
6. add more videos.

Would you recommend this Seminar to your colleagues? Yes/No. Why?

All participants checked off yes.

Other comments?

1. Most want a follow up session.
2. Want us to also make their superiors aware of the issue.
3. Train the trainer seminars suggested.
4. This was seen as step one in a multi step process.
5. Need for regional seminars in other parts of the continent.
6. Add info on small arms component.
7. Extend to police as well.
8. This was well planned, very professional. Many thank yous.

Annex 5: List of Participants

	COUNTRY	NAMES	CONTACTS (e-mail)	CONTACTS
1	Zambia	Lt. Col. L Sampa	larrysamp@hotmail.com	Cell: 00260 979 401430 00260 955401430
2	Zambia	Lt Col R Chisenga	rmchisenga@gmail.com	00267 977358757
3	Zimbabwe	Lt. Col. Sambulo Ndlovu	sndlovu@rptc.org.zw or sambulo5@yahoo.com	00263 433 8524-6 Cell:00263 11 744 793
4	Tanzania	Col. Emmanuel D. Kadaso	emmanuellekadaso@yahoo.com	00255 786 332 718 00255 754 369 674 00255
5	Tanzania	Theobald B. Kazora	kazora09@gmail.com	00255 787 180 269
6	Tanzania	Col. James Lushi	jameslushi@yahoo.co.uk	00255 754 686 757
7	South Africa	Sandra Oder	soder@issafrica.org saoder@hotmail.com	0027 12 346 9500 (office) 0027 83 752 8710 (mobile)
8	Mozambique	Luis de Luis Nhacume	inhacume@gmail.com	00258 82 817 5400
9	Mozambique	Antonio Zaza	antoniozaza@hotmail.com	00258 82 840 0770
10	Mozambique	Pedro Tiago Kauwa	petika1990@yahoo.co.uk ; pedrokauwa@hotmail.com	00258 8238 51711

1 1	Botswana - Defence Command and Staff College	Lt Col C.O. Ferguson	chris28sqn@yahoo.com	00267 7169 2248
1 2	Botswana - Defence Command and Staff College	Lt Col R. Bodiba	rebod966@yahoo.com	00267 7217 6395
1 3	Botswana Defence Force	Lt Col M Mukokomani	coxmore@hotmail.com	00267 3662411
1 4	Botswana Defence Force	Lt Col L Ramahobo	lrramahobo@yahoo.com	00267 7230 9841
1 5	Botswana Defence Force	Lt Col Charles Oye	coye@gov.bw	00267 3662 585 (office) 00267 72323191 (mob)
1 6	Botswana - Police	L. Moshabi	listermoshabi@yahoo.com	00267 7211 0346 (cell) 00267 395 7272 (Office (Fax)
1 7	Botswana - Police	J. Basupi	jonasbasupe@yahoo.com	00267 362 2304
1 8	Botswana - Police	S. Keitireng	skeitireng@yahoo.com	00267 72260006 72110343 3957272 / 3
1 9	Botswana - Foreign Affairs	Ketshidile Bafetanye	kbafetanye@gov.bw	00267 3600753 00267 72409821
2 0	Botswana - Foreign Affairs	Florence Molefe	fmolefe@gov.bw	00267 71894388 00267360 0805
2 1	Botswana - Foreign Affairs	Solomon Seeco	sseeco@gov.bw	00267 3600906
2 2	Botswana - UB	Olopeng Rabasimane	rabasimane@yahoo.co.uk	00267 725 80281

2 3	Botswana - UB	Dithapelo Keorapetse	dithapelo.keorapetse@mopipi.ub.bw	00267 355 2384	00267 7152 0700	00267 7
2 4	Botswana - Angola Embassy	Lt. Col. J F Fonseca	projesca2008@yahoo.com	00267 752 39115 Fax:002673102863		
2 5	Botswana - SADC Secretariat	Col. Lukwikila Metikwiza	Imetikwiza@sadc.int / ntasii@yahoo.fr	3951863 /71630671	Fax 3181070/ 3972848	
2 6	Botswana, Justice Defence and Security	Thekiso Molokwane	tmolokwane@gov.bw	3950884 / 71544747 Fax:3181028		
2 7	The Gambia	Mariama Khan	khanmariama@yahoo.com	00220 7000681		
2 8	The Gambia	Saikou Kausu Gassama	saikoug@yahoo.co.uk	0022 09330001		
2 9	South Africa	Col. Daisy Nompumelelo Tshiloane	forchgode@yahoo.com.au	Tel:0027 12 355 5972 Fax:0027 12 3		
3 0	South Africa	Lt. Col. Petro H. Hartslief	pvhartslief@hotmail.com			
3 1	Botswana - Defence Command and Staff College	Brig. G. Morake	gtmorake@gov.bw	Tel:3666642 Fax:3915141		
3 2	Botswana - University of Botswana , Political Science Society	Belinda O. Maposa	bellzmap@yahoo.com	00267 71921358		

Annex 6: Speaker's Biographies

Jo Becker

Jo Becker is the Advocacy Director of the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, and the founding chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. Begun in 1998, the Coalition campaigned successfully for an international treaty banning the forced recruitment of children under age eighteen or their use in armed conflict. Ms. Becker has conducted field investigations to document child recruitment in Burma, Northern Uganda, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India. In addition to reports published by Human Rights Watch, Ms. Becker has written about child soldiers in the *Washington Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Toronto Star*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *South China Morning Post*. She has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the United Nations Security Council regarding the recruitment of children and their use in combat. Ms. Becker has an International Baccalaureate from the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific, a BA from Goshen College (IN), and a Master's degree in Political Science from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Guillaume Landry

Guillaume Landry is currently the Programme Manager for the Country Profiles Initiative at the International Bureau of Children's Rights (IBCR) and the Coordinator of the Canadian Forum on Children and Armed Conflict. In 2002-2003, he was Youth Mine Action Ambassador at UNICEF Quebec before joining ECPAT International's research team in Bangkok, Thailand focusing on the commercial sexual exploitation of children. He has acquired an impressive amount of field experience in Africa acting as Child Protection Advisor for the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as Research Specialist and Project Manager in West Africa on behalf of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, and as a researcher of the Western Sahara conflict. Mr. Landry has carried out numerous field studies in North and West Africa, the Balkans, Cuba and Brazil, in addition to acting as consultant for various agencies and Canadian and foreign universities. In partnership with the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, he recently updated the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) training module on child protection. In December 2007, Mr. Landry completed a research paper on the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Guillaume Landry holds a degree from York University (Canada) and the Hebraic University of Jerusalem (Israel) in International Studies, as well as a Professional Masters degree from University of Uppsala (Sweden) in Humanitarian Assistance.

Tasha Gill

Tasha Gill serves as Child Protection Specialist in Emergencies and Post-Conflict, with UNICEF in the DRC. She has been working in humanitarian aid for over ten years, protection for over six years, and in DRC for the past year. Tasha has worked with UNICEF in Uganda, Nepal, Madagascar and DRC, primarily focused on return and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups as well as broader child protection programs. Prior to joining UNICEF, Tasha held the role of Protection Specialist with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an American NGO, providing support to the Great Lakes and West Africa regions, as well as protection training to IRC teams and partners. Her Master's Degree in International and Public Affairs from Columbia University focused specifically on forced migration and humanitarian affairs, building on years of work in the US and abroad.

David Buchbinder

Is a consultant for Human Rights Watch – UK. David has worked for SAVE the Children and has been involved in humanitarian work in Chad, Sudan, and Mozambique.

Major Patrick M Musibi, OGW, KAF (Ret.)

Major Patrick Moses Musibi, OGW, KAF (Rtd) received his President's Commission on 30 March 1979, at the Armed Forces Training College, Lanet, Nakuru, Kenya.

On retirement from the Kenya Air Force in 1991, Major Musibi embarked on a career with the United Nations, serving with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as an IT specialist and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a Logistics Officer in Lokichoggio, Kenya from 1996 to 1998 and as a Resident Project Officer in Bahr-el-Ghazal in South Sudan from 1999 to 2000, where he encountered, for the first time, the phenomena of child soldiering. He has since then been interested in the issue of child soldiers and has advocated for their demobilization at every opportunity. In this regard, he has interacted with leading campaigners against child soldiering such as Olara Otunnu - the former Special Representative of the UNSG on Children and Armed Conflict and Agnes Chan, a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, both of whom he hosted at his camp in Mapel, South Sudan.

Major Musibi is currently the leading facilitator of training programs on child rights and child protection for the military in the Eastern and Central African region. Apart from facilitating courses at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Karen, Nairobi, he has facilitated in-country Training of Trainers courses for the Ethiopian Defence Forces, the Uganda People's

Defence Forces, and the National Defence Forces of Burundi. Additionally, Major Musibi has carried out numerous pre-deployment sensitizations in Kenya, Uganda, and Burundi for peacekeepers, military observers, and civilian police on child rights and child protection prior to their deployment in various UN and AU peace support missions.

Jon Kon Kelei

Jon Kon Kelei is a former child soldier from Sudan and is now an advocate for the rights of young people affected by war. Kon has recently graduated with a Master's degree in International and European Law from Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He is the founder of Cuey Machar Secondary School Foundation (www.cmsf.nl), a foundation dedicated to building a secondary school in Southern Sudan. He is also a co-initiator and cofounder of the Network of Young People Affected by War (NYPAW), whereby he works as the Liaison person dealing with individuals and organizations in respect to questions about memberships and partnerships. He is also developing Reintegration and Rehabilitation Standards, which aim to harmonize International Organizations' regulations in the field of reintegration and rehabilitation of children and youth affected by war. Furthermore, he is a Public Educator for War Child Holland. War Child aims to empower children and young people in war-affected areas (www.warchild.org).

Aderemi Adekoya

Dr. Aderemi ADEKOYA is presently working with the African Union United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in charge of the DDR Section. Prior to his reassignment to UNAMID, he was attached to the AU Peace Support Operations Division to assist and advise the Strategic Planning Management Unit (SPMU) in planning for the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with a focus on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and capacity building initiatives of the African Union Peace Support Operations Division. In addition to his DDR portfolio, Mr. Adekoya also advised the SPMU on Security Sector Reform and other related issues. Mr. Adekoya served in UNAMSIL (Sierra Leone) and UNMIS (Sudan) as DDR Adviser and Planning Officer. He has over 7 years of DDR experience. He holds a Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering from Delhi College of Engineering, University of Delhi, India.

Annex 7: Readings for Participants

Day 1 Readings

Hughes, Judith LtCol. "Child Soldiers: Are US Military Members Prepared to Deal with the Threat?" *A Research Report Submitted to the Faculty In Partial Fulfillment of the Graduation Requirements* (2006)

Human Rights Watch. "Coercion and Intimidation of Child Soldiers to Participate in Violence" (2008)

Kargbo, Franklyn Bai. International Peacekeeping and Child Soldiers: Problems of Security and Rebuilding. *Cornell International Law Journal* (2004)

McHugh, Gerard and Manuel Bessler "Guidelines on Humanitarian Negotiation with Armed Groups", *United Nations* (2006)

Nosworthy, David. Ed. "Seen, but not Heard: Placing Children and Youth on the Security Governance Agenda" *Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces* (2009) - chapter 1 pages 3-31 and chapter 11 pages 239-258

Singer, Peter. "Western militaries confront child soldiers threat", *Janes Intelligence Review*, (2005)

United Nations Department of Political Affairs "Child Issues in Peace Agreements Checklist", *UN Peacemaker*

Withers, Lucia. "Child-soldiers: how to engage in dialogue with non state armed groups" *Chapter for: Swiss Human Rights Book: Realizing the rights of children* Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (2007)

Day 2 Readings

Coulter, Chris, Mariam Persson and Mats Utas "Young Female Fighters in African Wars: Conflict and Its Consequences", The Nordic Africa Institute (2008)

McKay, Susan and Dyan Mazurana. "Girls in Militaries, Paramilitaries, and Armed Opposition Groups", segment of *Where are the girls?* (2004)

Day 3 readings

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict. "The Power of Partnership: Guiding Principles for Partnerships to End Violations Against Children During Armed Conflict" (2006)

Additional Readings

Betancourt, Theresa. "Psycho-Social Adjustment and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers" *Psychology Beyond Borders* (2008)

Knudsen, Christine. "Demobilisation and Reintegration During an Ongoing Conflict" *Cornell International Law Journal* (2004)

Shepler, Susan. "The Social and Cultural Context of Child Soldiering in Sierra Leone", *Paper for the PRIO sponsored workshop on Techniques of Violence in Civil War, Oslo* (2004)

United Nations Security Council Resolutions

- United Nations Security Council resolution 1612
- United Nations Security Council resolution 1882
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Weblinks:

The Child Soldiers Initiative

www.childsoldiersinitiative.org/

UN SRSG on CAC

<http://www.un.org/children/conflict/>

UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org/>

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

<http://www.child-soldiers.org>

International Bureau for Children Rights

<http://www.ibcr.org/>

Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org/>

Save the Children Alliance

<http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/index.html>