



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 26 September 2005

Programme No. 976

Duration: 2'37"

CHILD SOLDIERS IN UGANDA

VIDEO

FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS

DENIS AND HIS FRIEND

DENIS OWEKA ON CAMERA

CLASSROOM

AUDIO

NARRATION

Playing soldiers is familiar to many children, but in Uganda, this is no game. An estimated 20,000 boys and girls have been abducted – forced to become child soldiers for the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda. (15)

Denis Oweka was one of them. Now 13, he was abducted at the age of 7 – forced to kill 4 former classmates. (7.5)

OWEKA:

"I was given different assignments, like killing people. Cutting them dead or shooting them with a gun. It was easier to cut them, the gun would jerk me painfully." (8)

Denis escaped and now attends primary school on the outskirts of the Kitgum area. Many of the children here have also been abducted. Even his teacher had two of his own children stolen. (12)

OCHAN JOHN ODOKONYERO
ON CAMERA

ODOKONYERO:

“These children have been abducted and forced to do things which are not suitable for their age group, especially, the girl child. Most of them have been turned into sex slaves....”
(17)

CHILD SOLDIERS

NARRATION

According to the International Labour Organization’s Global Report on Forced Labour the majority of children recruited are done so through coercion and intimidation. And it’s not just a problem in Uganda, an estimated 120,000 children are soldiers throughout Africa, performing a range of functions from active combat to acting as “wives” of commanders.
(22)

SARAH STUDYING

Denis’ sister. Sarah Alimo, was made to serve as a wife to a Ugandan rebel commander at age 10. She too killed former classmates before escaping. She’s back in school, trying to make up for lost time by studying at night. She stays in the town centre along with five to ten thousand others who take refuge from the rebels who roam the countryside at night. But for Sarah, there is no refuge from her dreams.... (27.5)

SARAH ALIMO ON CAMERA

ALIMO:

“The dreams that disturb me at night are of the children I captured. Their images keep coming back to me. Even the images of the older people I’ve seen killed, actually haunt me.

Sometimes, I feel like I am right there in the bush with the rebels. Then I get up and pray before I can sleep again.” (17)

NARRATION

SARAH READING

Prays for a future without violence...and for the childhood she never knew. (5.5)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the International Labour Organization for the United Nations. (4)