



DCI Uganda President Innocent Garakumbe responds to new Security Council Recommendations on Children affected by armed conflict in Uganda.

The United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict recently adopted recommendations on the issue of children involved in armed conflict in Uganda. Specifically, the recommendations urge governments to cease the recruitment of children and call for the release of child soldiers from the military (*see full press release below, courtesy of CRIN*).

Innocent Garakumbe, President of DCI-Uganda issued the following statement in response to the recommendations:

DCI-Uganda welcomes the Security Council's recommendation for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to release all children in its custody unconditionally. Although this statement has long been overdue, it demonstrates the international community's commitment to uphold and promote children's rights as enshrined in international instruments and conventions. We hope that the international community will maintain pressure on the LRA to abandon its brutal and senseless actions against innocent people so that total peace returns to northern Uganda and Southern Sudan, and so thousands of children may be resettled and rehabilitated"

UN SECURITY COUNCIL: Recommendations issued on situation of children in Somalia and Uganda [courtesy of CRIN]

[NEW YORK, 20 July 2007] - The [Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict](#) adopted recommendations on Thursday on the situations of children affected by armed conflict in Somalia and in Uganda. It also examined reports by the UN Secretary-General on the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) and [Chad](#).

Ms. Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, welcomed the recommendations, saying they sent "a strong message to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda for the unconditional release of children in their ranks. The LRA has ignored repeated calls from the international community for too long and we hope that they will now immediately undertake actions for the sake of these children."

The recommendations urged all parties to the conflict in Somalia to stop recruiting and using children, and to take all the necessary measures to demobilise them without delay. The Security Council Working Group called on the government to ensure better protection of children.

In the Secretary-General's report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he recognises the significant progress made by the Congolese Government to address grave violations against children but expresses concern about the impunity for crimes against them, in particular in Ituri Province and the Kivus.

Ms. Coomaraswamy added: "Children continue to be recruited and subjected to sexual violence. Those who commit grave violations against the civilian population in open defiance of the national and international authorities must be held accountable. Rebel Commander Laurent Nkunda, Commander Kyungu Matanga and Captain Biyoyo should be brought to justice."

International Secretariat

1, Rue de Varembe

Case postale 88 ♦ CH-1211 Genève 20 ♦ Suisse

Tél. [+41 22] 734 05 58 ♦ Fax [+41 22] 740 11 45

Email : director@dcj-is.org ♦ <http://www.dci-is.org>

The Secretary-General's report on the situation in Chad highlights the grave violations against children in the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Children are recruited from refugee camps by all factions, they are killed and maimed by landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and are also subjected to sexual violence. Ms. Coomaraswamy stated that the security vacuum and the general climate of violence pose considerable challenges and dangers to humanitarian actors. In his report, the Secretary General appeals to the international community to intervene effectively to protect the civilian population.

The Working Group was established pursuant to [Resolution 1612](#) (2005) in order to promote the protection of children in armed conflict through a monitoring and reporting mechanism, as well as to make appropriate recommendations to the UN system including to the Security Council.

Further information

- [Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Chad](#)
- [Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in the DR Congo 2007](#)
- [Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Uganda](#)