



# Policy Forum on Children and Armed Conflict

## *Child Soldiers as Combatants, Victims, and Survivors*



Co-hosted by  
The Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor  
and  
The U.S. Institute of Peace

Wednesday, September 17, 2008  
U.S. Institute of Peace  
1200 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
9:15-5:30PM

### AGENDA

#### Session 1 – Welcome

*Moderator:* Pamela Aall, Vice President, Education & Training Center, Domestic Programs, U.S. Institute of Peace

#### **9:15-9:35 Welcome Remarks**

- Richard H. Solomon, President, U.S. Institute of Peace
- David J. Kramer, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

#### **9:35-10:00 Keynote Address**

- Radhika Coomaraswamy, United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

#### Session II – Plenary Sessions

#### **10:00-11:30 Panel I: Understanding the Use and Abuse of Child Soldiers**

*Moderator:* David J. Smith, Senior Program Officer, Education & Training Center, Domestic Programs, U.S. Institute of Peace

*Discussant:* Patrick White, International Relations Officer, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT), U.S. Department of Labor

This panel will discuss the logic behind the use of child soldiers, the multiple roles played by child soldiers, and emerging trends in usage and recruitment over time.

- Susan Shepler, Assistant Professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution, American University
- Ricky Richard Anywar, Former child soldier from Uganda and Founder of Friends of Orphans Uganda
- Michel Paradis, Defense Counsel, Office of the Chief Defense Counsel, Office of Military Commissions, U.S. Department of Defense

**11:30-1:00 Panel II: Bridging the Gap - The Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Rehabilitation (DDRR) Process**

*Moderator:* Dorina Bekoe, Senior Research Associate, Center for Conflict Analysis & Prevention, U.S. Institute of Peace

*Discussant:* John Williamson, Senior Technical Advisor, Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, U.S. Agency for International Development

This panel will focus on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and rehabilitation (DDRR), and other assistance activities for children affected by war. Panelists will discuss the impact of past and current initiatives, discuss how former child soldiers have been involved or should partake in such activities and what services are and are not needed for them, and discuss the role of the community, service providers, donors, and other stakeholders in the assistance process.

- Ann Makome, Child Protection Focal Point, Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- Theresa Betancourt, Assistant Professor of Child Health and Human Rights, Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University
- Bernard Harborne, Lead Conflict Adviser, Africa Region, World Bank

**1:00-2:00 Lunch** (provided by the U.S. Institute of Peace)

**2:00-3:45 Panel III: The Responsibility of Government**

*Moderator:* James Viray, Director, Office of International Labor and Corporate Social Responsibility, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State

This panel will focus on what governments can do to proactively curb state and non-state actors that forcibly recruit child soldiers, the state of international and national norms and laws that are currently in place to deal with child soldiers and their recruitment, and provide for former child soldiers who were left behind.

- Andre M. Surena, Assistant Legal Adviser [ret.], Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State
- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations
- Omer Ismail, Policy Advisor, ENOUGH Project, Center for American Progress
- Jo Becker, Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch

**3:45-4:00**      **Break**

**4:00-5:00**      **Panel IV: Next Steps – Developing and Implementing Action Plans**

*Moderator:* Tracy Lavin, Political Adviser, U.S. Mission to the United Nations

*Discussant:* Alec Wargo, II, Program Officer, United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

This panel will discuss the development and implementation of action plans by state actors and focus on experiences of specific country situations on addressing the problem of child soldiering from different stages of the action plan process.

- Yao Charles Koffi, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Shamala Kandiah, Research Analyst, Security Council Report

### **Session III – Closing**

**5:00**              **Closing Remarks**

*Moderator:* Tu Dang, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of International Labor and Corporate Social Responsibility, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State

- Jeffrey R. Krilla, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
- Abiodun Williams, Vice President, Center for Conflict Analysis & Prevention, U.S. Institute of Peace