



# MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



International - United Nations Millennium Campaign

Canada - Make Poverty History  
Calgary - Children Without Poverty

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY Monthly Newsletter: February, 2007

[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)  
[www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org)  
[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)  
[childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca)

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty & hunger by 2015.

Please help. Please read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org) or by emailing [childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca).

"We don't need to increase our goods nearly as much as we need to scale down our wants. Not wanting something is as good as possessing it." – Donald Horban

## Did you Know?

- 100 million primary school-aged children do not go to school
- 97 percent of them are in developing countries
- 60 percent of them are girls
- 350 million hungry children are currently not receiving any form of assistance
- 150 million children drop out of school before attaining a basic primary education

## Update from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank

Your support of initiatives allows them to raise the food and funds needed to assist Calgarians in crisis. Just one of the ways they provide assistance is through their Emergency Hamper Program whereby families are eligible to receive a nutritionally balanced hamper up to 6 times per year. The majority of their clients is the working poor and only accesses the Hamper Program two or three times before they regain their stability. Last year, 2006, they helped over 109,000 people, more than **42% of these clients were children**. In addition, through their BP Food Link program, they are able to share their resources with over 100 other not-for-profit agencies in Calgary who require food as part of their program delivery. Last year, this program distributed 2.4 million pounds of food.

## Uganda: 10,000 Children Missing

Source: New Vision (Kampala)  
February 3, 2007  
Posted to the web February 4, 2007  
Els De Temmerman  
Kampala

A total of 1,500 children are still held by the Lord's Resistance Army. Another 10,000 children associated with the LRA are still unaccounted for.

This was disclosed by Save the Children in a report on Child Soldiers, released yesterday.

The report comes in the wake of a meeting in Paris tomorrow, where new guidelines will be established to help eradicate the use of child soldiers. "Ten years after international guidelines were established to stamp out the recruitment and use of child soldiers, underage fighters are still actively being recruited in at least 13 countries," the UK-based agency said.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. We recommend: [www.calgaryfoodbank.com](http://www.calgaryfoodbank.com) locally and have enclosed a document outlining the registered charities you may want to become involved with.

It names the countries where fighting forces are using child soldiers as: Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

"Government forces are also implicated in countries such as South Sudan, where the SPLA is re-recruiting children who had already been released from their own ranks," Save the Children added. It accused the SPLA of recruiting children as young as eight.

The agency further stated that an estimated 11,000 children are currently involved with militias in the DRC, while 8,000 children were still fighting in West Africa in 2005.

It also found that around 75% of former girl soldiers in Liberia had suffered sexual abuse or exploitation.

"Hundreds of thousands of children are still living in misery due to association with armed groups and forces," the organization said.

It decried the fact that child soldiers are often forced to commit atrocities as part of their military 'training' and are exposed to all kinds of abuse and exploitation.

"Girls taken to become army 'wives' are often subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. When released, ex-child soldiers are frequently rejected by society and refused access to school.

Girls as young as 12 have to deal with rape and care for babies in isolation, without any support from the community," the report said.

According to Henri Nzeyimana, Protection Advisor of Save the Children, being recruited by armed forces has a devastating effect on children's lives.

"They are immersed in violence, are subject to terrible abuse and are forced to forfeit love, play, education and hope," he said.

Save the Children is calling upon governments and armed groups to immediately release all children associated with armed forces and to put a stop to all on-going recruitment.

It also urges governments to sign and ratify all relevant international law to protect children from unlawful recruitment and use. And it appeals to the donors to fund programs to ensure demobilized children can return to normal life.

It particularly calls for provisions for former girl soldiers and their children to "lessen the risks of forced early marriage, isolation, re-recruitment or health implications of sexual violence".

To have people added or removed from the distribution list or to provide feedback, questions or requests, please respond to: [childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca).

