

Child Soldiers

- demobilization in southern Sudan
February 2001

UNICEF Television B-Roll

Total Running Time: 23'56"

1. Demobilization zone Marial Bai, northern Bahr el Gazal
2. Airlift
3. Arrival in Rumbek
4. Transit Facility
5. Address to children by Urban Johsson, Regional Director UNICEF
6. Medical treatment
7. Interviews with former child soldiers

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UNICEF AIRLIFTS OVER 2,500 DEMOBILIZED CHILD SOLDIERS OUT OF SUDAN COMBAT ZONE

October Meeting With Carol Bellamy Results in Mass Release by SPLA

RUMBEEK, Sudan, 27 February 2001 – In the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken in southern Sudan, the United Nations Children's Fund announced today that it had airlifted more than 2,500 child combatants out of conflict zones and into safe areas where a rehabilitation and family tracing process can begin.

In an evacuation operation that began Friday and continued through the weekend, UNICEF said it moved more than 2,500 former child soldiers from the combat zone of Bahr el Gazal using two humanitarian relief planes operated by the World Food Program. The children were taken to reception centres in the Lakes area, behind the front lines, where local and international NGOs greeted them with medical check-ups and other basic care.

A single aircraft was continuing the operation through Tuesday. Children are also being moved from some garrisons by road.

The children – ranging in age from 8 to 18 – were demobilized from military camps run by the rebel Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army under a personal commitment made by an SPLA commander to UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy in October 2000. Bellamy was in southern Sudan at that time to observe polio immunization activities.

"We knew the critical moment had arrived," said Dr. Sharad Sapra, the head of UNICEF's operations in southern Sudan. "This is the dry season, and that's when fighting usually erupts," he said. "The SPLA should be given credit for following through on the pledge it gave to Carol Bellamy."

UNICEF said the children will live in transit centres for the next four to nine months while a family tracing process takes place. The centres are being run by local and international NGOs with experience in child protection. During this time the young people will be provided with education, psychosocial counselling, and vocational training. UNICEF has arranged for water points to be built at the sites and the World Food Programme has brought in food.

UNICEF said the children evacuated in the airlift fall into two general categories: those who received military training but never saw combat, and those who lived through combat and other traumatic experiences. UNICEF said the former group could be

expected to be reunified with family and communities in three to four months. The latter group will require more time, perhaps as long as nine months, and will be given more formal vocational training. UNICEF said children for whom no family members can be traced will remain under the long term care of local authorities and non-governmental organizations – supported by UNICEF – as close as possible to their communities of origin.

Sapra acknowledged that a long process was only just beginning. "Our first priority was to get these children to a place of safety, out of harm's way," he said. "Now our goal is to give them an education and some time to recover."

"Our ultimate goal, of course, is to completely and totally end the use of children as combatants in southern Sudan," Sapra added. "There are an estimated 9,000 child soldiers in various armed groups here, so we have a way to go. But this operation has shown what can be done with strong advocacy and follow-through. We are more inspired than ever to convince military leaders in this conflict that children have no place in armies."

* * *

UPDATE: March 20, 2001

The children are currently housed in six camps. Demobilization is continuing and small numbers of children keep arriving. Their numbers have swelled to more than 3,000. The construction of shelters is moving at a quick pace and a safe water supply has been established at all centers. The children are eating twice as much food called for under WFP (World Food Program) nutritional guidelines. Dried fish and beef come from local markets. To grind sorghum, grinding mills are being set up in each of the locations. Doctors make rounds of each camp on a regular basis and each camp is well supplied with health kits. More and more children are receiving health check-ups. All centers have teachers in place. The registration of all the children has been completed and data analysis will soon be available to begin the process of family tracing. The children are well protected by a local police force. Psychiatric help is being provided for the most traumatized children while organized sports are a means towards recovery for many of the other children.

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	SHOTLIST INFORMATION
NTSC Time code	Filmed in southern Sudan by UNICEF cameraman. Copright UNICEF.
	Marial Bai, northern Bahr el Gazal Feb 27, 2001, Evacuation operation: More than 2,500 child soldiers of the Sudan People's Liberation Army are airlifted by UNICEF from the combat zones of Bahr el Gazal and into safe areas where rehabilitation and family tracing can begin. The children, aged 8-18, were demobilised from military camps run by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army under a personal commitment made by an SPLA commander to UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy.
01 00 00	Pan of child soldiers (not in uniform) parading for demobilisation with AK47s. Chanting, clapping hands on riffles.
01 00 28	MS of military man blowing makeshift horn (made of tubing)
01 00 31	LS of four women watching ceremony
01 00 35	LS of child soldiers lined up military fashion as horn continues to play, they lay down their weapons
01 00 46	MS of child soldiers as they turn, and troop away from weapons
01 00 59	As children cheer in background adults pick up their weapons, in the background they can be seen running off
	Molou barracks, near Rumbek
01 01 10	MS Near Rumbek at a barracks called Molou, child soldiers, this time in uniform, parade with weapons in another demobilisation ceremony - clapping hands of weapons and singing
	CU of child soldier, Gabriel Angok, 9 years old, with weapon, singing, clapping (see his interbiew at end of tape)
01 01 23	MS child soldiers as above
01 01 26	Speeches from local commander with UNICEF translator, telling the children they are going to be taken care of properly
	Pans over to translator as boys in uniform sit on ground listening
	Children are told "the army is happy but also sad happy that you are going to be students wand start a new life. Sadness is when we think of your colleagues who have died in this war. Small children like you have been destroyed. Children are told to give up their arms and take up the pen.

01 01 51	CU of child soldier in uniform
01 01 56	CU of commander shouting attention
01 02 00	LS from below of child soldiers in uniform coming to attention
01 02 02	WS of child soldiers dropping their weapons
01 02 13	MS from behind of soldiers, they march off leaving weapons behind
01 02 29	MS of adult officers (out of uniform) retrieving weapons.
01 02 34	MS of children taking off their uniforms, they have civilian clothes underneath. Ceremony is a clear way of showing that they are moving on and no longer have a place in the army.
01 02 42	LS with weapons in the foreground children behind in the distance lined up and out of uniform
01 02 47	From rear of UNICEF truck children are being personal belonging kits. (Kits include a rucksack, water container, blanket, tarpaulin, cooking spoon, plate, mug, mosquito net, exercise books, plastic ruler, pens, pencils, eraser, soap, t-shirts, sewing kit, sharpener, kanga, sports shorts, rubber slippers, backpack. One kit costs \$47.92)
01 02 55	MS of above
01 03 00	Camera follows one child walking with this kit (large white bag), UNICEF logo on back of the bag
01 03 09	MS of child taking out content of bag, we see a notebook with UNICEF logo on front
01 03 19	LS of children examining bag contents, camera pulls in as one child puts back pack on, shouting, visibly happy, does a little dance
	AIRLIFT
01 03 31	LS of airlift Buffalo aircraft, arrive in Marial Bai to pick up children. The 2 humanitarian relief planes are operated by the World Food Program.
01 03 46	CU of young girl watching plane land
01 03 49	UN plane in background, foreground with small children smiling, then they are being given instructions for boarding
01 03 59	CU of small child facing camera
01 04 06	LS as children are being guided, instructed to board, they march forward holding hands, camera turns to follow as a long line of children enter plane in single file
01 04 26	MS of above, children are loaded into plane in groups of 10

01 04 32	MS of children entering plane
01 04 39	Interior of plane as children are being seated, each plane takes 100 children, it is the first voyage for most, there are no seats or seatbelts, the children sit on floor in rows
01 04 50	Shot from interior as children are entering
01 04 54	Interior of plane, children now all seated, as two men continue to arrange seating
01 04 59	CU of child looking out window
01 05 17	View from window inside, see large assembly of people behind propeller
01 05 10	MS of children inside plane
01 05 16	MS of children inside plane waving out window
01 05 26	LS of plane leaving
01 05 37	wide interior shot inside plane, children seated looking about a bit worried
01 05 42	MC of child with head between knees, trying to sleep
01 05 48	CU of child with hands on his ears
01 05 55	CU of another child with ritual scaring on forehead
01 06 07	CU of another child with hands to his ears
01 06 13	LS of children visibly somewhat disturbed or excited by being inside a loud plane, perhaps for the first time, zooms in on a child covering his ears.
01 06 33	CU of cockpit
01 06 37	CU from inside plane showing wheels of plane coming down prior to landing
01 06 42	CU from interior of cockpit showing landing
	RUMBOK ARRIVAL
01 06 50	LS of plane landing in Rumbek. The children are taken to reception centers in the Lakes area, behind the front lines, where local NGOs greet them with medical check ups and basic care.
01 07 03	From interior of plane UNI CEF official directing children off the plane
01 07 12	From exterior of plane, children disembarking being helped off by UNI CEF workers
01 07 21	MS of children being given food and water by medical staff on hand at Rumbek

01 07 30	LS of children seated, eating
01 07 39	MS of children opening food containers
01 07 45	CU of child eating nutrition fortified biscuits
01 07 52	MS of children eating and drinking
01 07 57	LS of children, assembled together, seated on floor while eating, background shows plane and UN truck
01 08 02	CU of official speaking into walkie talkie
01 08 12	MC of children seated in open back of large truck, travelling to transit facility
01 08 26	LS from behind truck showing several other trucks full of children ridding in the back
01 08 32	MS of children in rear of truck, holding on to rope for stability, laughing, waving at camera
01 08 38	LS showing trucks passing from front, children waving
01 08 50	LS at transit facility, children assembled in large group, seated on ground as official leads them in singing and clapping.
01 08 57	MS of Urban Johsson, UNI CEF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, looking on
01 09 04	MC of assembled children still singing and clapping
01 09 13	MS Urban Jonsson, UNI CEF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa addresses children, starts by saying "peace, justice and human rights" as translator translates
01 09 26	Same as before but shot from rear, "children have the right to be children"
01 09 30	MC of children assembled listening
01 09 35	Repeat of Jonsson from behind, addressing children, assembled in forefront "children have no place in war"
01 09 38	LS of smaller group of assembled children, some seated, others standing as medicines are being dispensed
01 09 43	CU of medicines being placed into small plastic zip-lock bags
01 09 50	CU of child watching
01 09 53	MS of same group as official distributes medicine.
01 10 02	MS Interior of medical facility. A medical worker show attending to wounded leg of child. (This is the first readily available medical treatment the children receive)
01 10 07	CU of UNI CEF medical worker attending boy from above, camera pans down to reveal wounded leg being doused in peroxide.

01 10 20	Shot of sign tacked to tree that reads : Grade 3 three
01 10 24	MS of children outside, under large tree, with teacher in front of assembled group, with chalkboard, the children greet the teacher and he begins writing on board
01 10 36	CU of child watching the teacher
01 10 42	MS of teacher writing lessons on chalkboard
01 10 49	Cu of another child watching teacher, holding stack of pens
01 10 55	LS from rear of outdoor classroom, children seated in rows, outside, watching teacher. Education under a tree is quite normal in Sudan, a plus for these children who have not received any schooling the army. Emergency provision is now being made.
01 11 01	CU of registration sheet being filled out
01 11 10	MS of child being sitting next to official who is registering him, seated at small outdoor table
01 11 14	CU of child being registered, answering questions (not in English)
01 11 20	CU of registration official who speak about children having lost either a single parent or both.
01 11 52	MS of children building platform
01 12 00	MS of child chopping wood
01 12 05	LS of same, shows compound being built. The transit facility is "rough and ready", this is an emergency situation and some of the older children will help build shelters for the others. The children will live in transit centres for the next 4 to 9 months while a family tracing process takes place. The centres are being run by local and international NGOs with experience in child protection. Curing this time the young people will be provided with education, psychosocial counselling and vocational training. UNI CEF arranged for water points to be built at the sites and the World Food program has brought in food.
01 12 07	MS of children pumping water from borehole (UNI CEF set up in all locations)
01 12 12	CU of water being poured into containers from borehole
01 12 16	MS of child washing his sandals in water caught in large green tarp, fashioning a make shift "washing unit"
01 12 20	MS of older children and adults building frame, pounding nails
01 12 28	CU of one of the children, as above, hammering

01 12 34	Cu of hands holding beam, in background see frameworks have been erected. The facilities being built by and for the children will become community centers when the children's families have been traced and they go back home.
01 12 38	CU of small squares of papers with numbers on edges?
01 12 42	MS, pulled back of same scene as above, children are seen seated on green tarp, outside, playing with these paper chips, some game of cards it seems
01 12 48	CU of one of the children playing this game
01 12 51	MS of child attending pot over fire, outside. Children are now getting 3 meals a day. In the army they only ever had one.
01 12 57	LS of another child attending pot, stirring, cooking
01 13 05	CU of food inside pot being stirred
01 13 14	MS of children around table, outside, with many plates of food
01 12 22	MS of 2 children seated outside, eating food from above
01 12 29	LS at sunset, children gathered, seated outside, around elder addressing them
01 13 34	MS of children listening
01 13 40	LS of children listening
01 13 45	Shot of sun setting behind trees, blurs out at end of shot
	INTERVIEW #1 Peter Mauien (12 years old)
01 13 56	Peter, seated outside, in uniform: [he says, as translated (please check)]
	"I joined to survive, to be protected security wise. I've been in the SPLA for two years. My main duties were, whenever the SPLA went into battle I remained in the headquarters to protect the headquarters and the properties that surrounded headquarter. The only hope for us is to be educated and assure our lives. My hope is to get an education. It will give me hope that I can secure my future life.
01 16 15	Interview #2 Wol Wol Deng (13 years old) [as translated (please check)]
	Wol Wol, seated outside with his riffle
	I became homeless and I thought it better to come to the army. It happened 8 years ago. When my mother was killed it was a very great disaster. We were very small children. When my mother and father were killed I hid in the bush. And after

	<p>they left I thought to myself I must have a gun to revenge the death of my father and mother. Q; do you think you have revenged enough? A: Yes, but when I'm fighting I cannot indicate whether I have killed or haven't killed. I may or may not have revenged, because if I missed, I haven't revenged, if I don't miss, I have revenged. Q: what was your job in the army. A: when I came to the army I was 3?, I was given military exercises and given food until I became grown up, and then I became a fighter. And when there is war I go to the war. My hope for the future is that, if I become demobilised from the army, I wish I could get a good education and a skill in a field that I can follow so that I can do something good for my country. My other hope is that with the other people in the army I can liberate my country.</p>
01 20 20	<p>Interview #3 Malong Majok (16 years) Seated outside with rifle [as translated (please check)]</p>
	<p>My father, mother and brothers were killed by the enemy. I became angry. I didn't have any other way to do unless I have to revenge. And to revenge is only to have a gun. If I have a gun I can revenge. I can fight and I can avenge my mother, father, brothers. That is the decision I took to become a soldier. The day my mother and father and brothers were killed the enemy came by surprise. They attacked the village, they gathered the people, and after that they took all cows, and they burned all the houses, even all our clothes were burned inside the houses. We remained naked, without food, and we were suffering, from hunger even. Nakedness was also a problem. Then I decided what to do. I thought I'd better join the army.</p>
01 22 17	<p>Interview #4 Gabriel Angok (9 years) standing outside, in uniform, only see face from shoulders up [as translated (please check)]</p>
	<p>(You can't hear the question) I can't remember because I grew up in the army. When I was very small I was taken by the army. All my life I have been in the army. Q: are you happy you're leaving army or do you want to stay? A: I'm going to try another life. I'm not sure but I'd like to leave the army and try another life. Q: what's your hope for the future? A: I would</p>

	like to go to school and become a pilot.
01 23 56	end

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