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POLI 122

Policy Proposal

April 17, 2019

Fighting Child Soldiers in South Sudan

1. A contemporary human rights problem that I want to focus on is the issue of

recruitment of child soldiers by South Sudanese forces. As discussed by Campeanu

and Huon (2018), Sudan is one of the countries in the world with the highest number of

child soldiers. Even though the government released several child soldiers in the past

year, there are still several thousands of children still serving in the armed forces

(Campeanu and Huon, 2018). Deprived of their childhood, child soldiers in South Sudan

are exposed to extreme forms of violence and experience traumatic events which

significantly affect their mental and physical health (Campeanu and Huon, 2018). Many

children have also been killed in armed conflicts. It is therefore important to have the

right policies and programs in place to protect children in South Sudan.

2. I have always been interested in learning about the factors that lead to recruitment of

child soldiers in conflicted areas and how international organizations can get involved to

fight this problem. By focusing on South Sudan, I want to understand what has been

done to protect children in the country, the successes and failures of policies targeting

children and finally, what can be further done and improved to protect children in South

Sudan.

3. Article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the

Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, states “States Parties shall take all feasible

measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age

of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities” (Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child).

4. I will be representing Human Rights Watch.

5. Ms. Awut Deng Acuil, The Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Republic of

South Sudan.

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