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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Burundi*, Kenya, Uganda*, United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

2001/... Abduction of children from northern Uganda

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, which expressed concern about violations of human rights during armed conflicts affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled,

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling the obligation of States parties to respect and strictly observe international humanitarian law in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and other relevant principles of international law,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which will serve to strengthen international instruments that protect war-affected children,

Recalling its resolution 2000/60 of 26 April 2000 in which the Commission requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an assessment of the situation of the abduction of children from northern Uganda on the ground in the affected areas,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/55/163-S/2000/712) submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the findings and recommendations presented in the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/55/442),

Deeply concerned at the continuing abduction, torture, detention, rape, enslavement and forced recruitment of children from northern Uganda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (E/CN.4/2001/76);
2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the Lord's Resistance Army for the continued abduction, torture, killing, rape, enslavement and forcible recruitment of children in northern Uganda;
3. *Demands* the immediate cessation of all abductions and attacks on civilian populations, in particular women and children, in northern Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army;
4. *Calls* for the immediate and unconditional release and safe return of all abducted children currently held by the Lord's Resistance Army;
5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, to continue to provide assistance to the victims and their families suffering from the effects of torture inflicted by the Lord's Resistance Army;

6. *Urges* Member States, international organizations, humanitarian bodies and all other concerned parties with any influence on the Lord's Resistance Army to exert all possible pressure on it to release, immediately and unconditionally, all children abducted from northern Uganda;

7. *Urges* all parties supporting the continuation of abductions and detentions of children by the Lord's Resistance Army to cease immediately all assistance to and collaboration with the rebel Army;

8. *Welcomes* the bilateral agreement between the Sudan and Uganda signed by the Presidents of the two countries at Nairobi on 8 December 1999;

9. *Also welcomes* the return of some of the abducted children and calls for more efforts to be exerted to release the remaining children held in captivity by the rebels;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* of the commitment made by the Governments of the Sudan and Uganda to make a special effort to locate persons, especially children, who have been abducted in the past and to return them to their families;

11. *Notes* the recent efforts exerted by the Governments of the Sudan and Uganda, complemented by those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund and intergovernmental organizations, which resulted in the identification and reunification of more of those children with their families;

12. *Welcomes* the report of the assessment mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which underscores the gravity of the matter, and urges the United Nations and the international community to continue to make concerted efforts aimed at improving the situation concerning the abduction of children from northern Uganda and meeting the needs of the victims;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the statement of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in which she presented the preliminary findings of the team which was sent by her Office to carry out an assessment of the situation on the ground in the affected areas;

14. *Underscores* the gravity of the matter and urges the United Nations and the international community to continue concerted efforts aimed at improving the situation concerning the abduction of children and meeting the needs of the victims;

15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-eighth session, under the same agenda item.
