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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 13

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Botswana, Kenya*, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania* and Uganda*:
draft resolution

2000/... Abduction of children from northern Uganda

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1999/43 of 26 April, 1999,

Recalling 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,

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

Recalling also the findings and recommendations presented in the final report of the expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children (see A/51/306 and Add.1),

Recalling further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 (A/CONF.157/23), which expressed concern about violations of human rights during armed conflicts affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled,

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 principles of international law,

Expressing profound concern at the continuing abduction, torture, detention, rape, enslavement and forced recruitment of children from northern Uganda,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/69);
2. Condemns in the strongest terms the Lord's Resistance Army for the abduction, torture, killing, rape, enslavement and forcible recruitment of children in northern Uganda;
3. Demands the immediate cessation of all abductions and attacks on all 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. Requests the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, to provide assistance to the victims and their families suffering from the effects of torture inflicted by the Lord's Resistance Army;
6. Urges all 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 from northern Uganda;
7. Urges all parties supporting the continuation of abduction and detention 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 at Nairobi, on 8 December 1999 by the Presidents of the two countries;
9. Reiterates the commitment made by the Sudan and Uganda to make a special effort to locate any abductees, especially children, who have been abducted in the past and to return them to their families;
10. Welcomes with appreciation the efforts exerted by the Governments of the Sudan and Uganda, complemented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations, which resulted in the identification and reunification of many of those children with their families;
11. Requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a joint mission to northern Uganda to assess the situation on the ground, including the needs of the victims, and report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;
12. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-seventh session under the same agenda item.
