

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**“STOLEN CHILDREN, STOLEN LIVES”
THE ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND SLAVERY OF CHILDREN IN
NORTHERN UGANDA**

PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

Up to 8,000 children have been abducted, subjected to horrific human rights abuses and forced to become child soldiers and virtual slaves in northern Uganda. The children, some as young as 11-years-old, have been seized over the past three years by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and forced to fight the Ugandan army in a largely ignored conflict.

The LRA subject the children to a regime of extreme and arbitrary violence, brutalizing boys and girls by forcing them to kill other children and torturing or killing those who try to escape. The children are “owned” by LRA commanders, with girls forced to “marry” senior soldiers and effectively held as sexual slaves. All children are sent to fight.

The LRA are backed militarily and financially by the Sudan government, which uses the LRA to fight the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) -- and to destabilize Uganda.

To highlight these mass human rights abuses against children in Uganda, Amnesty International and UNICEF are holding a joint press conference in London. Speaking at the press conference are: Dr Andrew Mawson, Amnesty International's researcher on Uganda, and Marie Staunton, Deputy Director of UNICEF UK. At the press conference, Amnesty International will release a report on the latest situation in northern Uganda.

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Press conference details:

•11am, Thursday 18 September

•Amnesty International – International Secretariat
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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