

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Problem**

In the era of post-cold war, issues in international relations have reached significant development. There are a lot of theoretical changes within international relations marked with the emergence of new issues such as humanitarian issues, ethnic conflicts, global environmental politics, and the future of nations-states. Humanitarian issues have spread all over the world in each country who experience with conflict. The most dominant issues are the discrimination, rape, violation, or abduction of women and children.

Children have become great concern together along with the never ending of emerging conflict in the world. Children are often involved within the conflict especially as combatant. In the conflict phenomena, children is marginalized and potentially become war machine. Moreover children's thought are easy to be influenced. Children are recruited, trained, and used in combat and non-combat work; usually it is not only done by rebel group but also the government. (Child Soldiers International, 2004). According to UNICEF, more than 300.000 children under 18 years each year are being employed and exploited by 72 government army and non-government army in the world (United Nations Children's Fund, Adult wars, child soldiers, 2002).

UNICEF is one of international organization that works for children protection. UNICEF that is mostly known as United Nations Children Fund

(UNICEF) is the first international organization that is formed to look after the children in the world. It was established on December 11, 1946 by United Nations (UN) General Assembly. UNICEF is headquartered in New York and works for 190 countries in the world. Beginning in the post war period (World War II) UNICEF concerned on emergency needs of children; foods, clothing, and health needs. It has become permanent part of United Nations (UN) since 1953 and has a mandate to begin successful global campaign towards the spreading diseases affecting millions of children (UNICEF, History, 2015).

In current era, UNICEF has prominent position which works globally for children's rights and wellbeing. UN General Assembly also adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Children which is emphasizing the protection of children rights, education, health care, shelter, good nutrition, and also protection from violence, exploitations, and abuses. UNICEF programs are more focused on the most unbenefited children. Including those are with disability, who are affected by massive urbanization, who are in a disease, environmental degradation and who are involved in conflict.

These phenomenons often happen in conflicting countries especially those in African Continent. African countries are having complex problems dominantly internal conflicts. One of them is that Eastern African countries have experienced long armed conflict such as Uganda. Currently, Uganda is known as one of 20 countries in the world with rebel of government forces, that put many children as victims. Meanwhile, based on United Nations undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief,

describes Uganda as one of the world's worst humanitarian disaster. (Moorehead, 2005)

Since 1986, in northern Uganda, the government has been long fought against the armed rebel group called Lord Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that terrorized northern Uganda for two decades and wanted to overthrow the government of Uganda. LRA was motivated by its missionistic group leader, Joseph Kony. His main objective was to cleanse Northern Uganda from the generation of Acholi people and re-establish culture according to his ideologies based on the Commandment of Bible. LRA was seen as spiritual armed movement led by a leader who claimed that he had supernatural power and had ability to talk to spirit during the decision making in his group (Beard, The children of northern uganda: The effects of civil war, 2011).

In order to achieve its objectives, LRA gained power through massive killings, brutal massacres and started to recruit children by kidnapping, threatening, forcing, and training them into soldiers (Beard, The children of northern uganda: The effects of civil war, 2011). They killed their people, Acholi for the sake of power and LRA have led the death of 200.000 people in North Uganda. The long armed conflict has displaced more than 1.5 million people (Dagne, 2011).

Since 1986, over 20.000 children had been abducted and forced to become child soldiers of LRA. The emergence of night commuter in Uganda happened towards the children living in unprotected Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

camps or villages. They slept in the ground church, bus station, and hospital, to avoid the abduction from LRA. That was the reason why they fled from their home every night. (Beard, *The Children of Northern Uganda: The Effects of Civil War*, 2011)

During the armed conflict while the children were becoming LRA's child soldiers, they have been forced to perform various brutal actions and the children who escaped would be collectively killed (Andersson, 2007). Most of them were under eighteen years old. The boys have been used as combatants and the girls have been used as sex slaves. They experienced much of sexual harassment and many of them gave birth to their own children within LRA (Child Soldiers International, 2004).

The main reasons why LRA recruited children are because they were easy to be controlled and indoctrinated. By doing abduction, mostly in schools or family LRA was taking the advantage from authoritarian structure to influence the children instantly and make them as the combatants. In the post of armed conflict, Uganda had achieved state of peace and LRA had been removed and some of children found their way to escape and back to civilization. However, the former child soldiers had very bad experiences and were affected negatively by armed conflict. For example they got poor health, psychological trauma, low of education and many more.

This phenomenon triggered both state and non-state actor's reactions. The international efforts to protect children from the involvement in armed conflict has been reinforced into international law level; The Optional

Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the involvement to armed forces that has been ratified by 120 states up from 77 in the mid-2004 (Soldiers C. t., 2008). International organization, non-governmental organizations and many prominent figures especially United Nations Children Funds (UNICEF). UNICEF also put efforts to protect children from violence, exploitations, and abuses. The problem of child soldiers in Uganda that should be concerned is not only during the armed conflict but the implications to former child soldiers in the post-conflict, seeing that there are lot of efforts which failed and the children condition in the post of armed conflict were less addressed by its government.

## **B. Research Question**

Child soldiering has occurred throughout history and often happens in the never ending era of humanitarian conflict. This problem has gotten vast international attention in the last decade and affected both international organization and non-governmental organization to react. The attention is not only during the conflict but also in the post conflict where there are a lot of children become victims and got negative impact of that. Therefore my research question is:

*How is the role of UNICEF to reintegrate and rehabilitate former child soldiers in the post Uganda armed conflict?*

## **C. Theoretical / Conceptual Framework**

To analyze about how is the role of UNICEF in reintegrating and rehabilitating former child soldiers, the author would like to refer on the concept of human security and international organization.

### **1. Human Security and Children Security as Part of Human Security**

#### **a. Human Security**

Human security in current era is not new issue and it becomes more complex. The threats do not only concentrate on military but also other securities matter that is human security, food security, and many others. According Commission on Human Security, the definition of Human Security is:

*“...to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human Freedoms and human fulfillment. Human security means protecting fundamental Freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people’s strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.”* (UNDP, United nations human security in theory and practice, 2009)

Essentially human security is always linked to human elements of security, rights and developments. Based on United Nations Development Program (UNDP), human security consists of interrelated concepts or approaches that categorize below (UNDP, United nations human security in theory and practice, 2009):

- 1) *People Centered* means human security placed individual as the center of analysis. It analyzes how individual’s dignities, survival, life hood, are being threatened.

- 2) *Multi Sectoral* sees human security needs broad understanding of the threats and causes of insecurity from many aspects such as economy, political security, military, health, and food.
- 3) *Comprehensive* means to tackle human security problem, needs cooperative and multisectoral responses that bring together the problems.
- 4) *Context-specific* means insecurity is changeable in different setting and solution towards the addressing issue.
- 5) *Prevention-oriented* in addressing the issues need to focus on protection and environment particularly in dealing with the risks and causes of issues.

UNDP also divides the types of securities into; economic security, political security, health security, personal security, food security, environmental security, and community security.

#### b. Children Security as Part of Human Security

Children represent the particular concern on human security. UNICEF categorizes threats for children into three main aspects (Nesbitt, 20014): The first one is *poverty*, as the fundamental causes of high rate of child mortality and morbidity particularly in most of developing countries. Children are suffering safe water, hard to access health services, hard to get proper shelter and lack of adequate nutrition.

Second one is *armed conflict*. As wars are increasing, many children in a condition where they are growing by their family or communities within the

situation of arm conflict. The data shows that since 1990 conflict has killed approximately 3.6 million people tragically 45 per cent of them are children both as combatant and non-combatant, being abused, exploited, and facing sexual harassment.

Third is *HIV/AIDS*. This disease has become one of major health's problems that caused mortality of people including children. The most people who are being infected are people living in developing countries. Especially Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS has led the increasing child mortality that very extremely reduces the life expectancy of children.

In this thesis, the analysis focuses on the arm conflict as potential threat that triggers children to become combatant within the conflict.

## **2. International Organization**

International organization as cited in International Organizations third edition written by Clive Archer, represents a form of institution that refers to a formal system of rules and objectives, a rationalized administrative instrument and which has 'a formal technical and material organization: constitutions, local chapters, physical equipment, machines, emblems, letterhead stationery, a staff, an administrative hierarchy and so forth (Archer, 2001).

According to Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst International organizations as actor of global governance are divided into (Margaret P Karns, 2004):



- a. Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) are organizations whose members include at least three states that have activities in several states. And whose members are held together by a formal intergovernmental agreement.
- b. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are private voluntary organizations consist of individuals or associations that come together to achieve a common purpose.
- c. Multinational corporations (MNCs) are particular non-governmental organizations that work for profit seeking across the borders.

Based on Leorry Bennet in his book entitled *International Organizations; Principles and Issues* (Second Edition) stated that international organizations act as mean of cooperation among countries in area for reaching agreement. It also functions as communicator among governments to make easier for addressing the problems (Bennett, 1980).

Complementing the functions above, the functions of international organizations according Harold K Jacobson on his book; *Networks of Interdependence: International Organizations and Global Political System* can also be classified into several categories (Jacobson, 1979);

- 1) *Informational Functions* involve information gathering, analysis, exchange, dissemination of data and point of view.
- 2) *Normative Functions* involve the definition and declaration of standards. It is not such as binding effect but rather about proclamation that affect the environment in which domestic and world politics are conducted.

- 3) *Rule-Creating Functions* involve definition and declaration of standard to become legally binding such as agreement towards the issues that addressed usually should be signed and ratified by pertinent actors.
- 4) *Rule-supervisory Functions* involve the measurement of the rules from international organizations are being applied.
- 5) *Operational Functions* involve the use of resources that owned by organizations such as financial and technical assistances and deployment of military forces.

#### **D. Hypothesis**

To answer how UNICEF role to reintegrate and rehabilitate former child soldiers in Uganda, the hypotheses that can be drawn are UNICEF reintegrate and rehabilitate former child soldiers through;

1. UNICEF serves as informational center which means has involved in information gathering and analysis of data towards child soldiers in Uganda and has taken action comprehensively in reintegrating and rehabilitating former child soldiers by cooperating with multisectoral responses.
2. UNICEF has taken action as operational function that involve the use of resources that owned by organizations both financial and technical assistances in multi sectoral aspects.

## **E. Methodology of Research**

*This research belongs to case study which uses qualitative approach as the method. A case study design is used to help answer ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions and to understand the behavior of those who involved in the research. Case study uses explanatory. This would be used to answer the causal question in this research (Yin, 2003). Therefore, this method is used to emphasize the role of UNICEF for reintegrating and rehabilitating former child soldiers in the post Uganda’s armed conflict. Data sources of case study is the use of multiple potential data sources especially library research and documentation from journal or justified websites.*

## **F. Significant of Study**

The reason why this study is significant can be explained from two aspects. First the author would like to explain the humanitarian phenomena in conflicting country called Northern Uganda specifically towards the use of children as soldiers within armed conflict.

Second, this study endeavor to perform the role of UNICEF as international organizations that protect children’s rights, stop the recruitment and reintegrate and rehabilitate of former child soldiers in the post-armed conflict. Therefore, this study also identifying lessons learned from UNICEF’s efforts in one of conflicting country; Uganda.

## **G. Scope and Limitation**

There are some limitations that the author wishes to set to my research. This study was conducted to understand the role of *UNICEF as international organization of human right*. This study also identifies actions and challenges of UNICEF that acts to stop and also rehabilitate and reintegrate of former child soldiers in northern Uganda. The study covered the reintegration and rehabilitation actions from 2006 to 2011.

## **H. System of Writing**

**Chapter 1** provides the background, research question, significance of study, scope and limitation, conceptual or theoretical framework, hypothesis, methodology, and system of writing.

**Chapter 2** continuous with the brief introduction of UNICEF as international humanitarian organization, including establishment, vision and mission, function, structure, funding, partner, program and role of UNICEF towards child soldiers in the world.

**Chapter 3** gives the history of Uganda Civil War then looks at why child have been used in armed conflicts in Uganda, how the children condition in the post conflict.

**Chapter 4** describes about the role of UNICEF as international humanitarian organization and global advocacy who assist the right of children towards the use of child as soldier and role to reintegrate and rehabilitate former child soldiers in the post conflict.

**Chapter 5** concludes the research findings