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THE FUTURE OF HUMANKIND IN EXTREME
DANGER: THE QUESTION OF CHILDREN
INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICT

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Abstract: Children are always the first to be affected by armed conflicts. The international community has been increasingly focusing on this issue of great concern. The worst violations committed against them are killing and maiming, recruitment and use, sexual violence, abduction, attacks against schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access. Even if they don't die or don't be hurt, they can stay orphan or become psychological and psychosocial stressed due to direct exposition to violence, poverty or loss of their relatives. Frequently those who survive catch themselves involved in another kind of survive's fight – against diseases, inadequate sheltering, lacking of basic services and poor nutrition. Schools also can be attacked by violence, many times with tragedies consequences. Children can be forcibly recruited to combat, they can be submitted to slavery, sexual violence and exploitation, or being exposed to abandoned explosives that kill and maim thousand of them every year. Girls are specialty vulnerable to sexual violence, abuses, exploitation and prejudices, during and after conflicts' situations. Although armed conflicts are not unique to urban areas, it is clear that an attack on a high-density area in a city - whether by government forces, rebel militias or terrorists - increases the number of

deaths, including children. In some cases, the target is deliberately the civilian population, aiming to create greater political impact - such as detonated explosives in busy urban areas such as markets. In other cases, combatants argue that broader war goals justify the costs of dead or injured civilians. However, all attacks on civilians - and especially children - are violations of international human rights law. To protect children against armed conflicts, many actions can be implemented by human rights' international protection, including the role of peripheral countries.

Keywords: Human Rights – Children – Armed Conflicts – Protection.

O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE EM EXTREMO PERIGO: A QUESTÃO DAS CRIANÇAS ENVOLVIDAS NOS CONFLITOS ARMADOS

Resumo: Crianças são sempre as primeiras a ser afetadas por conflitos armados. A comunidade internacional vêm focalizando cada vez mais esse tema de grande preocupação. As piores violações cometidas contra elas são matar e mutilar, recrutamento e uso, violência sexual, rapto, ataques contra escolas e hospitais e a negativa de acesso humanitário. Mesmo que não sejam mortas ou feridas, podem ficar órfãs ou tornarem-se psicológica e psicossocialmente estressadas em decorrência de exposição direta à violência, pobreza ou perda dos entes queridos. Aquelas que sobrevivem vêm-se freqüentemente envolvidas em outro tipo de luta pela sobrevivência – contra doenças, abrigo inadequado, falta de serviços básicos e nutrição deficiente. As escolas também podem ser atingidas pela violência, muitas vezes com conseqüências trágicas. As crianças podem ser recrutadas à força para combater, podem ser submetidas à servidão, violência sexual e exploração, ou ser expostas a artefatos explosivos

abandonados que matam e mutilam milhares delas todos os anos. As meninas são especialmente vulneráveis à violência sexual, abusos, exploração e estigmatização, durante e depois de situações de conflito. Embora conflitos armados não sejam exclusivos de áreas urbanas, é evidente que um ataque a uma área de alta densidade populacional em uma cidade - seja por forças do governo, por milícias rebeldes ou por terroristas - aumenta o número de mortes, inclusive de crianças. Em alguns casos, o alvo é deliberadamente a população civil, visando criar maior impacto político - como explosivos detonados em áreas urbanas movimentadas, como mercados. Em outros casos, combatentes afirmam que objetivos de guerra mais amplos justificam os custos de civis mortos ou feridos. No entanto, todos os ataques a civis - e especialmente a crianças - são violações da legislação internacional sobre direitos humanos. Para proteger as crianças dos conflitos armados, muitas ações podem ser implementadas pela proteção internacional dos direitos humanos, incluindo o papel dos países periféricos.

Palavras-Chave: Direitos Humanos – Crianças – Conflitos Armados – Proteção.

1. INTRODUCTION



This article treats about children in combat and the impact of the conflicts under childhood. Also, it is important to demonstrate the role of countries which are members of the United Nations, specially Brazil, regarding children's Human Rights protection.

Children are always the first people affected by conflicts, direct or indirectly. Armed conflicts change their lives in many ways and, even if they don't die or don't be hurt, they can stay orphan, be abducted, suffer sexual violence or stay with deeply

emotional cicatrices and psychosocial traumas, caused by direct violence exposition, poverty or loss of their relatives.

The destruction provoked by war means that the child is private from basic services as education and health assistance. The education may be damaged by lacking of teachers or due to an ambient where earth mines and others explosives vestiges threat the child's safety. Schools also can be involved in armed conflicts and students and/or teachers can be made prisoners of war or abducted.

One does not know the exact number of children who actually participate as combatants in the conflicts, but probably it reaches millions of them. Coalition was been done to impede the utilization of Children Soldiers (UNICEF, 2005, p. 41; 100). Children were been recruited, were abducted or pressured to joint armed groups. Children also were been forced to sexual slavery, in particularly girls who are abused by the commandant or by the troops.

Armed groups and, sometimes, the governmental power itself uses children because frequently it is easier to determine children rather than adults to kill without afraid and to obey without thinking. For all these children, recruited by force (to support actively a cause) or join to fight in order to escape from poverty or hunger, the first loss is their childhood.

The justification for choosing this subject is the huge challenge that humanity has toward future generations (that is, itself, the future of the world). There are different aims of intervention when the objective is to talk about children, but protection is always the most important key. This is the reason why *Convention on the Rights of the Child* – CDC (adopted by United Nations Assembly in November 20th, 1989) is based on the *Integral Protection Doctrine* which considers a child as (a) a subject of rights, (b) a human being in stage of development, and (c) a person who requeres total priority from family, society and the State regarding accomplishing its Human Rights.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CDC), is not only a reference's document but also a philosophy of life because it is more than a simple international instrument, it is also a sort of a state of mind for those who work guided by Human Rights, specially in order to guarantee the Children's Human Rights.

All countries around the world should strive to establish children's rights as an enduring ethical principle in international standards of behavior towards children.

When we talk of children in developing countries (as Brazil) we are referring to children who are poor, exploited and vulnerable. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1st article) considers as a *child* all human beings from birth to the age of eighteen.

Brazil's legislation (Statute of the Child and Adolescent – Law n. 8.069, from July 13th, 1990), in its 2nd article says that *childhood* goes from zero to eleven (uncompleted) years and *ad-olescence* goes from twelve to eighteen years old. This means that the early childhood implies a very different approach in priority than the adolescence period. But as we consider childhood as a whole, that's it, as a human being in development, it is very important not to separate the different stages of a child's life in order to insure the overall well-being of the child itself.

When a developing country has effective public polices to guarantee Human Rights for all children (through family, government and society priorities), one does not need choosing between childhood and adolescence in order to know what to attend first.

2. CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD

2.1 “UNICEF DECLARES 2014 DEVASTATING YEAR FOR MILLIONS OF CHILDREN TRAPPED BY CONFLICT”

To demonstrate children are involved in armed conflicts, this part will bring some news about United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its dealing with these questions.

Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director, said on December 8th, 2014:

Never in recent memory have so many children been subjected to such unspeakable brutality as 2014 has been “devastating” for some 15 million children caught up in violent conflicts around the world. This has been a devastating year for millions of children. (...) Children have been killed while studying in the classroom and while sleeping in their beds; they have been orphaned, kidnapped, tortured, recruited, raped and even sold as slaves. (UNICEF, Dec. 8th, 2014).

As many as 15 million children were caught up in violent conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and in the Occupied Palestinian territories – including those displaced in their own countries or living as refugees outside their homeland, according to UNICEF.

And an estimated 230 million children live in countries and areas affected by armed conflicts.

Yet, UNICEF said that:

The sheer number of crises in 2014 meant that many were quickly forgotten or captured little attention. Protracted crises in countries like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, continued to claim even more young lives and futures. (UNICEF, Dec. 8th, 2014).

The children's agency went on saying that 2014 has also posed significant new threats to children's health and well-being, most notably the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which has left thousands of children orphaned and an estimated 5 million out of school.

“Violence and trauma do more than harm individual children – they undermine the strength of societies,” said Mr. Lake. “The world can and must do more to make 2015 a much better year for every child.”

In 2014, UNICEF said children were kidnapped from school, or on their way to school, recruited or used by armed forces and groups. It also noted a rise in attacks on education and health facilities and use of schools for military purposes:

In the *Central African Republic* 2.3 million children were affected by the conflict, up to 10,000 children have been recruited by armed groups and more than 430 children have been killed and maimed – three times as many as in 2013; nearly 400,000 children in *Gaza* were suffering from psychosocial distress as a result of the 50-day armed conflict in 2014; in *Gaza*, 54,000 children were left homeless as a result of the 50-day conflict during the summer with 538 children killed and more than 3,370 injured; in *Syria*, with more than 7.3 million children affected by the conflict including 1.7 million child refugees, the United Nations verified at least 35 attacks on schools in the first nine months of the year, which killed 105 children and injured nearly 300 others; in *Iraq*, where an estimated 2.7 million children were affected by conflict at least 700 children were believed to have been maimed, killed or even executed. In *South Sudan*, an estimated 235,000 children, under five, were suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Almost 750,000 children have been displaced and more than 320,000 were living as refugees.

UNICEF said it and its partners have worked together to provide life-saving assistance and other critical services like education and emotional support to help children growing up in some of the most dangerous places in the world.

In Central African Republic, a campaign is under way to get 662,000 children back to school as the security situation permits.

Nearly 68 million doses of the oral polio vaccine were delivered to countries in the Middle East to stem a polio outbreak in Iraq and Syria.

In South Sudan, more than 70,000 children were treated for severe malnutrition.

In Ebola-hit countries, work continues to combat the virus through support for community care centres and Ebola treatment Units.

2.2 “SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT ‘DEVASTATING’ FOR COUNTRY’S CHILDREN – UN REPORT”

The conflict in South Sudan has seriously hampered the protection of children, increasing their vulnerability dramatically, says a report published by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. (UNICEF, December 30th, 2014).

The first report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in South Sudan documents grave violations of children’s rights committed since the African nation seceded from Sudan in 2011.

More specifically, it takes stock of how children have been affected by the conflict during the period from March 1st, 2011 to September 30th, 2014, documenting the following six grave violations committed against children: killing and maiming, recruitment and use, sexual violence, abduction, attacks against schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

Between December 2013 and September 2014 over 600 children were killed, said UNICEF’s report. During the same period, thousands of child soldiers were seen joined with State and non-State armed groups.

“The data collected and verified by the UN is devastating,” said Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. “The children of South Sudan were not only affected by renewed violence, they have been directly targeted by all parties to the conflict,” she added.

The UN also found that dozens of cases of boys and girls who were victims of sexual violence committed by all parties to the conflict, although the actual number is likely to be higher due

to underreporting. Schools and hospitals were targeted as well.

All parties to the conflict in South Sudan were responsible for grave violations against children during the reporting period, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence, the report found.

“Six months later, we are still waiting to see boys and girls released and other meaningful actions that will help shield the country’s children from the violence” the Special Representative said referring to the mid-2014 pledge by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and other parties to end and to prevent children’s abuses, as well as grave violations against them.

To that end, the report called on the Government of South Sudan to develop a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program for children separated from armed forces and groups. This program should be designed to ensure that children receive adequate support and reintegration assistance, with particular attention to the specific needs of girls. Additional recommendations to end and prevent grave violations against children are outlined by the report such as ending impunity for perpetrators.

2.3 “SOUTH SUDAN: UN WELCOMES DEMOBILIZATION OF CHILD SOLDIERS AMID SIGNS OF PEACE”

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) celebrated on January 27th, 2015 (UNICEF, January 27th, 2015) the release of some 3,000 South Sudanese child soldiers in what is being hailed as one of the largest ever demobilizations of children in a zone of conflict.

“These children have been forced to do and see things no child should ever experience,” UNICEF South Sudan Representative Jonathan Veitch stated. “The release of thousands of

children requires a massive response to provide the support and protection these children need to begin rebuilding their lives.”

An initial group of 280 children (from 11 to 17 years old), were released by the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA) Cobra Faction at the village of Gumuruk in South Sudan's eastern Jonglei State. The release was marked in a ceremony overseen by UNICEF and the South Sudan National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission during which the child soldiers reportedly surrendered their weapons and uniforms. Other children's releases were expected to happen still on February 2015.

According to the UN agency, some of the child soldiers have been fighting for up to four years and many of them have never attended school. In 2015 alone, 12,000 children, mostly boys, have been recruited and used as soldiers by armed forces and groups in South Sudan as a whole. (UNICEF, January 27th, 2015).

The security situation in South Sudan deteriorated steadily over the past year since political in-fighting between South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar, started in mid-December 2013. The hostilities subsequently turned into a full-fledged conflict that has sent nearly 100,000 civilians fleeing to UNMISS bases around the country. The crisis has uprooted an estimated 1.9 million people and placed more than 7 million at risk of hunger and disease.

Nonetheless, a recent peace deal between the warring factions has fostered hope of a definitive end to the year-long conflict.

In its press release, UNICEF explained that it is currently working to trace and reunify the children with their families, a “daunting” task due to the more than 1 million children who have either been displaced internally or have fled to neighbouring countries since fighting broke out.

In the meantime, the UN agency is supporting the former

child soldiers with basic health care and protection services and necessities such as food, water and clothing to help them get ready to return to their families. Moreover, counselling and other psychological support programs were urgently being established as well as access to education and skills training programs.

Mr. Veitch warned, however, that the successful application of such programs demanded significant resources.

UNICEF, in fact, estimates the costs for the release and reintegration of each child at \$2,330 for a two-year period. Although some funding has been forthcoming, the agency is appealing for an additional \$10 million.

For her part, Leila Zerrougui, the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, celebrated the demobilization, adding that the release of the child soldiers was “a step in the right direction.”

“Helping them take back their lives must be a priority,” she declared in a statement. “I call on the international community to provide sufficient resources to ensure they have access to the support that will help them heal and return to a peaceful life.”

South Sudan is one of seven countries highlighted in the UN's ongoing “Children, Not Soldiers” a campaign which aims to end the recruitment and use of children by Government armed forces in conflict by the end of 2016. During the Special Representative's visit to South Sudan in June 2014, the Government recommitted to the full implementation of its action plan with the United Nations to end the recruitment and use of children in the Sudan People's Liberation Army. In May, Riek Machar, signed a commitment with the Special Representative to end all grave violations against children.

“Today's release of children is a step in the right direction, but we cannot forget that thousands more have been recruited by all parties to the conflict,” Ms. Zerrougui continued. “I urge the Government of South Sudan and the opposition led by Riek Machar to honor their commitments. The release of

children in their ranks is long overdue.”

2.4 “IN THE INTERNATIONAL DAY, ONU EXHORTS END OF USING OF SOLDIERS CHILDREN IN CONFLICTS”

From Afeganistan to Democratic Republic of the Congo, the world conflicts became more brutal, intensive and generalized and the children are each time more vulnerable to the recruitment by armed groups, said United Nations in the International Day against using of Soldiers Children (UNICEF, February 12th, 2015).

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and its General Secretary Leila Zerrougui, special representant for Children and Armed Conflicts, did a called “urgent action to end with grave violence against children”. She recognized the advances realized by armies in all world by stablishing that the children do not have place in its combat’s leading. However, told that for the armed groups this question is not an impediment. From 59 active groups in conflicts and identified by the UN’s General Secretary by grave violation of children’s rights, 57 recruit and use soldiers-children.

By UN, dozens of millions from boys and girls are associated with the armed forces and armed groups in conflicts in more than 20 countries around the world. In Afeganistan, for example, children went on been recruited by national security forces and, in same extreme cases, used as bomb-men. In the territories of Iraq and Syria controlled by Islamic State of Iraq and Levante (ISIL), children since 12 years old pass by military training and they are used to realize suicide attempts and executions.

In the same time, a number of conflicts in Africa witnessed an increasing of children’s utilization for militaries goals. In Republic Centre-African, where the sectary violence goes on in all over the country, boys and girls until eight years old were

been recruited and utilized by all parts involved in conflict.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has witnessed a similar fact. Boys were been sent to act in the conflicts, while the girls were been used as sexual slaves. In South Sudan, some soldier-children fight already more than four years e many never went to school. Just in 2014, 12.000 children, boys in its majority, went recruited and used as soldiers by South Sudan forces and armed groups.

“The libertation of all children from armed groups must occur fastly. We cannot wait for the peace to be able to help children caught in the meadle of war”, told vice-director executive from UNICEF, Yoka Brandt. “To invest in ways to maintain children far from front line, mainly through education and economic support, its absolutely fundamental for their future and the future of their societies.”

2.5 “IN SOUTH SUDAN TOWN DEVASTATED BY CONFLICT, UN OFFICIAL CONDEMNS FORCED CHILD CONSCRIPTION”

Individuals responsible for the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan must be held accountable for violating international law, the top United Nations official in the country declared during a visit to the devastated frontline town of Malakal. (UNICEF, March 10th, 2015).

According to a press release issued by the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Ellen Margrethe Løj, said she was “appalled” by the level of destruction she witnessed in the main market and teaching hospital of the Upper Nile state capital amid reports of child abductions in the nearby community of Wau Shilluk.

A UNICEF education team recently reported, in fact, that 89 children were been abducted in Wau Shilluk, where

thousands of people have been internally displaced by the ongoing conflict. The actual number, however, could be higher.

According to witnesses, armed soldiers surrounded the community and searched house by house. Boys older than 12 years of age were taken away by force.

“I expressed my grave concerns about the forcible recruitment of boys recently at the Wau Shilluk village near Malakal and elsewhere in Upper Nile state,” Ms. Løj said in the press release.

“I stressed the importance of holding accountable all those who engage in this unacceptable practice, and I shared with the Deputy Governor the assurances given by President Salva Kiir Mayardit to me last month that the boys would be rescued.” (UNICEF, March 10th, 2015).

During her visit to Malakal, Ms. Løj met with local officials, including the Upper Nile state Deputy Governor, Gwinye Philipe Chan, to discuss the reports of continuing child recruitment. At the same time, she witness first-hand the devastation wrought by the country’s ongoing conflict.

Malakal has changed hands six times since the break-out of conflict in South Sudan, transforming what was once a vibrant river port into a ghost town during the months of intense fighting that engulfed the city, UNMISS noted.

The security situation in the world’s youngest country has deteriorated steadily over the past year since political infighting between the two leaders erupted in December 2013. The hostilities subsequently turned into a full-fledged conflict that has sent nearly 100,000 civilians fleeing to bases around the country managed by the UN Missions (UNMISS).

In talks with local leaders, Ms. Løj advanced the issue of establishing a forward operating base manned by UNMISS peacekeepers as part of the UN’s wider effort to promote “a more secure and safe environment for the thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) wishing to return to their homes on a

voluntary basis,” the press release continued.

In addition, the Special Representative also visited the UNMISS civilian protection site where she met with community leaders of the IDP population, currently estimated at over 21,000.

According to the UN, the Organization’s bases across South Sudan are currently sheltering over 110,000 IDPs with an additional 1.5 million others displaced throughout the country and 500,000 outside the country. The displacement, the UN has warned, is increasing amid ongoing fighting.

2.6 “UN ENVOY GORDON BROWN MAKES ‘PLEA FROM THE HEART’ TO END CHILD RIGHTS ABUSES, PROMOTE SAFE SCHOOLS”

The United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown, called for “fundamental changes” to strengthen the global commitment to defending the rights of schoolgirls and boys, as he said that 2015 should be the year to end violations of children’s rights. (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

Mr. Brown said during a press conference at UN Headquarters in New York:

Today I am making a plea from the heart to the conscience of the world that we now wake up to the suffering faced by millions of children. It is time for us to end the shameful breaches of international law that violate the rights of millions of children by calling a halt to the militarisation of schools, stopping the now-growing abduction of school pupils as weapons of war and insisting – even in conflict zones – that properly resourced ‘safe schools’ enable children to enjoy their education in peace. (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

He urged the international community to invest in making schools safer in the world’s most troubled and dangerous areas by agreeing the terms of a new Global Humanitarian Fund for Education in Emergencies; to commit \$163 million at an upcoming conference on educating Syrian refugees in Lebanon;

and by signing the international Safe Schools Declaration to protect schools from military use and attacks by giving the same protection as is afforded to the Red Cross.

Mr. Brown also announced a project in Pakistan under the Safe Schools Initiative, which was already operating in Nigeria, and he looked forward to extending the initiative to South Sudan, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I can announce today a 1,000 school pilot in Pakistan in a partnership between the Government, UNICEF, and the Global Business Coalition for Education, spearheaded by a pro-bono technology contribution from Predictify.me, a US-based data sciences and predictive analytics firm,” he said. “The partnership will deliver state-of-the-art technology and simulation software to assess the levels of risk preparedness of schools and generate recommendations for school and community safety plans. (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

Mr. Brown explained that the project, which is supported by Pakistani President Nawaz Sharif, follows the successful roll-out of a similar scheme in Nigeria, where 30,000 children displaced by Boko Haram were in double-shift schools and other children in at-risk areas were benefiting from school relocation and increased security measures.

“In Nigeria, the Safe Schools Initiative, established in response to the kidnapping of the Chibok schools nearly one year ago, has reached \$30 million,” said Mr. Brown, adding that the most recent contribution had come from the United States Government’s Let Girls Learn initiative. “I am calling for the release of the more than 200 schoolgirls abducted in Nigeria before the one-year anniversary on April 14th.” (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

He also called for the release of 89 schoolboys who were sitting for exams in Wau Shilluk, South Sudan, adding that it was “sad” that the kidnappers were offering to return the children to sit their exams but then keep them in captivity to serve as child soldiers. The schoolboys were among 12,000 children abducted to serve as child soldiers and the practice had to be

stopped. “I am supporting the education campaigns of UNICEF to help 400,000 South Sudanese children go back to safe schools,” he said. (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

Mr. Brown said he had seen for himself how children had become “the silent, tragic victims of conflict” on a recent visit to South Sudan, as well as others to Nigeria, Pakistan and the DRC. This were illustrated by statistics such as the more than 10,000 attacks on schools in the last five years – the highest level recorded in the past 40 years – and the 28 million boys and girls who are not in school in areas of conflict or emergency world-wide.

“I look forward to this year’s Security Council report on children in armed conflict,” he said, noting that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict had given special attention to violations in South Sudan, and urging support for the new fund to prevent children from “falling through the cracks” by providing education in emergencies. “We can no longer wait,” he said. “It is time for decisive action.” (UNICEF, March 18th, 2015).

2.7 WHICH ARE THE ADEQUATE SOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THE CRUELTY AND VIOLENCE TOWARD CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICTS AROUND THE WORLD?

In order to protect children against armed conflicts, several actions must be took for all countries (including Brazil) to rescue the present and the future of humanity (UNICEF, Brazil, 2005, p. 39):

2.7.1 – Give priority to children before and during the conflict. The countries must consider the impact over the children before involving themselves in conflicts or before imposing penalties, and must offer space to the humanitaries agencies in order them to protect children and women during the conflict.

2.7.2 – *To eliminate the soldiers-children recruitment.* Must be adopted and enforced the Facultative Protocol for the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding involving of children in armed conflicts.

2.7.3 – *To strong the protector environment for children in all levels.* To encourage countries to ratify and apply – without reserves – treats that aiming protecting children against conflicts' bad effects.

2.7.4 – *To eradicate the culture of impunity and increase the responsibility.* Responsible for genocides, war crimes – including the recruitment of children less than 15 years old – and crimes against humanity must be took to trial.

2.7.5 – *To improve the following and reports about children's rights violation during conflicts.* It is necessary to make this as a priority, mainly about reliable information regarding children affected by armed conflicts or involved in them.

2.7.6 – *To expand demobilization and consciousness campaign about mines.* It is vital a sensible reintegration of combatant children in the civil society through a big support program. Special attention must be dedicate to the combatant girls' reintegration. The education towards danger represented by mines must be included in the scholar subjects and in the public health programs.

2.7.7 – *To recover, as soon as possible, the education of children involved in armed conflicts,* what allows recuperating stability and normality in his/her life.

2.7.8 – *Avoid armed conflicts,* talking about the violence and poverty causes, investing more in mediation e in the conflicts resolution.

2.8 URBAN VIOLENCE IN BRAZIL: A KIND OF ARMED CONFLICT?

Each year, the urban violence in Brazil is responsible to

kill almost 14.000 adolescents from 12 to 19 years old. According to United Nations definition, Brazil does not live an armed conflict state. However, the Country needs finding ways to face the growing number of violent death among adolescents, who live urban violence every single day. (UNICEF, Brazil, 2005, p. 2).

The breaking of impunity's circle to whom steal the life of these young; offering urban services that include formal education; complementary activities in school and possibilities of dialogues that help adolescents choosing and construct their life projects are urgent actions.

In Brazil, according to IBGE – Estatísticas do Registro Civil 2002, the violent death (homicides, suicides, transit accidents) killed 14.000 adolescents between 12 to 19 years old. (UNICEF, Brazil, 2005, p. 20). This represents a mortality rate of 49 violent deaths each 100.000 deaths. The majority of the victims are adolescents from male sex: from these 14.000 adolescents are fatal victims, almost 12.000 are boys between 12 and 19 years old.

The proportion of violent death in the total of obituary (from 15 to 24 years old), has been increased, independently of sex or local of habitation. Among youngs from male sex this proportion was 70,7% in 2002, in special at South East Region (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro), with almost 80%. While the growing of this proportion, in the last 12 years (1993-2005), was 17% for Brazil, in the South East Region the growing was 25%.

The violent death proportion in the total of obituary among young men (15 to 24 years old) is two times more in proportion among women in the same age. However, young women are also progressively more vulnerable. The increasing of violent death among them was bigger than the increasing among men: between 1990 and 2002 it passed from 28,3% to 34,1%. In the case of women, the violence is evident in the South Region, together with South East Region. The biggest growing in the

proportion of death by violence against women was observed in the North Region, with increasing of 44% between 1990 and 2002. (UNICEF, Brazil, 2005, p. 21).

Among adolescents, the black ones are the majority of the victims of violence. (UNICEF, Brazil, 2005, p. 22).

2.9 PUBLIC POLICES: THE CHALLENGE TO GUARANTEE CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

In order to transform Human Rights into reality, in a democratic country, the most important public policy is the education and how to develop a humanistic teaching.

The philosopher and professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago (USA), Martha Nussbaum, explains this idea in a better way when she says that an educational system, private or devoid of artistic and humanistic knowledge, would put in crisis or weaken the very notion of democracy, which "is built on respect for the person, whereas the model of growth thinks only in terms of aggregates." (Nussbaum, 2015, p.41).

For Nussbaum there is at stake the kind of nation we want for future generations and the kind of citizen we would like to form so that we can fully play our own role in society. "The idea that each one take responsibility for one's own thoughts and change opinions with others in an atmosphere of reciprocal respect is essential to the peaceful settlement of differences, whether in nations or in a world which is always more polarized by ethnic and religious conflict". (Nussbaum, 2015, p.71).

Besides a humanistic teaching, to reach Human Rights it is necessary other guiding principles.

The first of them is to invest in the life of children in order to reduce poverty.

We must remember that poverty is behind children's suffering and problems, and thus the countries also continuing to be committed to poverty eradication as a very first priority.

The promotion of equity and the reduction of disparities are also important guiding principles. It would be useless work just to focus on the consequences of inequality and poverty without trying to work on the causes.

But, naturally, when we face the causes we also get in to a much broader challenge, because the developing countries are committed to try to reduce poverty, not only to work on its consequences.

On the other hand, to accomplish Human Rights implies trying to set up a sustainable pattern of development, and Human Rights are behind sustainability.

In fact, Human Rights imply empowering people and trying to promote an enduring process. One important public police in this field is to train teachers and families to the importance of a humanistic education (according to Martha Nussbaum) as a right for all children; to research the situation of girls who, most of the time, are excluded from education.

These are just few concrete examples to explain better the difference and the hard work necessary when the challenge is to implement the Human Rights.

Another priority in terms of public polices is to increase children's protection from violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, illegal immigration. Unfortunately all of this remains a reality today.

As child protection is a very specific area dealing with children exposed to highly difficult circumstances, the developing countries should work hard to improve the fundamental rights, that is, humanistic education, health, safety and basics services.

3. CONCLUSION

To end this text, it is important to do a question: why should all nations have public polices to protect children,

specialty those involved in armed conflicts?

The answer is: because if the nations are able to protect the child from all of the situations just enumerated, they will be able to set up the basis, not only the future citizenship, but the present right to live. It is important to think of the child not as a tomorrow's citizen, but as a today's child and a human being itself.

Sometimes media picks up some issues, such as: "street children", armed children in armed conflict, trafficked children, immigrant children, sexual exploitation of children and child labour exploitation. Unfortunately, violence, abuse and neglect are realities and represent a threat throughout childhood, and we shall use our skills as part of the challenge.

Another important reason to work under the protection perspective is that it can serve as a basis of average levels of progress. The progress of the countries depends on healthy childhood and adolescence, so it is also a basis for future welfare of human.

In a globalized world, childhood is everyone's challenge, specialty from those who has the power of managing the nations. So, when we take the benefits of globalization we also take the global duty of protecting children. Otherwise, the future of humankind will continue in extreme danger!



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