

GLOBAL  CONFLICTS

CHILD SOLDIERS



SERIOUS GAMES
INTERACTIVE

Student Assignments

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Assignment 1:

"In this assignment, you work for the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. You will travel to northern Uganda to meet with Joseph Kony, the elusive and feared leader of the rebel Lords' Resistance Army (LRA)".

Explain the magnitude of the humanitarian catastrophe. Explain who the actors in the civil war are and which organisations are trying to help solve the conflict.

Assignment 2:

Answer the following questions. Use arguments and statements or descriptions of experiences from the mission you just played to justify your answers when appropriate.

What is a child soldier? Describe it in your own words.

Why are child soldiers used in a conflict like the one in Uganda?

Why should it be illegal to use child soldiers? List at least three reasons.

You can use Internet research as a supplement.

Assignment 3:

Discuss with your partner how old you should be before being allowed to join the military.

For instance, you're allowed to join the British Army at the age of 16½ provided you have your parents' permission.

Is that too young, is it okay, or should they allow younger people to join? When are you too young?

Assignment 4:

In the Te-Tugu refugee camp you meet two women: Monica Atto and Elaine Wang. Monica wants peace whereas Elaine wants justice:

"Let Mr. Kony and his soldiers come back in peace and go through the Mato Oput ceremony of forgiveness and reconciliation, so the killings can stop. This is our children and families and kin being killed each day, because peace isn't allowed to happen"
- Monica Atto

“You need to prosecute Kony no matter what he or the Ugandan government says. You cannot back down at this point. This situation is exactly what the ICC was made for - to make sure mass murderers will be prosecuted no matter where they hide. You have to uphold international law.”

- Elaine Wang

Do a roleplay of a debate between these two women with your partner.

Try to find statements and arguments that may help you in your debate by talking to the people in the game.

When you and your partner are done debating, write down whether you think Elaine, Monica or both women won. Write down the reason for your decision. What was the argument or arguments that decided the debate?

Assignment 5:

Discuss with your partner how to use the following words to describe the conditions you've seen in the mission:

- * Human rights
- * Trapped
- * Justice
- * Children
- * Family
- * Global/local
- * Help
- * Charity

Assignment 6:

Write a 300-500 word diary entry about your day and your thoughts on the conflict as if you were one of the children you've seen or talked to during the game. You can write as if you were a child in the Te-Tugu camp, a child from the Gulu Reception Center or a child soldier fighting with the LRA.

Assignment 7:

In the game you work for the ICC. What is the ICC, what is their history and what is their goal? The Uganda conflict is one example of ICC involvement, but here are many more. Can you find another conflict where ICC is trying to play a part?

Assignment 8:

Pair up and find other examples of the use of child soldiers before 1980.

Find two images of child soldiers and compare them with the little commander from the game. Are there any similarities between them apart from their ages?

Assignment 9:

In the game you can meet and talk to Moses Apire, a child soldier and LRA commander. Look at the statements below and discuss which of the opposites below fit the description of Moses.

“I was a soldier for Lord Kony for eight years, I guess. Some LRA soldiers came for me the day after my birthday. I was six years old back then. I remember because my father had made a bike for me. The soldiers took me into the bush...”

- Moses Apire

"I ordered the death of many people. Women, children, old men. Once we were in this village in the Pader district, and the villagers were shooting at us. I made my men line up all the women and their babies, and then we had the men of the village club them to death with stones."

- Moses Apire

Choose one pair of opposites and describe why you think this pair applies to Moses.

- * Guilty/Innocent
- * Bad/Good
- * Strong/Weak
- * Leader/Follower
- * Victim/Perpetrator

Use quotes from the game to strengthen the logic behind your reasoning.

Assignment 10:

"They were perhaps taken when they were maybe 6-7 years old and trained to kill."

-Obita John

What does it mean for a child to be taken captive and trained as a soldier from the age of six or seven?

Assignment 11:

Try to explain why and how the conflict started in Uganda. What is it that the LRA is fighting for and why? How and why do conflicts like this one begin?

Use the Internet and the game to help you answer these questions.

Assignment 12:

Take a screenshot from the game that you think describes the conflict, just as if you had taken a picture while in Uganda. *Paste* the picture into a text document.

Describe what you see on the picture and why you chose this image to be the one that best describes the conflict.

Write an article

Part 1:

Write an article on justice versus peace. You can base it on the discussion from the role play exercise in assignment 4. Consider why we punish crime.

How is the balance between carrying out justice and solving problems in your country's current system? Give at least one example.

Part 2:

Looking back at the mission you just played and considering the struggle between justice and problem-solving, how do you think people should try to end the conflict in Uganda?

Should Joseph Kony be punished for his crimes, prolonging the conflict until he's captured or dead? Should he be forgiven in order to ensure peace, or are there other alternatives? Justify your answer.

Use the Internet to learn more about:

Child soldiers

Human rights

Civil war

Uganda

Joseph Kony

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