**Why You Need To Know**

*“Children have become the new weapons system. They’re not high-tech, but, they are weapons of mass destruction. How do you fight a war against children?”* (Lt. General Romeo Dallaire). This is a great quote by Lt. General Dallaire in which he is really honest in telling us that children, our age and younger, can be and are being made into *weapons of mass destruction*. You see, I’m here to show you how bad child enslavement is and will continue to be if we do not help stop it. First, we’ll see which countries have the most child enslavement/child soldiers. Then, I’ll show you some organizations (most of which you’ve heard of) that are against the enslavement of children. Finally, there will be an ad, made by me, which I will show and tell you how I intend to successfully “put it out there.” Many people don’t look deep enough into problems, like the enslavement of child soldiers. To kids like us, war is a game, to kids in Africa, war is a reality. I am going to dig deeper to find WHY there are child soldiers and how we can help stop and prevent this type of enslavement.

Before we find out why there are child soldiers, we have to find out how many there are and where are.  In Kenya, 26% of children, 5-14 years old, are active child soldiers (UNICEF).  Burma has the highest percentage of *active* underage soldier, which 20% active and in the field (Human Rights Watch).  Twenty thousand children have been abducted in Uganda within the last 19 years.  Since 2002 there has been a reported 12,000 cases of abduction (UNICEF).  There are many ways to help fight the enslavement of child soldiers.  The next paragraph will focus on organizations who want to stop the enslavement of child soldiers just like me.

What organizations are against the enslavement of child soldiers?  Here are the four largest well known groups:  WE Day, Free the Children, Me to We, and Invisible Children.  Craig and Mark Kielburger are the founders of Free The Children and WE Day.  All of these organizations listed above take donations for the cause of freeing child soldiers.  Invisible Children will even offers kits to support Kony 2012. Invisible Children is an organization which focuses mostly on child slavery and Kony who has abducted thousand and thousands of children.  These organizations use ads to promote themselves; the next ad is made by me to promote the abolishment of enslavement of child soldiers.

Many people look to ads for many things, for example clothing, cosmetics, entertainment, even for your day to day groceries.



This is the ad I created.  It’s probably a little more effective for the older teenagers or young adults due to the use of well known war game COD.  The caption in the picture states that this is a game for us, but an unfortunate reality for some children in the world.  With this ad I wanted to bring more attention to the use of children for soldiers.  I want to help stop and eradicate the enslavement of child soldiers.  If this works out the way I want it to, I hope this ad will be placed in malls on a poster.  Malls like Polo Park, Portage Place, St. Vital Shopping Centre.  So many people will see this ad and will say “Man, we should look into this issue”.  Hopefully the graphic nature of the ad will impact some people to do something.  I have told you about everything I can, so far.  Now I will tell you how you can help this cause.

So we are at the end of this article.  I have told you some facts on the enslavement of child soldiers, organizations that are against the enslavement of child soldiers and what I plan to do with my ad in order to help stop and bring awareness to the enslavement of child soldiers.  I am in of support UNICEF, War Child and the four mentioned organizations above.    Ways that you can help is to donate money, spread awareness, or sponsor a child.  I hope that you help this cause and hope that you think differently especially when you play games that include war.  To us it may be fun, but to them their childhood is done.