



U.S. Military Assistance to Countries Using Child Soldiers, 1990-2007

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices discuss the "nature and extent of the compulsory recruitment and conscription of individuals under the age of 18" by all armed groups in every country, and what steps have been taken by the governments of the respective countries to eliminate such practices. Released on March 6, 2007, the State Department's 2006 human rights reports contain information on past or current use or recruitment of child soldiers as well as on disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programs for former child soldiers in 25 different countries.

While the country reports include favorable information on many countries where tangible, positive results have been accomplished in the area of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of child soldiers and the elimination of this horrific practice, the list also includes gross violators of established international standards on child soldiers. For example, the report highlights the continued use and recruitment of child soldiers in Colombia and Uganda, where government-backed paramilitary groups and militias, as well as domestic insurgency forces, forcibly recruit and use child soldiers. In some of these cases, the United States continues to provide millions of dollars in Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Direct Commercial Sales (DCS), Excess Defense Articles (EDA), International Military Education and Training (IMET), and Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

The full text of the 2006 Country Reports can be found at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/>.

Additional information on child soldiers can be found in the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers' Global Report 2004, available at <http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports>.

CDI's analysis of the 2006 human rights reports found that:

- This year, the human rights reports mention 25 countries where children have been or are currently being recruited by armed groups or that have ongoing disarmament, demobilization or rehabilitation programs for former child soldiers. The 2006 reports document no new use of child soldiers in Angola, Liberia, Paraguay, and Russia (Chechnya)—all of which had been previously cited for recruitment and use of child soldiers—and provide new references to child soldiers in Algeria, India, and Iraq. In 2005, the State Department reported that no new use of child soldiers had occurred in Tanzania and Indonesia, and this year's reports contain no further references to child soldiers in these countries.
- In 13 of the 25 countries, children under age 18 have been forcibly recruited into both government and non-state armed groups, have taken a direct part in hostilities as members of armed groups, or have been forced into support roles for armed groups.¹ Since 2001, the U.S. government has supplied 11 of these 13 countries with military assistance.²
- In nine of these 13 countries, children were recruited or used as soldiers by government security forces or government-sponsored armed groups.³ Unlike last year, the State Department reported no evidence that children were recruited into government armed forces in Paraguay or Rwanda, and included new reports of children serving in government armed forces or government-linked paramilitary groups in Sri Lanka.
- Of the nine countries in which children were recruited or used as soldiers by government security forces or government-sponsored armed groups, the U.S. government has supplied eight with military assistance since 2001.⁴

¹ Burma, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda

² Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda

³ Burma, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda

⁴ Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda

Burma	“The army continued to use forced recruitment of child soldiers.”				
	“Ethnic minority cease fire groups and insurgent armies, particularly the United Wa State Army, also forcibly conscripted child soldiers. Field observers reported seeing numerous Wa soldiers who clearly were underage. Inaccessibility to the areas where these groups operated made it difficult to obtain reliable data on the extent of the problem among ethnic armies.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
FY 90-01	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Burundi	“The PALIPEHUTU-FNL [Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People/National Liberation Front continued to use and recruit child soldiers, although in fewer numbers than in previous years.”				
	“According to UNICEF, security forces no longer used children as soldiers for combat, although other sources reported that children continued to serve in the security forces as spies and porters and to perform other menial tasks. According to HRW, security forces required children who were child soldiers with the PALIPEHUTU-FNL to carry munitions for the military and assist in locating PALIPEHUTU-FNL combatants and supporters.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
FY 90-01	\$1,002,000	\$315,000	\$264,000	\$65,000	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$140,000	\$0	\$89,000	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$100,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$200,000	\$0	\$37,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,442,000	\$315,000	\$397,000	\$65,000	\$0

Chad	“In October the independent press accused the government of using child soldiers and published photos of youths engaged in a military campaign in the southern town of Am Timan. In December 2005 unconfirmed reports of the forced recruitment of male youths circulated after the government began enforcing a curfew during the holidays, in particular of forced recruitment in N’Djamena and Abeche.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$2,162,000	\$4,646,000	\$299,000	\$24,601,000	\$0
FY 02	\$216,000	\$0	\$0	\$472,000	\$0
FY 03	\$253,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$362,000	\$0
FY 04	\$573,000	\$0	\$0	\$608,000	\$0
FY 05	\$331,000	\$2,200,000	\$0	\$42,000	\$0
FY 06	\$342,000	\$0	\$43,000	\$1,816,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$295,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$4,272,000	\$6,851,000	\$342,000	\$27,901,000	\$0

Colombia	“...Several thousand children were forced to serve as paramilitary or guerrilla combatants.”				
	“The Ministry of Defense estimated that 20 percent of FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] members were minors and that most guerrilla fighters had joined the FARC ranks as children. Human Rights Watch stated there were approximately 11,000 child soldiers, 80 percent of whom belonged to the FARC and the ELN [National Liberation Army].” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
FY 90-01	\$14,583,000	\$208,434,000	\$92,037,000	\$496,591,000	\$23,269,564
FY 02	\$1,180,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$21,577,000	\$0
FY 03	\$1,165,000	\$17,100,000	\$8,425,000	\$10,463,000	\$33,946,700
FY 04	\$1,653,000	\$98,450,000	\$30,404,000	\$22,840,000	\$0
FY 05	\$1,700,000	\$99,200,000	\$147,995,000	\$40,823,000	\$0
FY 06	\$1,673,000	\$89,100,000	\$157,523,000	\$140,303,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$1,680,000	\$90,000,000	\$42,542,000	\$288,536,000	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$1,500,000	\$78,000,000	\$151,058,000	\$759,886,000	\$0
Total	\$25,134,000	\$680,284,000	\$630,004,000	\$1,781,019,000	\$57,216,264

Cote d'Ivoire	“Both progovernment militias and rebel forces continued to recruit and use children as soldiers, both on a voluntary and a forced basis.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$1,683,000	\$4,517,000	\$121,000	\$2,040,000	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$346,000	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$0	\$0	\$91,000	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,833,000	\$4,517,000	\$570,000	\$2,040,000	\$0

Democratic Republic of Congo	“Security forces and armed groups continued to recruit and maintain child soldiers in their ranks. A June 13 report of the UN secretary general on children and armed conflict in the country, which covered the period July 2005 to May, found continued recruitment and use of children in security forces and armed groups. Perpetrators included transitional government security forces, FARDC [Congolese national army] forces allied with renegade General Nkunda and not under central command authority, Mai Mai militia, and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$468,000	\$2,986,000	\$44,000	\$11,447,000	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$321,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$180,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$306,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,255,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$220,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,995,000	\$3,736,000	\$44,000	\$12,702,000	\$0

Nepal	<p>“Maoists abducted teenagers and some younger children to serve as porters, runners, cooks, and armed cadre. Most children abducted from their schools for political education sessions were returned within a few days, but some remained with the Maoists, either voluntarily or under compulsion. The Maoists denied recruiting children. The NA [Nepal Army] estimated that 30 percent of Maoist guerillas were under the age of 18, and some were as young as 10. The November 21 peace agreement expressly forbade the recruitment of children into the armed forces of either side, but the Maoists continued to recruit children in large numbers.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p>				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$2,024,000	\$1,897,000	\$1,436,000	\$1,187,000	\$0
FY 02	\$377,000	\$14,000,000	\$0	\$61,000	\$0
FY 03	\$500,000	\$3,150,000	\$6,000	\$6,691,000	\$962,648
FY 04	\$546,000	\$3,975,000	\$71,000	\$8,164,000	\$0
FY 05	\$627,000	\$1,000,000	\$188,000	\$3,913,000	\$0
FY 06	\$644,000	\$0	\$54,000	\$100,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$790,000	\$1,300,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$790,000	\$0	\$263,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,298,000	\$25,322,000	\$2,073,000	\$20,116,000	\$962,648

Philippines	<p>“During the year the NPA [New People’s Army, the military wing of the Communist Party] and ASG [Abu Sayyaf Group] targeted children for recruitment as combatants and noncombatants. There were an estimated 2,000 child soldiers in the country. By mid-year [2006], an International Labor Organization (ILO)-led program demobilized and reintegrated into society 300 children. The NPA claimed that it assigned persons 15 to 18 years of age to self defense and noncombatant duties; however, there were reports that the NPA continued to use minors in combat. In a July 2004 report, the Council for Welfare of Children estimated that children constituted between 13 to 18 percent of armed rebel combatants. In the last several years, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] on numerous occasions captured or killed NPA fighters who turned out to be minors.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p>				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$20,181,000	\$370,717,000	\$25,251,000	\$658,154,000	\$45,491,070
FY 02	\$2,025,000	\$44,000,000	\$292,000	\$22,116,000	\$32,287,377
FY 03	\$2,400,000	\$49,870,000	\$555,000	\$25,322,000	\$0
FY 04	\$2,676,000	\$19,880,000	\$11,234,000	\$28,239,000	\$0
FY 05	\$2,869,000	\$29,760,000	\$24,522,000	\$34,024,000	\$0
FY 06	\$2,926,000	\$29,700,000	\$10,915,000	\$30,578,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$2,865,000	\$17,600,000	\$6,741,000	\$257,146,000	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$1,550,000	\$11,100,000	\$10,709,000	\$138,992,000	\$0
Total	\$37,492,000	\$572,627,000	\$90,219,000	\$1,194,571,000	\$77,778,447

Rwanda	“During the year there was one report of a DRC-based armed group recruiting between 20 and 30 children from a Rwandan refugee camp to be used as combatants or forced laborers.”				
	“Unlike in the previous year, there were no reports that the RDF was involved in the recruitment by Congo-based militias of children from Rwandan refugee camps for use as soldiers.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
FY 90-01	\$2,028,000	\$1,579,000	\$0	\$579,000	\$252,980
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$162,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$298,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$296,000	\$0	\$563,000	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$288,000	\$0	\$388,000	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$270,000	\$0	\$616,000	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$400,000	\$0	\$85,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$3,742,000	\$1,579,000	\$1,677,000	\$579,000	\$252,980

Somalia	“The recruitment and use of children in militias and other fighting forces is a longstanding practice in the country, and recruitment of children increased significantly during the year...The Islamic Courts, in the name of jihad, significantly increased the identification and training of new recruits and publicly declared their intention to recruit from schools. In September headmasters from Mogadishu schools were summoned to meetings at which they were required to commit to a quota of children from each school for a three-to-six-month training...UNICEF reported that students would be forcibly conscripted if there were not enough volunteers.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report				
Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS	EDA
FY 90-01	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,666,000	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,666,000	\$0

Sri Lanka	<p>“The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] used child soldiers and recruited children, sometimes forcibly, for use in battlefield support functions and in combat. LTTE recruits, some as young as eight years of age, escaped LTTE camps and surrendered to the military or the SLMM. Credible reports indicated that in February the LTTE and Karuna faction increased recruiting efforts, particularly in the east. Credible sources reported that there were more than 450 cases of forcible child recruitment by the LTTE. The Karuna faction of the LTTE forcibly recruited an estimated 200 children. These sources also reported that more than 1,000 children remained in LTTE custody at year's end.”</p> <p>“There were reports that the government provided protection and military aid to Karuna and his cadres to assist them in their fight against LTTE cadre. The government denied any connection to Karuna and his cadres.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p>				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$2,514,000	\$0	\$8,153,000	\$856,000	\$13,294,800
FY 02	\$259,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$307,000	\$0	\$110,000	\$123,000	\$33,080,000
FY 04	\$551,000	\$2,495,000	\$1,650,000	\$393,000	\$0
FY 05	\$389,000	\$496,000	\$466,000	\$260,000	\$0
FY 06	\$529,000	\$990,000	\$1,334,000	\$1,400,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$540,000	\$900,000	\$2,059,000	\$60,800,000	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$600,000	\$850,000	\$7,392,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,689,000	\$5,731,000	\$21,170,000	\$63,832,000	\$46,374,800

Sudan	<p>“Recruitment of child soldiers was a serious problem in the country. On August 17, the UN issued the Report of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict in the Sudan, which cited the recruitment of child soldiers by the SAF [Sudanese Armed Forces], SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army], and the White Army [a Nuer ethnic militia]. In Darfur, the UN report cited recruitment of child soldiers by the SLA (Minawi) [faction of the Sudan Liberation Army] and janjaweed.” —US Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p> <p>“Government-aligned militias and rebel forces conscripted or accepted young men and boys into the aligned militias in Darfur.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p>				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$0	\$0	\$89,000	\$0	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 04	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 05	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 06	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$89,000	\$0	\$0

Uganda	<p>“According to UNICEF the LRA [Lord’s Resistance Army] has abducted approximately 12,000 children since 2002 and continued to abduct children during the year. The LRA forced children into virtual slavery as laborers, soldiers, guards, and sex slaves. In addition to being beaten, raped, and forced to march until exhausted, abducted children were forced to participate in the killing of other children who attempted to escape. More than 85 percent of LRA captives were made up of children whom the LRA abducted and forced to fight as rebels; most LRA rebels were between the ages of 11 and 16.”</p> <p>“There continued to be reports that the UPDF[Uganda People’s Defense Forces] detained some former LRA child combatants for long periods, and in some cases may have used them in intelligence and reconnaissance missions.” —U.S. Department of State 2006 Human Rights Report</p>				
	Fiscal Year	IMET	FMF	DCS	FMS
FY 90-01	\$2,394,000	\$10,360,000	\$9,827,000	\$3,627,000	\$0
FY 02	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 03	\$170,000	\$60,000	\$200,000	\$35,000	\$0
FY 04	\$371,000	\$2,290,000	\$794,000	\$859,000	\$0
FY 05	\$293,000	\$1,984,000	\$5,706,000	\$972,000	\$0
FY 06	\$340,000	\$0	\$3,302,000	\$3,017,000	\$0
FY 07 (est.)	\$295,000	\$0	\$277,000	\$0	\$0
FY 08 (req.)	\$500,000	\$0	\$91,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$4,363,000	\$14,694,000	\$20,197,000	\$8,510,000	\$0

Data sources:

IMET, FMF, DCS, and FMS data for fiscal year (FY) 90 through FY 05 is from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) report, “Foreign Military Sales, Foreign Military Construction Sales, and Military Assistance Facts.” (Note: This data is currently under review by DSCA.)

IMET, FMF, DCS, and FMS data for FY 06 through FY 08 is from the FY 08 Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations.

All EDA data is from the DSCA EDA Database.