

Child Soldiers

Edited by Leora Kahn • ISBN 978-1-57687-455-4

ERRATA

Printing Error:

- **Page 113 incorrectly contains duplicated text from a previous page. The missing text has been printed below, as it was meant to appear:**

marketable skills such as tailoring. Two years later, Joyce married. Although she is still haunted by memories of the war, she says that her family gives her the support she needs.

The stories of Mirwais and Joyce defy the stereotypes that depict formerly recruited children, particularly those who have fought and killed. The “Lost Generation” stereotype twists the truth beyond all recognition. In reality, the vast majority of children who have been recruited or used by armed groups do successfully enter civilian life. Only a very small percentage of former child soldiers are unable to find their way into productive civilian lives.

What instills hope for the integration of formerly recruited children? Part of the answer lies in the resilience of young people, who are not passive victims but who actively engage and cope with adversity. Boys like Mirwais often say that their Islamic faith and regular prayer and practice helped them get through the war and the process of transition.

Yet integration does not happen simply or automatically. In fact, the obstacles to integration can be formidable. For example, a former recruit may be stigmatized by the community, and, lacking education and job skills, may feel he has little hope of adjusting to civilian life. Successful integration, which entails finding a meaningful place in one’s family and community as a civilian, requires supports of various kinds that can be organized by local families and communities or that can be facilitated by outside organizations

Factual Errors:

- **The caption on page 28 incorrectly identifies the girl in the photograph as Guatemalan. A corrected version of the caption is printed below:**

A 13-year-old FMLN girl fighter poses with her rifle next to graffiti. Photograph by Martin Adler/Panos

- **The profile of Sri Lanka on page 117 is missing the following information about the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam:**

The LTTE have recruited children throughout the 20-year war. Since 2002, UNICEF has documented their recruitment of over 6,000 children, although the rates dropped in 2007.

- **The profile of Uganda on page 117 stating that “more than 5,000” children have been abducted since the conflict began in 1988 is inaccurate. The true statistic is “more than 30,000.”**