



# Advocacy Update

Sent June 16, 2010

**Update: Ambassador Rice Speaks on Children and Armed Conflict**

Since its earliest years WRJ has taken strong positions on the well-being of children, including: ending poverty and hunger; assuring health, welfare, and education; preventing neglect and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; protecting children world-wide from child labor and commercial sexual exploitation; ending the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.

In this light, we thought you would be interested in the remarks by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, given at a Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, on June 16, 2010. She spoke eloquently on the abuse of children and their rights during armed conflict and its ongoing impact on these children's lives.

Ambassador Rice stated that "The United States fully and firmly embraces our responsibility to protect children and we will not rest until the last abuse is halted and the last child soldier is released." She also noted that the United States welcomes the Secretary General's report on children and armed conflict and indicated our support of the report. She spoke of successful efforts to protect children from war and our grave concern about the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic.