



UNIGHT
FOR THE CHILDREN OF UGANDA

TEL 212 400 0529
FAX 212 379 6356

INFO@UNIGHT.ORG
WWW.UNIGHT.ORG

WEST HOUSTON STREET
3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10012

MEDIA RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT: KATIE HILL

650 714 4360
PRESS@UNIGHT.ORG

UNIGHT – ROSS SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • DECEMBER 8TH, 2005

Ross students launch first uNight: For The Children Of Uganda campaign flagship high-school chapter for “world’s worst forgotten crisis”.

Ross School, East Hampton, NY – Each night in northern Uganda, over 40,000 children flee their homes to avoid abduction by a notorious rebel group that has abducted over 25,000 children, whom they force to become sex slaves or child soldiers. This Friday, December 9th 2005, UNight: For the Children of Uganda an awareness campaign to draw attention to the vicious 19-year war in northern Uganda, returns to the Ross School for Human Rights Day activities.

Uganda’s vicious 19-year civil war that has claimed over 250,000 lives and forced more than 2 million people to live in squalid makeshift camps where over 1,000 people die each week, (WHO). A United Nations Under-Secretary General has described northern Uganda as the “world’s worst forgotten crisis;” another former UN Under-Secretary describes it as “slow-motion genocide.”

Friday, 9.30- 11.20 AM, Daniella Boston, co-founder of UNight, and Laurence Kiwanuka Nsereko – a Ugandan journalist, politician and human rights activist renowned for his reporting of the brutal atrocities committed in northern Uganda – will lead a special two-hour assembly – film screening, presentation and discussion – followed by activities to help end the 19-year war against Uganda’s children.

Ross students will launch a nationwide letter-writing campaign asking the United States Government and United Nations Security Council to declare the situation in northern Uganda a special humanitarian emergency. Students are also holding a bake sale to raise funds for the children affected by the conflict. This follows the success of the student-led “Dress-Down Day” fundraiser through which they have already raised over \$1000 for UNight.



These activities establish the Ross School UNight Club as the campaign's flagship high-school Chapter.

This week's event is UNight's second collaboration with the Ross School. On November 18, UNight brought a five distinguished guest speakers to Ross for a northern Uganda symposium. The speakers all explained that the conflict has caused a massive humanitarian disaster and must be stopped. They implored the audience to join with UNight to write to local media outlets, contact elected officials and talk to friends so build an effective constituency in the US to help bring a successful end to the conflict.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Ogenga Otunnu, Professor of History at De Paul University Chicago carefully characterized the war between the Ugandan Government army and the rebel group, as an act of genocide against the Acholi people, the main ethnic group affected by the conflict. Former Bishop of northern Uganda, Bishop Benoni Ogwal echoed Otunnu's remarks, adding that the President of Uganda, widely thought of as part of the new wave of "enlightened" African leaders, is also guilty of multiple crimes against his own people. Tressa Johnson, a graduate student at Princeton University discussed the deep societal effects of the conflict, and its implication for child soldier reintegration. Missionary aid worker, Trevor Irwin returned from northern Uganda only a fortnight back, spoke of the horrific conditions in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps where death and disease is rampant.

UNight and the speakers at the event continue to work to end the conflict in Uganda and seek the help of concerned individuals in the U.S. and abroad. UNight, a New York based non-profit has also recently completed a walk in New York City to show solidarity with the people of northern Uganda and continues to organize events in the greater New York City area. All interested individuals are encouraged to contact the organization for further information and opportunities to support the people of northern Uganda.

For more information, please contact:

Daniella Boston
Executive Director, UNight: For the Children of Uganda
T: 617.899.1672
E: Daniella@unight.org
W: www.unight.org

Natasha Borisova
Ross School
T: 631.907.5130
E: nborisova@ross.org