



**UNIGHT**  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF UGANDA

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## SAMPLE PETITION LETTER

*The President (or Congressman, etc)*  
*The White House*  
*1600 Pennsylvania Ave*  
*Washington, D.C. 20500*

Dear President Bush:

For two decades, a deadly civil war has destroyed millions of lives in northern Uganda. Since 1986, 250,000 people have died, and the war has forced more than 2 million people to live in squalid makeshift camps where over 1,000 people die each week from starvation and disease.

Each night 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. Those who resist are killed or mutilated, (WHO).

United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has described northern Uganda as the “world’s worst forgotten crisis;” and former UN Under-Secretary of Children in Armed Conflicts, Olara Otunnu describes it as “slow-motion genocide.” Yet, despite the magnitude of the problem, the our Government has not taken decisive action to alleviate suffering of the people of northern Uganda.

The Ugandan Government continues to utilize an aggressive military approach to the conflict. However, this strategy has failed to put an end to the violence and exposes the communities to even greater dangers.

[As one of your constituents], I am writing to ask you to raise this matter in Congress to:

- Call for an urgent congressional hearing on northern Uganda.
- Declare northern Uganda a special humanitarian emergency.
- Facilitate the dismantling of the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, and aid in the resettlement of these over 2 million displaced persons.



- Ensure that Uganda abides by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child “Child Soldier Treaty” to end the practice of recruiting children into war.
- Provide shelter, food and protection to the children who flee their homes every night to avoid abduction.

For more information about the humanitarian catastrophe in northern Uganda please contact UNight: For the Children of Uganda – a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building an effective constituency in the United States to end the 20-year war on the children of Uganda. Email: [info@unight.org](mailto:info@unight.org)

Thank you for your attention,

I look forward to hearing from you.

[NAME]