**AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO EKITI, EKITI**

**A TERM PAPER**

**ON**

**SIERRA LEONE CIVIL WAR**

**PRESENTED BY**

**IREFIN BLESSING OLUWATOSIN – 16/SMS\10/010**

**LECTURER: MR ABOYADE**

**PCS 412**

**Title:sierra leone: cvil war: child soldiers forced to frontline**

**Published on 23 july 2015/AP Archive**

**Author: AP Archive**

It is a civil war that has killed more than 10-thousand people and raged for 5 years. But it is a conflict that has received little attention from the international community.

The war is in Sierra Leone

Among the victims of this conflict are the child-soldiers; boys and girls forced to the frontlines by both the military government and the rebels trying to defeat them. In the no-man's land that divides the warring factions, heavily armed government soldiers capture a rebel.This rebel is just a boy. He says he is 10 years old and claims he was forced to take up arms. It was not his choice.

SOUNDBITE: Creole
“Me and another boy captured a woman and took her to the rebels. We knocked the woman to the ground and cut her throat with a knife”.
(Did you stab her?)
“No we slit her throat”.
SUPER CAPTION: Captured rebel

Government soldiers grilled the youngster for half an hour before leading him away. This boy is just one of the thousands caught up in Sierra Leone's vicious civil war. Most of the child soldiers have little idea what they are fighting for. The military government controls the area in and around the capital Freetown. 90 kilometres away from the city, the countryside is littered with burnt out cars and trucks. Homes and villages are deserted. People have fled to the city or the provincial capital Bo. There they live in refugee camps and receive food aid from international charities. But getting food to the people that need it is not easy. Convoys have been attacked by both rebels and government soldiers. Supplies have been stolen, trucks torched and drivers killed. Impoverished villagers scavenge what they can from the wreckage. The worst fighting is now in the east of the country. Here government soldiers are struggling to regain control of territory along the border with Liberia. In the past 2 weeks troops have taken the town of Kailahun, only to lose it again in a rebel offensive. No-one knows how many children that have been caught up in this war, the number that have been forced to take up arms and fight. Now the military junta has had a change of heart and stopped enlisting youngsters. A camp has been set up for them on the outskirts of Freetown.

Ivan Melvin Rogers stopped fighting 2 weeks ago. At 16 he is already a war veteran.
SOUNDBITE: English
“I served in the military for four and a half years”.
(How old are you?)
“I am now 16 years old”.
SUPER CAPTION: Ivan Melvin Rogers, Former Child Soldier
There are nearly 400 boys and girls in demobilisation camps across Sierra Leone. Instead of fighting on the frontlines they now spend their time working in the fields or playing volleyball. But for some it is difficult to get over what they have witnessed at war.
SOUNDBITE: English
(When was the last time you saw your mother?)
“I said I not saw my mother. So that I don't know if she is alive”.
SUPER CAPTION:Abubakarr Jilloh, Former child soldier
Abubakarr and some of his new-found friends know little of life without war. They dream of a time when life will be better.
SOUNDBITE: English
“I just want peace in my life”
SUPER CAPTION: Abubakarr Jilloh, Former Child soldier
But at the moment there is little chance of that. The civil war that has ripped Sierra Leone apart for the past 5 years shows no sign of ending.

**Review of the documentary**

The documentary focus on child soldiers forced to fight in war. Although it tell the story of chidren who were forced into war, It does not fully captures the impact the war has had on the children and the society at large.

**Title:sierra leone: thousand displaced due to civil war**

**Published on 21 july 2015/AP Archive**

**Author: AP Archive**

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced from their homes in **SierraLeone** and now face starvation as a vicious **civil** **war** tears their country apart. The **war** in the West African nation has pitted a little-known rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front, against the military government based in the capital, Freetown. As the **war** rages in the countryside, villagers, mostly women and children, have been forced to flee to refugee camps in the provincial capitals. The military government has promised free and fair elections in February to return the country to democracy but with the current state of anarchy it is difficult to imagine that elections will be possible.

The skull of a rebel soldier sends a stark message from the **Sierra** Leonian army to the gunmen in the bush. This savage **war** has killed an estimated 10-thousand people and displaced hundreds of thousands of others. Neither side has hesitated to use terror as a weapon of **war**. But for sheer cruelty, the rebel Revolutionary United Front have few equals. In hospitals set up by international organisations, mutilated refugees recount grim tales of horror.

This woman was living in a village not far from Bo when she and her children were attacked by an armed group.They gave her a choice -- they would kill her children or cut off a finger for each one.

SOUNDBITE:

(English translation)

“They told me the only reason they were mutilating me was to call my people from the bush. I gave all my fingers for my children”.

SUPER CAPTION: Aye Mattia, victim of rebels

Other patients in this ward told similar tales.

SOUNDBITE:

“They are really terrorising the people with their amputations. They cut the hands, the arms with machetes. We heard a story about a woman. The rebels told her to bring a ladder to Bo and they gave her a ladder and then cut off her hand. There's a lot of really horrible stories”.

SUPER CAPTION: Dr Kathia van Egmond, Medecins Sans Frontieres

Some of the villagers have decided it's time to protect themselves and have set up self- defence organisations called Komajoes. The Komajoes protect villages from the rebels and help the government of Valentine Strasser fight its **war** against them.

The 29-year-old leader seized power in a 1992 coup but has had little more success than the previous regime in combatting either rebels or Sierra Leone's crushing poverty.

SOUNDBITE:

“Our problem now is we have to deal with the present situation which is the humanitarian situation that we have and we want to appeal to the world to pay attention to us, like they've given a lot of publicity to the situation in Bosnia, Rwanda and also Liberia very close to us. We think we form part of the international community, irrespective of our size and that they should listen to the predicament of our people and come to the aid of this country which is very much in need of humanitarian assistance”.

SUPER CAPTION: Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, Vice-Chairman of SierraLeonian government

The United Nations does provide food aid for Sierra Leone. But aid officials complain that their efforts are hampered by frequent attacks on food convoys. Sometimes the attackers are rebels, sometimes they are the same underpaid Government soldiers that were supposed to provide security for the convoys.

In several towns across the country, thousands of children who have lost their parents are surviving on food provided by international organisations. But UNICEF estimates 25 to 30 children are dying every day from malnutrition and disease.

SOUNDBITE:

”He has nine months this baby. He arrived one week ago. The weight has improved and he has only malnutrition”.

SUPER CAPTION: Joelle Levie, Agence Internationale Contre La Faim

Iye Fortune was living behind rebel lines in the village of Punjehum and managed to escape by boat with her baby daughter Momie.

SOUNDBITE:

(English translation)

“We came here because of the **war**. I lived in Punjehum and we were attacked by rebels and I so then we came to another town but that was also attacked and then we managed to get here”.

SUPER CAPTION: Iye Fortune, victim of rebels

Fortune does not know what happened to her husband, but she has hope for her daughter. That's more than can be said for her neighbour in the hospital who fled the fighting with her five young children. One child is now in a desperate condition. The military government has promised elections in February and a return to democracy, but the present anarchy maked free and fair elections unlikely.

**Review of the documentary**

The documentary tried to capture the pain and suffering of the people as a result of the civil war. It shared the some of the horrible experiences of people during the war. The video was used a means to ask for help from the international community to provide humanitarian assistances.