November 6, 2002, New York, NY...Activists from conflict areas are gathering in New York on 8
November to urge the United Nations Security Council and others to improve protection for children in
armed conflicts around the world. Increasingly, children are both victims and active participants of
today's wars; they are forced to flee their homes, become child soldiers and suffer other abuses.

Adolescent researchers from Sierra Leone, a former girl child soldier and an activist working to free
abducted children in northern Uganda will all speak at a symposium hosted by the Coalition to Stop the
Use of Child Soldiers, the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and the Harvard Program on
Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, with the support from the Human Security Network.

The gathering at UNICEF House will also bring together representatives from national governments, UN
agencies, non-governmental organizations and academics to discuss how policy makers can implement
promises to protect children in war zones. The symposium is being held in advance of a 20 November
debate at the UN Security Council on children and armed conflict.

The speakers are in New York from 6 November and are available for interviews:

- **Angelina Acheng Atyam** is the co-founder and Chair of northern Uganda's Concerned Parents
  Association, an organization advocating for the release of over 14,000 children abducted by the Lord's
  Resistance Army (LRA) over the past 17 years. Angelina, whose own daughter was abducted by the
  LRA, has met with government, religious, UN and other leaders to secure the release of the abducted
  children and promote peace in Uganda.

- **Fatmata Binta Barrie, 16; Mohamed Alie Kanu, 18; Samai Brima, 19; and Abibatu Samba, 17;** are all
  war-affected adolescents from Sierra Leone who participated in a 2002 research study on the
  situation of youth in post-war Sierra Leone. The adolescents- one of whom is a child mother and
  another a former child soldier - are speaking out about key concerns facing adolescents in Sierra Leone
  and solutions to their problems.

- **China Keitetsi, 25,** is a former girl child soldier from Uganda who was separated from her parents at
  age nine. She was forced to fight for the Ugandan National Resistance Army in the mid-1980s and
  now recounts her experience in a new book. She will be in the United States until 26 November.