



Example of letter sent to the Permanent Missions of States that did not yet ratify the 2 Optional Protocols

Geneva, 26th July 2010

Your Excellency,

May 25th marked the 10th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Since their adoption, the optional protocols have won widespread support among UN member states. The optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict has been ratified by 132 states, and the optional protocol on the sale of children, child pornography, and child prostitution has been ratified by 137 states.

Both protocols have led to significant improvements in the lives of children around the world. Over the past decade, the number of children associated with armed forces has declined significantly. Some countries have demobilized children from their armed forces, adopted national legislation to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment, or changed policies to prohibit the deployment of children into hostilities. Others have taken legal and other measures to prevent the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to punish offenders, and to ensure that child victims are rehabilitated and reintegrated.

We regret that your country has not yet ratified these important instruments. We urge your government to do so as soon as possible in order to make clear its commitment to ending the use of child soldiers and the sexual exploitation or sale of children. We particularly encourage your government to take advantage of the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly to deposit its instrument of ratification or accession or make a public commitment of its intent to do so no later than 2012, the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the protocols.

We hope that with your help, the world's nations will achieve universal ratification of the protocols and establish unequivocal norms to protect children from some of the worst forms of abuse and exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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ngo group for the crc

Sincerely yours,

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Rifat Odeh Kassis, Defence for Children International

Mark Capaldi, ECPAT International

Hélène Sackstein, International Alliance of Women

Alessandra Aula, International Catholic Child Bureau (Bice)

Anne-Sophie Lois, Plan International

Sally Christine Cornwell, The African Child Policy Forum

Mark Vogt, War Child Holland

Cécile Trochu Grasso, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

Elly Pradervand, WWSF Children's Section - Women's World Summit Foundation

Philippe Guiton, World Vision



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DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNACIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI



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