



*Example of letter sent to Permanent Missions of States that did not yet ratify the OP on the involvement of children in armed conflict*

Geneva, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Your Excellency,

May 25<sup>th</sup> marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Since its adoption, the optional protocol has won widespread support among UN member states, with 132 states parties. It has also 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. Countries have demobilized children from their armed forces, adopted national legislation to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment, and changed policies to prohibit the deployment of children into hostilities.

We regret that your country has not yet ratified this important instrument. 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. 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 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the protocol.

We hope that with your help, the world's nations will achieve universal ratification of the protocol and establish unequivocal norms to protect children from some of the worst abuses and exploitation associated with armed conflict.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

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DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNACIONAL DEI  
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