

Young Soldiers

Why They Choose to Fight

Selected by UN/SA

Rachel Brett & Irma Specht

UNITED NATIONS

AUG 13 2004

LIBRARY

LYNNE RIENNER  PUBLISHERS



Contents

<i>List of Photographs</i>	xi
<i>Foreword, Eugenia Date-Bah</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
Introduction	i
Vignette: Ali	6
1 The Broad Context	9
War	9
Poverty	14
Education and Employment	15
Family and Friends	23
Politics and Ideology	27
Specific Features of Adolescence	29
Culture and Tradition	32
Conclusion	36
2 The Life of the Prospective Volunteer	39
War and Insecurity	39
Economic Motivation	41
Education	44
Family and Friends	48
The Military/Parties to the Conflict	54
Politics and Identity	58
Conclusion	62

3	The Critical Moment	65
	Outbreak of Violence 65	
	Lack of Income/Poverty 66	
	School 67	
	Family Events 68	
	Friends 71	
	Recruitment 71	
	Conclusion 73	
	Vignette: Sayanathen 75	
4	A Complex of Risk Factors	77
	Javad's Story 77	
	Identifying Risk Factors and Their Linkages 79	
	Conclusion 82	
5	Girls and Boys	85
	Religion and Ethnicity 87	
	Domestic Exploitation and Abuse 88	
	Societal Expectations and Roles 91	
	Protection for Self and Family 93	
	Education 96	
	Reaction to Involvement 97	
	Demobilization and Reintegration 98	
	Conclusion 100	
6	The Concept of Volunteering	105
	Volunteering for What? 105	
	How Voluntary Is Voluntary? 108	
	Legal Issues 112	
	Conclusion 117	
7	Conclusion	121
	Key Factors 123	
	The Right to Leave 128	
	Improving Socioeconomic Reintegration 129	
	What Prospects? 135	
	Appendix I: Research and Methodological Issues	137
	The Project Proposal 137	
	The Case Studies 139	
	Selection of Informants 142	

The Methodology of Data Collection	143
The Primary Data	144
Analysis and Interpretation of Data	147
Instructions Provided to Researchers	149
Appendix 2: Conflict Profiles	163
Afghanistan	163
Colombia	165
Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville)	167
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	169
Northern Ireland	171
Sierra Leone	173
South Africa	175
Sri Lanka	177
<i>Bibliography</i>	179
<i>Index</i>	186
<i>About the Book</i>	192