



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: June 2009

Programme No. 1190

Length: 5'23"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: A PEOPLE AT RISK

VIDEO

NIGHTTIME / VILLAGE IN THE
JUNGLE

OCTAVIO ON CAMERA

MILITIA IN THE JUNGLE

AUDIO

NARRATION

They came under the cover of darkness on a warm spring night in 2008....a deadly force moving in near total silence. (11")

By sunrise here in a remote village in the Central African Republic, or the C.A.R, nearly one-hundred people – mostly children – were gone, kidnapped. (11")

OCTAVIO: (Zande) **M**

"I suddenly woke up when I heard the sound of people being beaten. I woke up and fell directly into the hands of the Tongo Tongo." (8)

NARRATION

Tongo Tongo, the local name for the Lord's Resistance Army – or the LRA – a Ugandan rebel group notorious for its use of child soldiers and sex slaves. They were here to replenish their forces and they took twenty-two-year old Octavio. (19")

He miraculously escaped a month later. (3”)

OCTAVIO ON CAMERA

OCTAVIO: (Zande) **M**

“They had a plan to train us as soldiers. I’m back but now I can’t sleep, I’m always afraid.”
(7”)

LANZER ON CAMERA

TOBY LANZER: (English) **M**

“I often ask myself why an armed group would come into C.A.R. and the only good answer I’ve come up with is why not? There’s no one to stop it.” (8.5”)

VILLAGE MARKET

NARRATION

Toby Lanzer, former UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the C.A.R. says it’s a country simply too poor to protect itself. Fewer than 5,000 soldiers and a few hundred police officers guard a country larger than France. (15”)

UN STAFF BOARD PLANE

And so he sent this group from the UN. Their mission – to provide humanitarian support and to gather evidence about exactly what happened to the victims. (11”)

DJIOHU

On board is Roger Djiohu, a Child Protection Officer. (4”)

PILOT ON CAMERA

PILOT: (English) **M**

“We have a jungle survival kit in the nose in the event we have to go down until the search and rescue party will arrive.” (7”)

NARRATION

CROWD IN GRASS AIRSTRIP

Meanwhile, nearly a thousand kilometers away, on a makeshift grass airstrip in Octavio's village...a crowd anxiously awaits... (9")

They see the plane in the distance... (2")

(sound up of plane landing)

SUPPLIES BEING UNLOADED FROM PLANE

Much needed humanitarian supplies are unloaded – HIV tests....rape kits...and medical supplies. (8")

ROGER MEETS LOCALS

For Roger, the work begins immediately ...interviewing survivors like Octavio. (6")

ROGER ON CAMERA

ROGER: (English) **M**
"Their primary need is psychological support because they went through some very traumatizing experiences, so they need to talk to people." (9.5)

VANS DRIVING THROUGH JUNGLE
WORKERS CLEARING PATH WITH
MOTORSAW

NARRATION

And the team is determined to talk to as many victims as possible, and set out to find them ... it's a drive through dense jungle. *(natsot cutting down trees)*. Scenes like this are repeated again and again *(natsot cutting down trees)*... (15")

UN STAFF VISIT VARIOUS
VILLAGES

Along the way they stop...collecting information ...gathering the stories ... and making a list of the disappeared...a list that one

ROGER ON CAMERA

day may reunite families. (12")

ROGER: (English) **M**

"I've seen tracing separation that lasted for 10 years but we were able to do family reunification. There is always hope, always hope." (12.5")

VILLAGERS / BOY

NARRATION

Hope that four-year-old Aniboti is holding onto. His sister is on that list. They were sleeping side-by-side that night... (9")

ALEXI WITH BOY ON CAMERA

ALEXI: (English) **M**

"Suddenly he was beaten by one of the Tongo Tongo. He came out running. They used gun to hit. It was here." (12.5")

CHILDREN SINGING

NARRATION

Roger and Alexi hear many of these stories and try to provide an outlet for children like Aniboti to open up ... *(sound up dancing with kids)* (8")

TEAM DELIVERING AID

But there's even more that's needed, like life-saving medicine....crucial since the LRA soldiers ransacked one of the few health clinics that did exist in the area. (12")

Here, the team delivers aid ... (2")

CHILDREN IN THE JUNGLE

As for the future, Roger believes they lay an important foundation but psychological counseling must be continued through local organizations. (10")

Something Octavio longs for – His mind is ravaged by the memories of his ordeal and by fear for those still in the grasp of the LRA. (10”)

OCTAVIO ON CAMERA

OCTAVIO: (Zande) **M**

“I may be back home but I can never stop thinking about those left behind. I, and the world need to know if the people the LRA abducted will ever return.” (12”)

UN LOGO

NARRATION

This report was produced by Andi Gitow for the United Nations.