



U.S. EMBASSY JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN
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PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. State Department's 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report Cites
Increase in Child Soldier Recruitment in South Sudan**

Today, the U.S. State Department released its 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report. Among other issues, the report makes note of the use and recruitment of child soldiers as a particular problem in South Sudan, particularly since the crisis began in December 2013.

We condemn the use of this practice by both government and rebel forces. The government of South Sudan has a special responsibility to protect children from being forced into military service, and the United States takes note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation's June 16 statement denouncing this practice. Both sides in this conflict must take immediate steps to end it. The use of child soldiers can constitute a war crime and those who are responsible must be held accountable.

The Trafficking in Persons Report is an annual, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it. The U.S. Government uses the report to engage foreign governments in dialogues to advance anti-trafficking reforms and to combat trafficking and to target resources on prevention, protection and prosecution programs.

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