

Bishop praises video about Joseph Kony's child soldiers

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A video about Joseph Kony, described as 'the tyrant of child soldiers' has had more than 70 million viewers on Youtube. The documentary, called 'Kony 2012' was created by the American NGO 'Invisible Children'. Children as young as five are recruited by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the military organization led by Kony who has been fighting against the Ugandan government since 1987.



scene from Kony 2012

Kony had a church education and was once an altar boy. He has developed a philosophy partly based on his interpretation of the Bible.

In 25 years, his LRA has used over 20,000 children kidnapped from tribes and villages, and exploited boys and girls for prostitution. The International Court of Justice in The Hague wants Joseph Kony for crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Some observers have questioned how useful the video is. One BBC commentator said: "The danger is, that people will think they can solve the problem by clicking on a website. In fact this problem is very deeply entrenched. One would hope this leads to more political involvement and action."

Local church leaders say the video has the merit of bringing the war in Uganda to the attention of the world. Mgr Juan Jos Aguirre, Bishop of Bangassou, in the Central African Republic, said: "I counted every tear of these people and I encourage them not to lose hope. I appeal especially to the many families who have seen their children kidnapped and indoctrinated by force and daughters turned into sex slaves. For many years the Church of Uganda emphasizes this phenomenon, but nothing has happened. Now that the monster has woken up, may God make it disappear forever".

To see the video go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4MnpzG5Sqc>