

# Report: U.N. troops sexually exploited Congo girls

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — United Nations peacekeepers in Congo sexually exploited women and girls, some as young as 13, a U.N. watchdog office said Friday in a new confirmation that efforts to curb abuses by U.N. troops are not working.

Peacekeepers regularly had sex with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money, investigators from the world body's Office of Internal Oversight Services found.

"We have had and continue to have a serious problem of sexual exploitation and abuse," William Lacy Swing, the United Nations' special representative to Congo, said at a news conference.

"We are shocked by it, we are outraged, we are sickened by it. Peacekeepers who have been sworn to assist

those in need, particularly those who have been victims of sexual violence, instead have caused grievous harm."

Charges of sex abuse and other crimes have been lodged against U.N. peacekeeping missions around the world for decades. Officials have found it difficult to crack down because the United Nations doesn't want to offend the relatively small number of countries that are willing to provide peacekeepers.

In recent years, U.N. officials have tried to address the problem by increasing training for troops and putting more emphasis on codes of conduct that ban sex with females younger than 18, but they admit the rules are not working.

"Rules and regulations should be tightened," said Jean-Marie Guehenno, U.N. undersecretary-general for

peacekeeping operations.

The abusive behavior in Congo continued even as the investigation was going on in Bunia between May and September, the report said. It also said some military officers tried to block the investigators' work.

The misconduct was "serious and ongoing" and investigators found it "disturbing" that there was no program in place to deter misconduct or protect civilians from abuses, the report added.

The U.N. mission in Congo will rise to 16,000 by the end of February.

The investigators looked into 72 allegations against military and civilian U.N. personnel, which resulted in 20 case reports, all but one involving peacekeepers.

"In six cases, the allegations against the peacekeeper were fully substantiated, and

underage girls were involved in all of them," the report said. It said none of the peacekeepers admitted to the allegations.

In some cases, evidence was convincing, but could not be fully substantiated, and in others allegations could not be corroborated, the report said. The victims had problems identifying the solidiers.

The watchdog office recommended that the home countries of the peacekeepers involved should take appropriate action.

Peacekeepers fall under the jurisdiction of military authorities in their own countries, which is another factor limiting U.N. control of abuses.

Guehenno said the judi-

cial handling of accused peacekeepers is "one of the areas where we need to do better." He suggested court martial should take place in countries where crimes are committed.

"When we betray the trust they place in us, it is unconscionable," he said. "It is a big stain on us. We have to go at it in great determination."

## Carter

(Continued from Page 7) addendum to make it appropriate for professional players. But it relied on the same four core values we needed to make our high school program successful. Everyone seems to respond when they have something tangible in their hands explaining in Black-and-White what's expected of them. That's why, when I work with kids or young adults, I always like to have something in writing that I can always point back to."

KW: In the movie, you let your son leave a private school to attend Richmond right in the 'hood. Was that part real?

CC: "Yes, sir. 98% of everything you see in that movie is true. We only changed some names, because we didn't want to embarrass them or their families. Otherwise, it happened just as you see it. I worked with the writers, with the producers, and with director throughout the whole film. I was there every day for four months."

KW: Wasn't it risky academically to move your son?

CC: "...23 years before that, I attended that school. And I'd always given money to Richmond, but it needed more than money. And when my son wanted to attend and to play for me, I agreed after he signed a contract promising to maintain a 3.7 GPA and to get a high enough SAT score to go to any college he

wanted in the world. He ended up serving as a positive role model for the other kids. And we eventually even had a kid get a perfect 4.0. He's now at Cal-Berkeley. And Courtney Anderson who played for that team is now the starting tight end on the Oakland Raiders."

KW: How have the rest of your players fared over the years?

CC: "Every senior I've ever had in my basketball program has gone on to college. And this is in a community where 50% of the children who enter our high school never graduate and where boys are far more likely to go to jail than on to higher education."

KW: Are you still in touch with any of the kids portrayed in the film?

CC: "Every day. My student-athletes call me every day. And they're all in the movie as extras, along with my seven sisters, my mom, my junior high coach, my high school coach and my college coach."

KW: Do you see yourself

as being similar to Joe Clark, the principal who patrolled his inner-city school's hallways with a baseball bat?

CC: "No, sir. I think he had his own style and set of challenges, and I had mine, though we both employed tough love."

KW: What message do you want people to come away with from this film?

CC: "I want people to see that the four core principles: accountability, integrity, leadership and teamwork will never, ever go out of style. Period."

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