

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) TO DECREASING A NUMBER OF CHILD SOLDIER IN SOUTH SUDAN

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine The Performance of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The method used in this research is a qualitative method with descriptive research type. The data collection technique used in this research is library research in the form of books, reports, journal articles and internet sites. The theory used is Diplomatic Termination Theory. In this regard, there is a role for the ICRC in reducing child soldiers in South Sudan during the 2014-2019 period, which in the eyes of international humanitarian law is illegal. This role is in the form of humanitarian programs for South Sudan which indirectly reduce the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan in the 2014-2019 period. The results of the study explain that in carrying out its role by reducing child soldiers in South Sudan, the ICRC has proven to play an active role and can carry out its role well.

INTRODUCTION

Thousands of children are used in the arena of armed conflict worldwide. This Child had associated with an armed force, or military group refers to any people under the age of 18 years of age who is or has been recruited or used by armed force or armed group as fighters, cooks, porters, spies, and sexual purposes (UNICEF, 2007). In historical records in many worlds, the involvement of children in conflict places is in various targeted military campaigns for military campaigns due to their more vulnerable nature to deal with adults. There are many other reasons children were involved in conflicts; some of the themes chose to join for specific reasons, such as getting out of the impoverished poverty or because they only hoped for a better life

when joining a military family (Wessel, 2006). On the other side, children become part of an armed force or group for various reasons. Some are abducted, threatened, coerced, or manipulated by an armed actor. Thus, others are driven by poverty, compelled to generate income for their families. Still, others associate themselves with survival or protecting their communities. However, no matter their involvement, the recruitment and use of children by armed force is a grave violation of child rights and international humanitarian law (www.unicef.org).

In 2003, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that up to half of the children involved with armed forces and non-state armed groups worldwide were in

Africa. Then in 2004, Child Soldiers International estimated that around 100,000 children were engaged in armed conflicts within state and non-state armed forces on the conflict-ridden continent. Although in 2008, the number of child soldiers had increased an estimated around 120,000 children, or 40 percent of the global total (Child-Soldier Org, 2009). Meanwhile, the Convention on the Child's Rights defines a child as any person under 18 years. Then in additional protocols referring to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, and the Rome Statute for International Crimes in 2002 all prohibit state armed forces and non-state armed groups from using children under the age of 15 directly in conflict. Thus, if there is using children in armed conflict, this is recognized as a war crime. However, in Sudanese culture, a person's adult age is believed to be 11 years old, but on average most literature studies, people recognize them as adults when they reach it at the age of 15 (Ryan, 2012).

In South Sudan itself, child soldiers began when the civil war in the south broke out, and the conflict involved government forces and troops. However, the civil war in Sudan had already started in December 2013 when president Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar and ten others of trying to stage a coup against President Salva. Machar denied striving to carry out a coup and then volunteered to lead the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Opposition (SPLM-IO). However, since the war began, more than 1,300 children have been recruited in 2016 (UNICEF, 2016). In 2018 UNICEF again released data for child soldiers in Sudan, which amounted to 19,000 children (UNICEF, 2018). Even the human rights organization Human Rights Watch in 2015 said dozens of commanders and several military officials in South Sudan were involved in recruiting child soldiers in the country (CNN INDONESIA, 2015). Both government organizations and non-governmental organizations have made various efforts to reduce or even eliminate the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan. However, there has been no effective enough prevention to facilitate the

recruitment of child soldiers under international law into the armed forces.

Although the armed conflict has the vast implication of civilian population in the area had been conflicted; thus the particular concern is the diverse threats to which those children exposed in such circumstances. One of the many illegal actors to which children fall victim is recruitment by armed forces and armed groups. To prevent the recruitment of children and their participation in hostilities is the best way to protect them. However, this research found that The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) places a great deal of emphasis on prevention assist all victims of war and internal violence according to their needs. There are three main focuses of ICRC best on Regarding children associated with armed forces or arm groups, and the ICRC had involved itself in each of the following stages of their involvement in the conflict.

The ICRC had served in South Sudan since deciding to form a delegation in the capital Juba when the country became independent on 9 July 2011, although the operation dates back to 1986 when the conflict between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) broke out. The ICRC itself has several sub-delegations in the South Sudan region, including those in Malakal, Bentiu, and Wau, located in the northern part of the country. Then the ICRC also worked in the Jonglei area and the state of Western Equatoria. The main task of the ICRC in that country is to protect civilians affected by conflict and fulfill their rights as enshrined in International Humanitarian Law, as well as to remind the government and the opposition regarding the humanitarian law applicable during the war, the government of South Sudan ratified the 1949 Geneva Conventions in July 2012 (www.icrc.org).

Furthermore, the ICRC also functions to increase access to existing health facilities in South Sudan to meet the needs of both civilians and the military, and the ICRC also facilitates conflict-affected families to ensure the basic needs of civilians, build clean water facilities for the public, and improve the fields of residents living in poverty the conflict damaged it. The last is to assist the

South Sudanese Red Cross in carrying out its Tasks (ICRC report 2013).

South Sudan became a priority for the ICRC for many years after the conflict broke out, even though the peace agreement has been signed since September 2018 and brought some positive things for a change in the situation in South Sudan. However, as we know, peace is fragile and long-lasting. In 2019, the ICRC continued to treat many people who get injured due to violence, especially from gunshot wounds; on the other hand, the recruitment of children continued in the following years after the Peace Agreement (ICRC report in 2019).

METHOD

In researching the role of the International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC) in reducing the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan for the 2014-2019 period, the research method used is a descriptive qualitative method that aims to explain how the role of the ICRC in reducing the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan case.

The method used in this research is a literature study from various sources that have been selected books, articles, journals, reports, relevant internet data (google scholar and e-books), and documents issued by a particular institution to get primary data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Content of Result and Discussion

Throughout the history of the country of South Sudan, at least this country has experienced several uprisings since the country gained its independence on July 9, 2011. However, the civil war conflicts that occurred from 2013 to 2020 were conflicts that caused damage to the country. Mightier than the previous uprising because President Salva Kiir is a country leader who comes from ethnic Dinka, and his political opponent, former vice president Riek Machar, is an ethnic Nuer who plays an essential role in terms of ethnic identity and draws the community more profound into the personal feud of the two figures. (Koos & Gutschke, 2014)

The South Sudanese civil war was a conflict in South Sudan between government

forces and opposition forces from the country. In December 2013, President Kiir accused his former deputy, Riek Machar, and ten others of coupling the president (Koos & Gutschke, 2014). Machar denies charges for an attempted coup and attempted to flee to lead the SPLM-IO (SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN OPPOSITION). SPMLM-IO is a rival party or anti-government as Machar's response to the accusations made against him. Fighting broke out between the SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT (SPLM) AND SPLM-IO, sparking a civil war. Ugandan troops deployed to fight alongside the South Sudanese government. (BBC, 2014) The United Nations (UN) has peacekeeping as part of the United Nations mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

In January 2014, the first ceasefire agreement had reached. However, fighting continued, followed by several more armistice agreements. The "IGAD+" made the negotiation (including eight regional countries called the Intergovernmental Authority for Development and the African Union, United Nations, China, European Union, US, UK, and Norway). The peace agreement known as the "Peace Compromise" was signed in August 2015 (BBC, 2018)

After several years of war, South Sudan's rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as vice president in a bid to push for a peace deal aimed at ending more than two years of conflict. He returned early to Juba's capital to take up a position in the new unity government initiated by President Salva Kiir. The two men, whose personal strife has resulted in more than two years of bitter conflict in the world's youngest nation, spoke optimistically about the future, speaking to the media at the inauguration ceremony. (BBC, 2016)

Furthermore, violence broke out in the southern Sudanese capital Juba, vice president Riek Machar took a replacement as vice president. An armed South Sudanese opposition faction said it had temporarily replaced its leader Riek Machar, the country's first vice president, raising the possibility of greater chaos after weeks of unrest. Meanwhile, Machar has not publicly fled Juba after days of fierce fighting

between rival forces that killed more than 300 people and threatened to send the young nation back into all-out civil war. (Al Jazeera, 2016)

Thus, After vice president, Machar was deployed from his position as a vice president, which followed deadly clashes between his sympathizers and government forces in the capital Juba. Machar fled from southern Sudan to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, namely Kinshasa City, with the help of the United Nations, considered it dangerous for Machar to remain in Juba. Machar demanded that neutral troops be deployed in July to maintain peace and ensure his safety after days of violence. (BBC, 2016)

This conflict is also referred to as "Ethnic cleansing" on several occasions; many parties argue that most of the causes of the conflict occur due to the "Ethnic Line" factor that pits power between those loyal to the president, Salva Kiir, who is an ethnic Dinka, against the supporters of the vice president who became rebel leader Riek Machar, who is from the Nuer ethnic group. Now, the United Nations is warning of an impending genocide, even as the Security Council failed once again last month to impose an arms embargo on the warring parties.

Thus, at the same time, Machar was exiled by their government to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Kiir seized the opportunity to replace him with Taban Deng, a former ally of Machar who is now widely viewed as a traitor by the rebels. Welcomed with a collective shrug from the United States and other Western powers, the move was an internationally sanctioned palace coup, and it all guaranteed an escalation of the war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and forced more than 3 million people from their homes. With no legitimate Opposition to negotiate with, the government allowed its troops to rape and pillage through opposition-held outposts and forts, killing rebels as well as civilians. Ethnic cleansing, according to some, has taken place, with the UN human rights commission reporting massacres, gang rapes, and the destruction of entire villages. A recent Associated Press investigation found evidence that people had been

arrested and burned alive in the Equatorian town of Yei. (foreign policy, 2017)

Around 400,000 people are estimated to have died in the war, according to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Report estimating that "severe injuries" accounted for about half of the 382,900 deaths. The increased risk of disease and reduced access to health care contribute to others. Based on statistical modeling and not peer-reviewed, the new report says deaths appear to have peaked in 2016 and 2017. New fighting broke out in the capital, Juba, when a peace deal collapsed in July 2016 and violence spread to other regions. Most of the deaths occurred in the south and northeast of the country, and among them were adult men. South Sudan's civil war has also sent more than 2 million people fleeing Africa's biggest refugee crisis since the Rwandan genocide of 1994. The new report calls for a more robust humanitarian response in one of the world's most dangerous countries for aid workers. The United Nations has repeatedly called on the government to allow more access. "This is a war of revenge, hatred, and anger, and we have to deal with this. We are trying to humanize the loss," Anyieth D'Awol, who is involved with the organization Remembering the Ones We Lost, told the AP. (associated press, 2018)

The practice of child soldiers in South Sudan is widespread, and the conflict in the country is complex, consisting of multiple forces under military leaders or commanders with preferential approaches to children under their control. As a result, children report very different experiences of being recruited and placed. Often children were forcibly recruited, physically forced into trucks to go to battle or training camps, kidnapped at gunpoint and taken from their home areas by troops or groups, and sometimes thrown into combat only a day or two later. Even those who joined voluntarily, though often because as males of (presumed) fighting age, tended to be killed without the protection of other fighters around them or because of social pressure, we were unable to leave if they wished and instead sent into battle.

Those who fought with government forces sometimes received a salary, but it

was usually very irregular. Many children who fought with government forces and those who fought with the opposition received training and uniforms, affirming their formal role as soldiers, while others joined the fighting for a short time informally. Most of the 15-16,000 children estimated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to have fought in this conflict did so as part of community forces siding with the opposition. On both sides, boys, especially those around 14 or 15 years of age or older, who make up the majority of child soldiers in South Sudan, and some who are younger, are treated more or less the same as adult soldiers.

Others, especially boys younger than 14, did not fight but worked as cooks or bodyguards for the commander. Many of the boys Human Rights Watch spoke to said they were made, like adult soldiers, walk for days and fight without sufficient food. While the interview, those children were forced to sleep in the open and, if they were injured, received little or no medical care. Many saw their friends or other children die; Wounded; be traumatized. Some of beaten or detained by the troops who recruited them to prevent them from escaping or as punishment. (Human Right Watch, 2015).

Despite all these difficulties, some said they felt grateful to their commander for accepting them. In a very violent conflict, they believe that being part of an armed group gives them protection and an opportunity to fight to protect the—community or to fulfill their desire to take revenge for attack or abuse.

The August 2015 peace agreement between the government and the opposition, brokered by the regional agency Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), paved a transitional government with Kiir as president and Machar as vice president and for national elections in about three years. The agreement establishes a 'Hybrid Court for South Sudan,' which will be set up by an African Union Commission, consisting of judges and lawyers from other African countries and South Sudanese officials, and has the edge over South Sudan's national court. This mixed trial is necessary because purely domestic efforts to hold accountable

international crimes committed in this conflict will not guarantee a fair and credible trial given the enormous challenges to national courts and the lack of political will on the part of South Sudan's leaders. In addition, mixed courts should have jurisdiction over the most serious crimes committed, including the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, and full authority and independence to determine which suspects tried.

Serious efforts must now be made, by both national and international actors, to ensure that commanders who have used and recruited child soldiers are held accountable. Failure to end child soldiers now could send a message to another generation that the only way to feel safe is through ethnically based, organized violence and that it is normal for children to participate in and die in it.

Every child who has fought against armed groups in South Sudan has a unique story. Reports from Human Rights Watch seek to capture various experiences, but this report does not describe the full spectrum of child soldiers in South Sudan. Children interviewed included those who fought with government forces opposition forces and joined militias allied with both forces and loosely structured local defense groups. (HumanRightWatch, 2015)

Based on interviews with 101 child soldiers, former child soldiers, or children associated with the armed forces or youth who were children when they fought, this report documents recruitment and deployment experiences and identifies commanders who have recruited and used child soldiers. These children represent only a fraction of the thousands who have fought in recent conflicts. Of these children, 41 were the government forces or their allies, and 33 were the opposition forces. Twenty-seven children were involved in the recent pre-war conflict. Four of them were 18 or 19 years old at the interview, and the rest were under 18. (HumanRightWatch, 2015).

All interviewees reported seeing many other children fighting or coming into contact with the armed forces. Human Rights Watch also collected information on 30 other children from parents or caregivers who said their children had been kidnapped

or recruited into the armed forces and had left during interviews. Furthermore, Human Rights Watch has heard several reports of girls connected to the armed forces, but the vast majority of children associated with the armed forces in South Sudan are boys, and all of those interviewed by Human Rights Watch were boys.

Children forced to fight often come from poorer and more rural areas where many, if not most, children are born without registering their births. As a result, it is often impossible to ascertain the child's exact age, and sometimes the age listed in this report represents the best estimate of the interviewee. Human Rights Watch also interviewed 15 government officials and officials from the SPLA and opposition authorities with expertise or insight into child soldiers, staff of UN agencies, notably UNICEF, and officials from UNMISS in Juba, Malakal, and Bentiu (HumanRightWatch, 2015).

From the explanation above, there are various methodologies or ways to recruit child soldiers. Children become soldiers in various ways. They may be kidnapped, threatened, or coerced into joining, while others coaxed with money, drugs, or other means. In many cases, children choose to join because of economic or social pressures. Others join the armed forces to fight for causes they or their families support, often with little apparent understanding of the implications of their decisions. Being poor, neglected, separated from their families, or living in a battle zone can make children vulnerable to recruits. Armed groups target children for several reasons. They are easier to manipulate, do not need much food, and do not have a rapidly growing sense of danger (Theirworld.org, 2019).

International humanitarian law prohibits the recruitment and use of children in combat or conflict. This prohibition applies in both international and non-international armed conflicts. The prohibition on the recruitment of children under the age of 15 in Article 77 of Additional Protocol 1 thoroughly discusses children who must be the object of particular respect and protected from all indecent acts, and the parties to the dispute must provide care and assistance. What they need, and

also emphasized that all parties to the dispute must refrain from recruiting children under the age of 15 years, up to the death penalty, which may not be given to convicts related to the armed conflict before the convict reaches the age of 18 years at the time the crime had committed. Although in Article 4, Additional Protocol II considered prohibiting the acceptance of voluntary registration (ICRC Report, 2013).

In international armed conflicts, the prohibition covers direct participation in hostilities, whereas, in non-international armed conflicts, it includes all types of participation in hostilities. In both IAC (International Armed Conflicts) and NIACs (Non-International Armed Conflicts), these terms ("direct participation" and "participation") more broadly than the term "direct participation in hostilities" as used in the language of rules governing hostile behavior, which deprives civilians of protection against attack. (ICRC)

Furthermore, Article 38 (3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children in conflict areas must take all possible steps to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take direct part in hostilities. Moreover, countries in conflict must refrain from recruiting anyone who has not reached the age of 15 years into their armed forces, and then if some are 15 years old but have not yet reached 18 years of age, priority is given to those who are older. Furthermore, the Convention on Rights of Child prohibits the recruitment of children under 15 involving a child in armed conflict (ICRC Report 2013).

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Child's Rights distinguishes between state and non-state armed groups in establishing age limits for recruitment and use in hostilities. For States, the age limit for direct participation in hostilities and mandatory recruitment is 18.

Based on the Statute of the International Criminal Court, namely the Rome Statute, Articles 8(2)(b)(xxvi) and (e)(vii)), requires or includes children under the age of 15 years in the armed forces national or group constitutes a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflict and actively participates in hostilities. (ICC).

The protection of children in war and other violent situations in various legal entities, and this provides the framework for some of the activities of the International Red Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that are of great benefit to children, particularly in areas where the organization has a strong mandate. Furthermore, vulnerability is a violation of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The activities that the ICRC undertakes to benefit children derive from the mandates provided by the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols 1977, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (ICRC, 2019)

The ICRC formed a delegation in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, when the country became independent on 9 July 2011. However, the organization's operations in southern Sudan began in 1986 following the conflict between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The ICRC has three sub-delegations, in Malakal, Bentiu, and Wau, covering the country's northern region. He has also worked in Jonglei and the states of Western Equatoria (ICRC, 2013).

Clashes between armed groups and the South Sudanese army have caused displacement and civilian casualties. Landmines continue to harm communities and complicate humanitarian access. Armed violence has disrupted the livelihoods of entire communities residing in the new country, leading to the displacement and separation of family members, especially children who are victims of child soldier recruitment on this topic. South Sudan has also fallen prey to inter-communal and inter-ethnic violence linked to disputes over the livestock and seasonal migration. (ICRC, 2013)

One of the ICRC's priorities in South Sudan is to promote compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) in armed conflict. In each mission, ICRC staff monitor the implementation of IHL and make personal statements to the parties to the conflict if necessary. They also remind authorities and arms bearers of their obligations under IHL, particularly

concerning hostile behavior and the obligation to protect persons not participating in combat. (ICRC, 2013)

The ICRC also visits places of detention in South Sudan for the ICRC's principle of humanity, further monitoring, and if necessary, efforts to improve conditions and treatment. Findings and recommendations resulting from this visit are shared confidentially with the detention authorities in the country. The ICRC provides expert advice and material support to implement each recommendation. The ICRC also provides legal advice and support to the government of South Sudan to access and implement key IHL instruments. The Republic of South Sudan acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions in July 2012. (ICRC, 2013)

During its Mission in South Sudan, the ICRC has provided emergency assistance, such as food, fishing equipment, and household goods to 10,500 affected households in conflict areas and beyond, helping communities rebuild their livelihoods by enabling more than 7,950 homes. Households to increase their yields with seeds and agricultural implements provided by the ICRC Team and vaccinate livestock from 1,199 households, supported by the ICRC. However, around 104,700 residents and IDPs to gain access to safe drinking water following the construction and rehabilitation of water systems by the ICRC, including supporting rebuilding local water boards damaged by conflict. (ICRC, 2013)

The ICRC continues its activities to promote the priority of the mission, namely the introduction of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). More than 1,100 SPLA officers based at training centers and colleges in Lakes State and Eastern Equator State attended the three-day training at IHL organized by the ICRC. In addition, over 1,200 SPLA soldiers attended the introductory IHL sessions held by the ICRC in Bahr El Ghazal State, Upper Nile State, United States, and Eastern Equator State. In 2013, the ICRC and the South Sudan Red Cross also worked together to form and train 26 emergency action teams consisting of volunteers capable of providing first aid to

the injured or sick in an emergency. (ICRC, 2013)

In 2014, in the face of the armed conflict in South Sudan, its neighboring country, Sudan, agreed to open a humanitarian corridor to facilitate access to humanitarian aid to the affected population. With the help of the United Nations World Food Programme, several humanitarian convoys reached South Sudan via the corridor. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Sudan said that representatives from the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan had agreed on an operational plan that would open a humanitarian corridor between the two countries. (Sudan tribune, 2014)

During the first half of 2013, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in South Sudan further consolidated, and the ICRC expanded its presence in the country by opening two sub-delegations in Bentiu and Bor. The ICRC has offices in Juba, Malakal, Wau, Bentiu, and Bor with more than 400 staff. (ICRC, 2013)

Over the past few months, the ICRC has stepped up its efforts to help people suffering from violence by supporting the community with assistance, such as, for example, food, seeds, fishing equipment, household appliances, and providing surgical care for the injured. The humanitarian situation in several regions of the country is a significant concern. The ICRC is particularly concerned about Jonglei state, where continued violence has forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes. (ICRC, 2013)

While the ICRC is not a child protection agency and child protection is not a stand-alone activity for the organization, it is an essential part of the ICRC's operations, particularly where the reality of armed conflict exacerbates the vulnerability of children.

The Convention on the Rights Child states that "child" means any human being under the age of 18, the ICRC considers everyone under the age of 18 a child. 1 Everyone under 18 enjoys special protection under IHL and international human rights law. In the Sudanese tradition, a child enters adulthood when they reach the age of 11

years (Ryan, 2012), but most people reach it at the age of 15. A person may be considered an adult with early signs of puberty, such as when things that happen such as changing physical form, increasing voice, and others. However, for the ICRC's activities under international law, a child is anyone under 18 years of age. (ICRC, 2019)

The ICRC carries out several activities that benefit children, particularly in conflict-affected areas where human rights violations may exacerbate their vulnerability. The ICRC is not a child protection agency, but children are still the beneficiaries of 40% of the ICRC's assistance and protection activities. (ICRC, 2019) All the activities carried out by the ICRC around the world, especially in South Sudan, from the provision of clean and safe water and health care to conflict-affected populations to awareness-raising efforts about weapons contamination, to nutrition programs and activities aimed at protecting the civilian population, many children benefit from ICRC support. The key is that the ICRC is attentive to children's unique needs and vulnerabilities – though not underestimating their extraordinary resilience and resilience – and that the ICRC adapts its response accordingly.

The Republic of South Sudan faces considerable humanitarian challenges: insufficient development, violent conflict, and the looming economic crisis driving humanitarian needs caused by displacement, injuries, food shortages and insecurity, livelihood risks, widespread malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and seasonal flooding.

Humanitarian needs are most acute in areas with active hostilities or large numbers of refugees. At the study, humanitarian access, particularly for international staff, was restricted in the northern states. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 5.1 million South Sudanese require protection and humanitarian assistance. (NRC&HI, 2016)

In South Sudan, the humanitarian coordination system is complex and highly politicized. The result of the lack of an overall framework and high international level of political and media interest, coupled

with the United Nations Integrated Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) structure.

Meanwhile, there are many obstacles and challenges from the ICRC to carry out its duties in South Sudan, one of which is the geographical terrain they are traveling is quite tricky, the ICRC Team leaving does not need a road. The White Nile flows through Malakal, and the ICRC has a boat. The team quickly packed them up and headed north. Following the flat morning water, we walked along a green elephant grass corridor to pursue a village far away. It takes about two hours to get to the village and carefully crash the bow into the dense undergrowth until the boat hits land. Not infrequently, in South Sudan, floods occur, which drown entire villages, so the ICRC Team has to struggle to reach the village to carry out its duties as the Humanitarian Team. (ICRC, 2020)

The biggest challenge for the ICRC itself is that the ICRC maintains the track record they have built over the past decade, the most valuable being the reputation of independence neutrality. It allows the ICRC to access places in South Sudan virtually inaccessible to others because the ICRC has this recognition. (Teresa, 2018)

In addition, the inferior condition of infrastructure in South Sudan is a big obstacle for the ICRC team to carry out their duties in the country. It is not easy, and there are still many obstacles; geography is one. Infrastructure is almost non-existent; flooding occurred in most countries for half a year in 2018, it was challenging for the ICRC team to move about their activities.

The years leading up to the end of the conflict presented even more significant challenges for the ICRC team; people rob on the street, some NGO workers get kidnapped for a short time. Indeed, the communication between the government and the opposition was not very good for a long time, but now, it is becoming challenging with this fragmentation. So one of the main conditions, want to carry out an operation is to make sure the ICRC team has contacts on the ground. If not, then the safety of the team can still be threatened.

One additional factor that created difficulties was the outage of the Vivacell cellular network. It was the cell phone network in Equatorial, so that was very

important. However, most of the interlocutors have lost the primary means of communication. They have to rely on costly satellite phones. It affects many people across the political spectrum. (Teresa, 2018)

Consolidation of civilian governance is essential to ensuring peace, and the ICRC plays an essential role in the dialogue between the government and the opposition now joining the government. Finally, the country has yet to find a way to address its structural deficiencies and oil dependence. As the world's poorest country, South Sudan has the opportunity to overcome such difficulties themselves are low, so external assistance is essential for successful policy tackling this problem. (Jacon, 2012).

CONCLUSION

Based on the presentation in the form of facts and data above, the author can conclude that the civil war conflict in South Sudan during the 2013-2020 period was a major humanitarian disaster. This conflict is a cause of the massive recruitment of child soldiers from both the government and the opposition. The recruitment of child soldiers, which is the main topic in this paper, is an illegal activity that violates international humanitarian law and can categorize as a severe violation of human rights for the perpetrators.

The International Committee of Red Cross or ICRC, an international organization engaged in the humanitarian field, provides much assistance to the people of South Sudan affected by the conflict. The ICRC acts as humanitarian assistance in its programs, such as intensively socializing international humanitarian law, significantly benefiting. The effect on the recruitment of child soldiers is because many army members, both the government and the opposition, do not understand international humanitarian law. Furthermore, the ICRC also increases access to education to children in South Sudan, gaining more knowledge and distinguishing between good and evil in the moral context of being child soldiers. Reuniting missing family members is no less critical than other ICRC programs; with this program. Another mandatory assistance for the ICRC is to provide food and medical assistance needed, as well as some

additional assistance such as building hospitals, building water canals, and helping residents return to work on their fields damaged by conflict.

In carrying out its role in reducing child soldiers in South Sudan, the ICRC has proven to play an active role and can carry out its role well.

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