
A COMPARISON

CHILD SOLDIERS

- In approx. 17 countries, children participate directly in war.
- Thousands of children are serving as soldiers for rebel and government forces.
- They serve as human mine detectors, carry supplies, act as spies
- They are easier to manipulate
- Recruitment ages are between 4 and 17 years-old.
- There are more than 350,000 children soldiers
- There are 12 millions of children refugees who have been forced to flee their homes (6 times LV population)
- They are used to recruit other children
- In the last 10 years more than 6 millions children have been wounded in armed conflict
- Child soldiers come from all races and nationalities
- Many children don't have a childhood due to armed conflict

YOUTH IN GANGS

- Violent gangs are in our largest cities, and 88% of our smallest cities.
- Many youth were born into the gang, introduced by their parents or uncles
- Youth are used to sale drugs, drive by shootings, "take the wrap"
- They are easier to impress
- Recruitment age started as young as 7 years old
- There are more than 788,000 teens and young adults gang members
- In 2007 more that 2 mil juveniles were arrested (more than LV population*)
- They are used to recruit other youth
- Gangs use minors because are easy to impress and don't serve adult time
- Gangs members come from all races and social backgrounds
- At least 21,500 gangs are active nationwide
- Many children don't have a childhood due to gang violence