



First Kill Your Family: Child Soldiers of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army

Peter Eichstaedt

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First Kill Your Family: Child Soldiers of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army Peter Eichstaedt *First Kill Your Family* is the only book published in American to reveal the full story behind the rise of Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army. After savaging northern Uganda for twenty years and slaughtering thousands and mutilating many more, Kony fled in 2006 to some of the most remote territory in Africa. In a largely inaccessible region bordered by the failed states of South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Congo, Kony and his cult-like army of child killers continue to terrorize local populations. Most recently, they've turning the the wholesale slaughter of elephants in the jungles of northern Congo to fund their army.

The leader of the rebel army is the rarely seen Joseph Kony, a former witch doctor and self-professed spirit medium who continues to evade justice and wield power from somewhere near the Congo~Sudan border. Kony claims he not only can predict the future but also can control the minds of his fighters. And control them he does: the Lord's Resistance Army consists of children who are abducted from their homes under cover of night. As initiation, the boys are forced to commit atrocities--murdering their parents, friends, and relatives--and the kidnapped girls are forced into lives of sexual slavery and labor.

Eichstaedt takes readers into the war-torn villages and refugee camps, talking to former child soldiers, child "brides," and other victims. He examines the cult-like convictions of the army; how a pervasive belief in witchcraft, the spirit world, and the supernatural gave rise to this and other deadly movements; and what the global community can do to bring peace and justice to the region. This insightful analysis delves into the war's foundations and argues that, much like Rwanda's genocide, international intervention is needed to stop Africa's virulent cycle of violence.

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