

## **The Interview of Haki, a former child soldier of the Sierra Leone Army**

### How did you end up in the Sierra Leone army?

"I had to flee my home when the rebels attacked, and I saw them kill my family. The village I came across had the army so I stayed and felt safe. It was not long before they needed us boys to help. I was hesitant at first but as time went on I was glad to be able to get revenge for my family's death by killing the rebels."

### Did the army use anything to influence you to kill?

"I was hesitant at first, and was open to it after a few weeks. I think it was the drugs they gave us. After awhile I just realized the commanders were right. The rebels needed to pay for my family's death, I needed to avenge them. The commanders just pounded the idea into us that the rebels needed to be killed to avenge our families. We just started to believe them after a while, because they gave us what we wanted after getting addicted to drugs"

### What did you do with the army?

"we killed rebels, hunted their villages out and killed and destroyed everyone there. That is the only way to be able to get revenge and stop them."

### Do you regret killing the rebels, and do you think they killed because they were forced to or also brainwashed?

"I have nightmares of the time of war, and all the death around. Killing the rebels is nit part of that. I was glad to avenge my family and stop them. The rebels all knew what they were doing and could have stopped if they wanted to, they just liked the killing."

### Weren't you doing the same kind of raids and killings the RUF did?

"NO absolutely not, the only reason the army did that was to get rid of the RUF and get revenge for our family's deaths. I am nothing like a rebel."