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UNITED NATIONS



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PRESS RELEASE

"It's such a neat, effective idea that one wonders why it hasn't been thought of before."

Metro Life Newspaper about the project- 23rd August 1999.

"Intriguing photographs of everyday people and surroundings" Kids Out (London magazine for parents by 'Time Out') when selecting the Exhibition 'Pick of the Month' - September 1999.

Since 1997 a development project, called SHOOTBACK, has been running in one of Africa's largest, poorest and most notorious slums - Mathare, Kenya.

Co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ford Foundation and the Netherlands Development Assistance (NEDA), the project has, to date, given 31 slum children the chance to help themselves by training in photography.

Now, the work of these children is celebrated in a beautifully understated book of their pictures (published by Booth-Clibborn Editions). This is no ordinary publication, because it shows life in the slums from their perspective rather than that of a foreign photographer's eye.

Says Project Coordinator Lana Wong, "Shootback is not just about creating works of art or training budding photojournalists, but enabling these children, who are largely voiceless and marginalised, to tell their own stories in their own way- to show the world their world."

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Publication: Simon Gwynn, Booth-Clibborn Editions: 0171 637 4255 email: info@internos.co.uk or simon@internos.co.uk

All royalties from the book's sales will go directly towards school fees for the Shootback Team and a new community media training centre in Nairobi.



OLARA A. OTUNNU

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Olara A. Otunnu, on 19 August 1997, as his Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict. The three-year appointment, effective on 1 September 1997, followed-up the Graca Machel Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children and is pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/77 (December 1996).

In his capacity as the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Otunnu serves as advocate for children in conflict situations, promoting measures for their protection in times of conflict and for their healing and reintegration in conflict's aftermath: by taking concrete initiatives in particular cases; by informing and mobilizing international public opinion; by ensuring that the welfare of children affected by armed conflict is a priority on the international agenda; and by acting as a catalyst among United Nations agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organizations to develop a concerted and focused approach to meet the needs of children affected by violent conflict.

Born in Mucwini (Chua) in Uganda, Mr. Otunnu received his early education at Gulu High School and King's College Budo. He attended Makerere University and Oxford University, and studied at Harvard Law School as a Fulbright Scholar. A lawyer by training, he practised law as an associate in New York, prior to becoming Assistant Professor of Law at Albany Law School.

Mr. Otunnu has been widely recognized for his long-standing commitment and contribution to diverse activities relating to international peace and security, prevention of conflict, reform of multilateral institutions, development, human rights, issues of values, and the future of Africa. In the connection, he has held many leadership responsibilities including Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations (1980-5), President of the United Nations Security Council (1981), Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1983-4) and Minister for Foreign Affairs for Uganda (1985-6).