KONY 2012, Invisible Children's Pro-AFRICOM and Museveni Propaganda

Black Star News Editorial
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Invisible Children's goals initially may have been to publicize the plight of children caught in Uganda's decades-long conflicts; lately, IC has been acting as apologists for General Yoweri K. Museveni's dictatorship and the U.S. goal to impose AFRICOM (the U.S. Africa Military Command) on Africa.

IC has produced a brilliant film that's making the global rounds on Facebook

It's a classic as propaganda pieces come. The short but overwhelmingly powerful film uses all the best tear-jerk techniques. In the end, the film denounces Joseph Kony, the leader of the brutal Lord's Resistance Army, while giving the impression that Museveni's dictatorship and his brutal military, which was found liable for war crimes in Democratic Republic of Congo by the International Court of Justice, has nothing to do with the atrocities committed against children in Uganda. It also doesn't inform viewers that Museveni abducted thousands of child soldiers to win his insurgency in Uganda in 1986, launching the pattern of child soldier recruitment all over Africa.

In fact, Kony's insurgency against Museveni was launched later, meaning he too learned child soldier-abductions from Museveni.
Peace in Africa (FPA) annual conference. Although they initially agreed to work with us to promote a negotiated settlement of the war, their business instinct told them that we were going to be a hindrance to their interests. So, up to date, they never honored their agreement to meet and discuss how best to promote peace. They never want to involve people who are knowledgeable about the war. We always clashed with them at conferences. Obviously, they are moving right along their path to fame and fortune exploiting the subject of their sale, including their own child. But, this time there are a lot of skeptics out there not willing to give them a free ride. Definitely, you are one of the best of them. The silver lining to their dark cloud is that they unintentionally brought focus on the root of the problem in Uganda, M7. The LRA could be wiped out, but so long as the conditions which give rise to rebellion still exist and God knows they do, there will be other rebels springing up as the only way to force a regime change.

Date: March 10th, 2012  
Name: John Brown  
Subject: Good Piece exposes IC  
Comment: I have read this piece [KONY 2012, Invisible Children's Pro-AFRICOM and Museveni Propaganda] and watched Invisible Children documentary. I realized it contains what makes people fool of themselves. However, I landed on a re-battles by a nice and smart girl, (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D0D73eze25&feature=related). Her understanding beats millions of gullible who just jump onto a bandwagon and agree to succumb on Invisible Children, Resolve Uganda and Enough Is Enough Scams. This young

Date: March 9th, 2012  
Name: Carolyn Edson  
Subject: Journalism @ it's best!  
Comment: Your editorial countering the latest IC propaganda film is beyond words EXCELLENT!!!!! This is what all those young people who have been brainwashed by IC should be reading. There has been news coverage of the film on the media here, but the commentators have been giving the other side of the story and a warning to be careful before giving to this organization. kudos and more kudos!!!! Journalism at its best.

Date: March 9th, 2012  
Name: Joan Edwards  
Subject: Invisible Children Scam  
Comment: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yugW0erb8&feature=related]

Date: March 9th, 2012  
Name: Carl Rising  
Subject: Thanks for Exposing IC's Hidden Agenda  
Comment: I just read your story about Invisible Children, I am a Vietnam era veteran and have never trusted US Foreign Policy since. During the run up and the disaster that was the Libyan War, I tried to get the US so called peace and justice movement mobilized to stop the slaughter that took place there. I discovered that other than a few like Cynthia McKinney, there was very little vocal response to the Libyan massacre by NATO and the Arab League. Through my

Look at the way Invisible Children exploits American children in the beginning of their documentary; they then transplant the audience to Uganda, where again they take advantage of Ugandan children, who are the victims of both the LRA and the Ugandan government's army.

The imagery are powerful. Dr. Joseph Goebbels' and Leni Riefenstahl would have been proud of this cinematic coup by Invisible Children.

If Invisible Children was in fact a serious organization that has not been co-opted by the Museveni regime and the U.S. foreign policy agenda, the organization would inform the world that General Museveni, who has now stolen three elections in a row in Uganda is the first person who deserves to be arrested.

This Ugandan and East African nightmare gets a blank check from Washington simply because he has deployed Ugandan soldiers to Somalia at the behest of the United States. So democracy, human rights abuses, and genocide, become minor nuisances as far as U.S. foreign policy goes and as far as Invisible Children cares. This is beyond hypocrisy. Those members of Invisible Children who may have supported this misguided project to send more U.S. troops to Africa because they were unwittingly deceived, should do some serious soul searching.

Museveni does not care for the plight of children in Uganda's Acholi region. How else would he have herded 2 million Acholis in concentration camps for 20 years where, according to the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO), more than 1,000 children, women and men died of planned neglect--lack of medical facilities; lack of adequate food; dehydration, and; lack of sanitation and toilet facilities. Does this sound like a person who cares about children?

His colleagues have denounced Acholis as "backwards" and as "biological substances." General Museveni himself revealed an interesting pathology, as a first class racist African when he told Atlantic Monthly Magazine, in September 1994: "I have never blamed the whites for colonizing Africa; I have never blamed these whites for taking slaves. If you are stupid, you should be taken a slave." Ironically --or perhaps not-- the general was even more embraced by Washington after those remarks. Gen. Museveni has been a U.S. ally since the days of Ronald Reagan.

So why does Invisible Children only go after Kony while leaving Museveni alone when in fact they are two sides of the same coin?

These young folks who run Invisible Children are extremely dangerous to the welfare of Ugandans and other Africans should they succeed in broadening U.S. military presence in Africa. If the United States were truly interested purely in eliminating Kony why deploy now when Kony abandoned Uganda in 2006 when he was negotiating a peace deal that ultimately collapsed, with Museveni.

While Kony and his fighters were camped at Garamba in Congo, as agreed upon during peace negotiations, who was it that launched a military attack with planes and helicopters in December 2008? It was Gen. Museveni, with U.S. assistance. The peace negotiations, which
months of study, I determined that Obama is just a puppet of the Pentagon and Wall Street. More recently, I was asked to co-sponsor the Indiana Genocide Prevention Summit on March 31st. I belong to the Indiana Peace and Justice Network and the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center and each of these groups were asked to sponsor the summit. The groups putting on the event are Invisible Children, Citizens for Global Solutions, Enough: The Project to End Genocide and United to End Genocide. I suggested to both groups that were asked to co-sponsor that we first investigate who these groups are and who is funding them. It turns out that Citizens for Global Solutions is lockstep with American foreign policy as it involves the expanding US influence worldwide. That group supported the Iraq war, the Libyan war and now supports the overthrow of the Syrian nation. A few friends and myself were able to stop a co-sponsoring of the Genocide Summit based upon google research.

I came across an Alternet article tonight and they focused on Invisible Children. Your story struck a nerve with me and thank you for exposing this effort to recolonize Africa. As you know, AFRICOM is now stationed in Germany because of the valid mistrust among African nations. Libya has always been the front door for European nations into Africa and now the US troops into Uganda is just the beginning of US efforts there.

I am hoping to have some people protest the Genocide Summit because of its hidden agenda. Your article has helped us in that regard.

Date: March 9th, 2012
Name: Dave Adams
Subject: Kony, AFRICOM
Comment: By putting the video and the message they did, IC has caused discussion, education, awareness and sympathy that some people did not have before. Case and point: The IC's actions caused you to write this article which, in turn, caused people to read about the other side of the story, which caused people to question the IC, which created even more awareness and education about what's going on in Uganda and Africa. So, you see, no matter what the IC's propaganda is, it's causing others to..

Editor's Note: Yes, We thank Invisible Children...

Date: March 9th, 2012
Name: Paul Chin
Subject: Meh
Comment: The financial gain argument is a little old and has been addressed, time and time again. This is not to advocate against doing ones own research and thinking critically, but, all things considered, I simply feel as if most of this editorial is simply sensationalist in its bias.

I'm still digging deeper into the facts so that I can make my own informed decision, but I'm also considering context. IC is a non-profit based on the plight of children. It's pretty straightforward, actually.

Date: March 9th, 2012
Name: branislav jovanovic
Subject: excellent

had been embraced by traditional and religious leaders in Acholi region, collapsed. According to Jan Egeland, the former U.N Under-Secretary General for humanitarian affairs, Museveni also wanted to pursue a military approach and even ridiculed his own attempts to negotiate peace.

Immediately more killings ensued --this time in Congo; and since Museveni and Kony are two sides of the same coin, it's unclear who committed the atrocities in Garamba after the abortive attack.

After the attacks the LRA scattered into the Central African Republic. One would imagine that if the U.S. and Invisible Children were really interested in Kony, the deployment would have been to Central African Republic.

The young folks behind Invisible Children don't understand the conflict in Uganda; yet they have made themselves the spokespersons. They have campaigned and convinced some celebrities, including Rihanna and P. Diddy, to tweet their half-truth propaganda film. This is a way to have one-sided or impartial information become the "dominant truth" globally, and drown out critical analyses.

It's like a group of impressionable White youngsters coming to Harlem and saying: we see you have major crises, let us tell you what's the solution. Who would accept such misguided and destructive arrogance? If it's unacceptable in Harlem, it must also be rejected in Uganda's Acholi region.

Acholi traditional leaders, religious leaders, and members of Parliament in Uganda, have all opposed further militarization. But they are not in a position to express their views on CNN or in The New York Times, or to make a slick documentary, such as Invisible Children's. What's more, they're not accorded the presumptive credibility that are often bestowed to White analysts when compared to native Ugandans.

Yet, rather than listen to the cries of Uganda’s traditional and religious leaders who live in the war-devastated regions, Invisible Children has decided to produce a beautiful documentary with an ugly agenda that only escalates conflict and endorses Gen. Museveni. Who really believes it's a good thing for the United States to be sending troops to Uganda or anywhere in Africa? Why would these troops act any differently than those sent to Iraq and Afghanistan?

The U.S. government and Invisible Children are using the brutal Joseph Kony as a bogeyman to justify the U.S. long-term plan, which is to impose AFRICOM on Africa. Since everyone knows about Kony's atrocities, who would object if the U.S. sends 100 U.S. "advisers" to help Uganda, after all? Brilliantly devious. Of course it never stops at 100 "advisers." That was the announced deployment; there are probably more U.S. troops in the region. Even before the deployment some had already been training Museveni's soldiers. And more will come; unannounced.

AFRICOM, the ultimate objective, would allow the U.S. to be able to counter resource-hungry China by having boots on the ground near the oil-rich northern part of Uganda, South Sudan, Congo’s region bordering Lake Albert, and the Central African Republic. The troops
Comment: IC has started a medieval witch hunt with modern tools. It’s scary to see ego-trip of the maker who proclaims without any humbleness: “Daddy will work on making sure he is caught. If we succeed, we change the course of human history.” It’s easy to put blame on someone (preferably a black person) in faraway country on the other continent. What about pedophile catholic priest among the ‘Great white population’ who are responsible for over 7,000,000 documented abuses of children – which is just normal.

Date: March 9th, 2012
Name: Tony Cartalucci
Subject: Kony 2012 Analysis is Amazing
Comment: The editorial above regarding Kony 2012 was a breathtaking piece of geopolitical analysis the likes of which I rarely see, but from a handful of sharp intellects. I will do all in my power to ensure these words are read far and wide. Thank you whoever wrote this!

Date: March 9th, 2012
Name: Mzamo Mncibi
Subject: Comment
Comment: But then there is a fallacy I spotted in your article: a false dichotomy. The video does clearly paint an evil picture of Joseph Kony because he clearly is. With that being said it does not say anything on the other guy’s character so we don’t have enough information to say whether it stands for or against him. What you’re assuming is that just because it says nothing about and so much about the other then it supports one of them. That’s not necessarily true. The video seeks to get one.

Editor’s Note: We know one or two things about what we write...Google search as recommended in the commentary. Don’t swallow apologia.

Date: March 8th, 2012
Name: Me
Subject: Excellent
Comment: When I first learned about the Kony 2012 cause (about a day ago) I knew something sounded fishy. I didn’t want to jump on a bandwagon, I see it as a ploy for the US to further invade the Continent. Keep up the good writing.

Date: March 8th, 2012
Name: Hannington Nyeko
Subject: Invisible Children
Comment: Invisible Children cannot mention Yoweri for crime against children, that’s a clue about their mission. Kony and Yoweri are criminals. Invisible Children found a golden opportunity to make money out of misery of children. Currently war survivors, children, are dying of nodding disease; no treatment or care for them yet somebody claim to care. Feeding people with lies is something the Invisible Children should review. To betray the trust of the people who rely on them for information is wrong.

Date: March 8th, 2012
Name: James Willfall
Subject: Stats Error
Comment: In the line: according to the United Nations’ World Health

would also be near by in case a decision is made to support regime-change in Khartoum, Sudan. After all, the U.S. foreign policy reasoning is that since Sudan’s president Omar Hassan al-Bashir and his defense minister have both been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), few would shed tears for them.

The U.S. is aware that African countries oppose AFRICOM. So what does the U.S. do? Go after a "devil" and in this case it’s Kony. Tell the world—with the help of Invisible Children—that our mission is to help rid Uganda of this "devil"; who by the way is hiding somewhere in Central African Republic, while the dictator who most recently stole elections last February, sits in Kampala and meets with U.S. officials and leaders of Invisible Children.

If the real target was simply Joseph Kony, the U.S. would have used an armed predator drone; this is how the U.S. has eliminated several suspected leaders of Al-qaeda and the Taleban, after all.

It doesn't seem that Invisible Children is an independent do-good save-the-children outfit. They are paving the way—with Kony, brutal as he is, as the bogeyman—for AFRICOM.

Kony is a nightmare, but Museveni has caused the deaths of millions of people in Rwanda, Uganda and Congo. In 2005 the International Court of Justice found Uganda liable for what amounts to war crimes in Congo: mass rapes of both women and men; disemboweling pregnant women; burning people inside their homes alive; massacres and; plunder of resources. Congo lost six million people after Uganda’s occupation of parts of Congo. The Court awarded Congo $10 billion in reparations; not a dime has been paid.

Congo then referred the same crimes to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague for war crimes charges. On June 8, 2006, The Wall Street Journal reported that Gen. Museveni personally contacted Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary General and asked him to block the criminal investigation.

It seems that the U.S. and ICC Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo might have indeed obliged. Gen. Museveni and senior Ugandan military commanders remain un-indicted for the alleged crimes that the ICJ already found Uganda liable; only one side of the same coin, Kony was indicted. Prosecutor Ocampo is also totally discredited; readers should Google "Ocampo and South African journalist case."

There is another documentary that tries to explain the Ugandan tragedy, in a more sober manner, unlike Invisible Children's slick propaganda piece.

Hopefully this commentary will motivate people to do their research and demand that the international community deal with both Kony and Museveni.

Hopefully more people will also do their own research and not be vulnerable to slick propaganda such as Invisible Children's.

For example, readers can Google terms such as "Yoweri Museveni and Congo genocide," "Museveni and Kony," "Museveni and and Rwanda genocide," "Museveni and Acholi genocide," and "U.S. support for dictator Museveni."