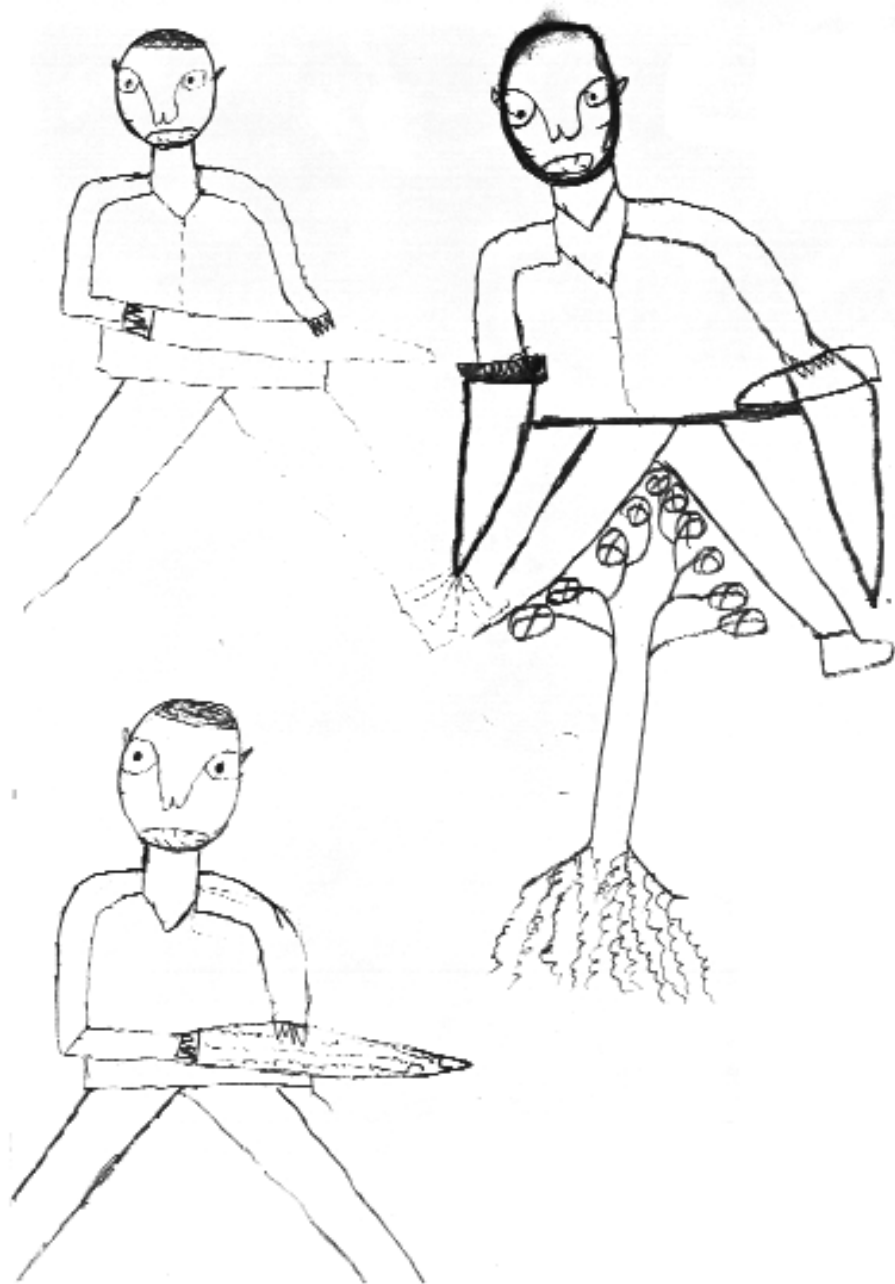




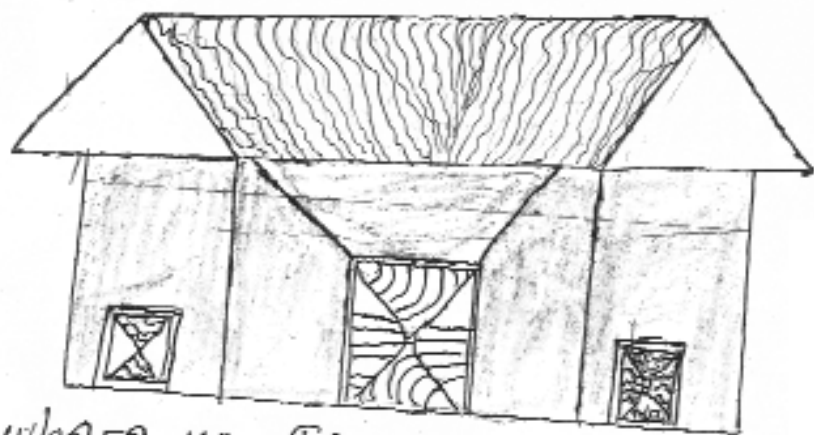
Dulbur wheel

Sumo Warilaj Date 5/11/2005 Grade 4BK

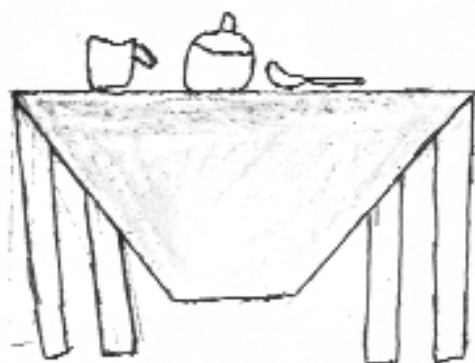


John Y. Folokulah
I am 15 year of age

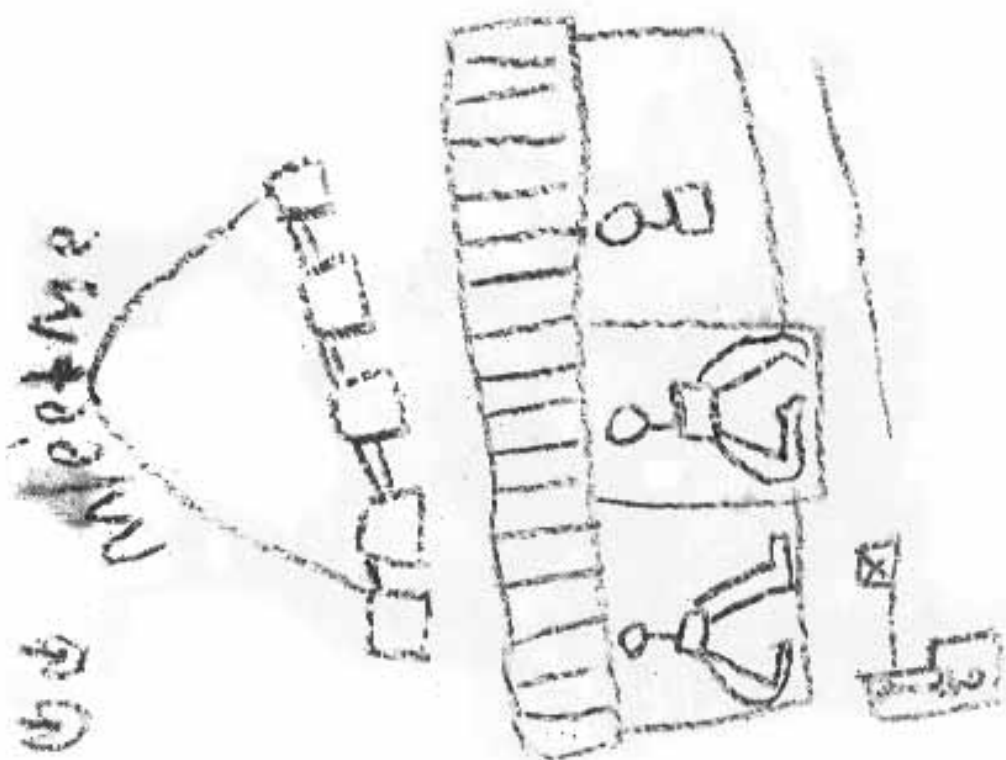
This is where I live. A beautiful place, Let me tell you to a place like this. you will not like to return



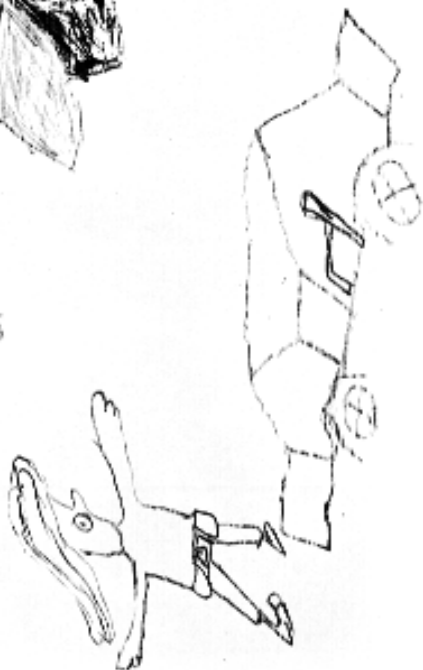
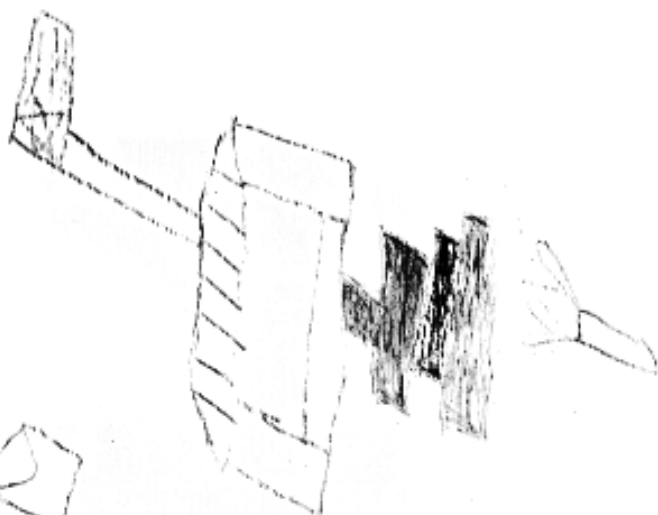
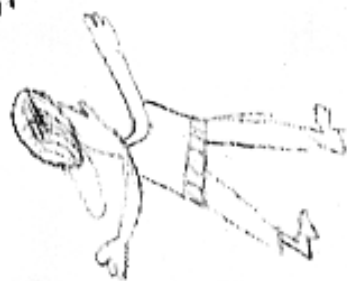
where you From.



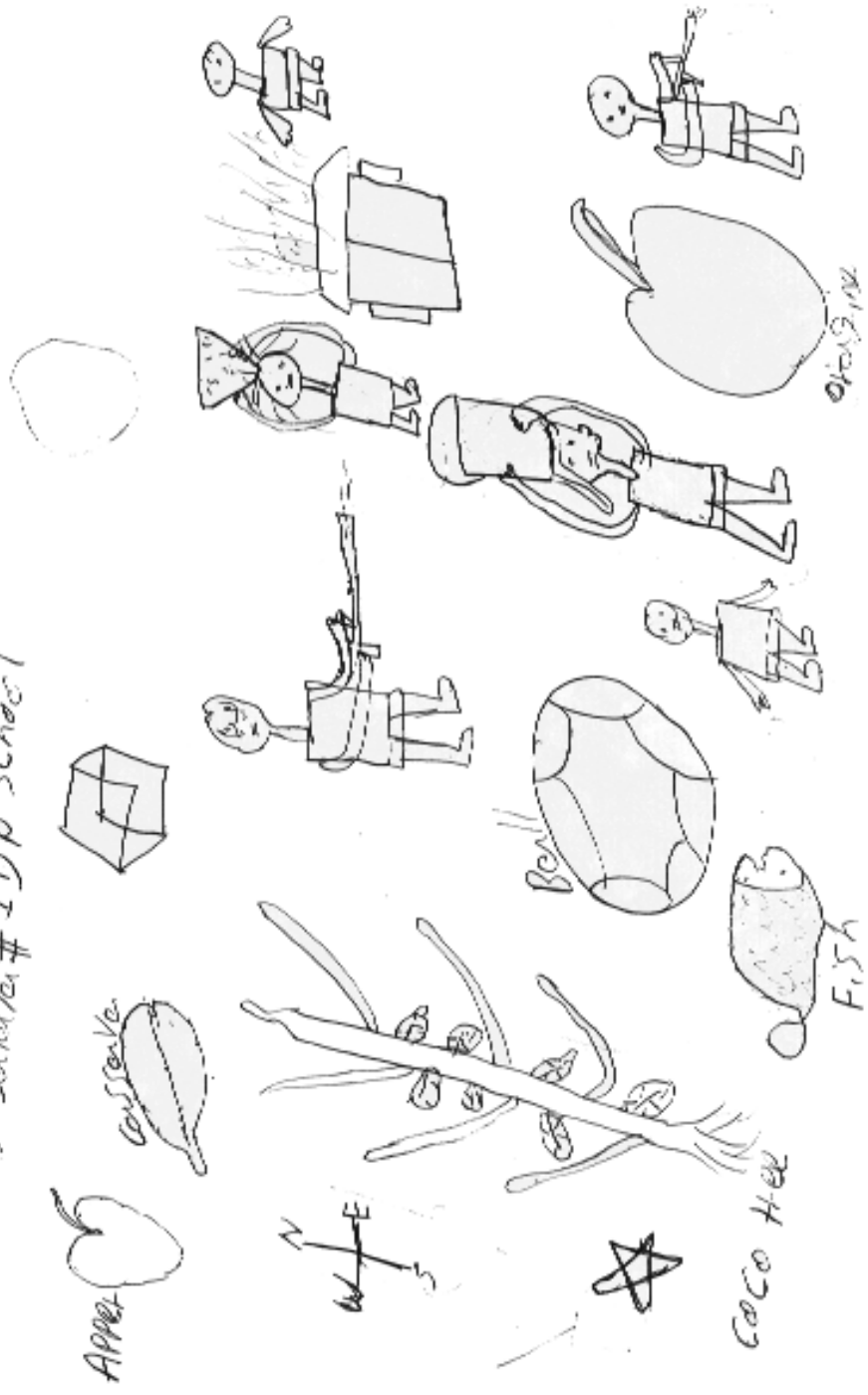
This is my Table were I used to eat a nice food and be Healthy.



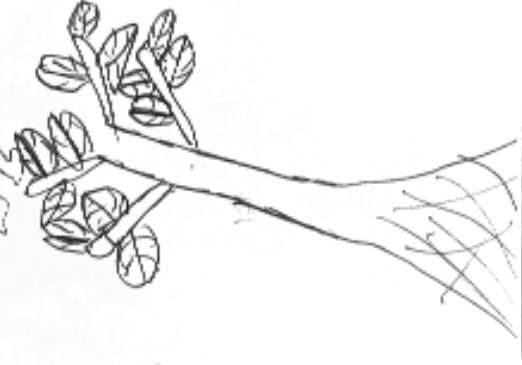
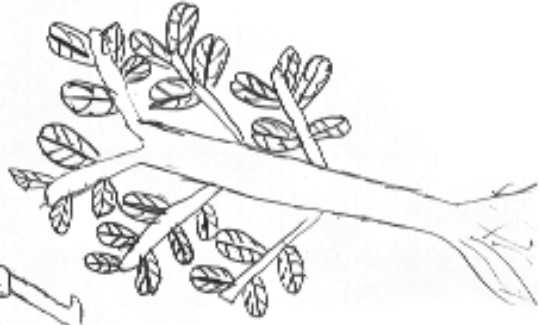
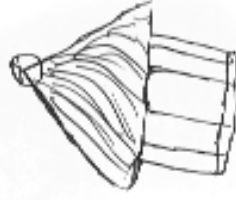
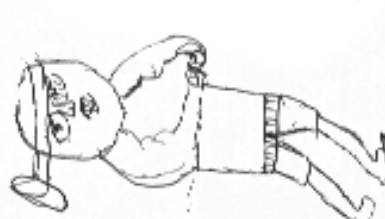
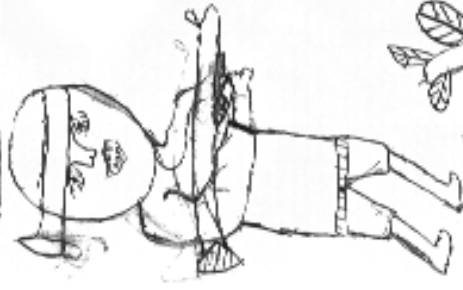
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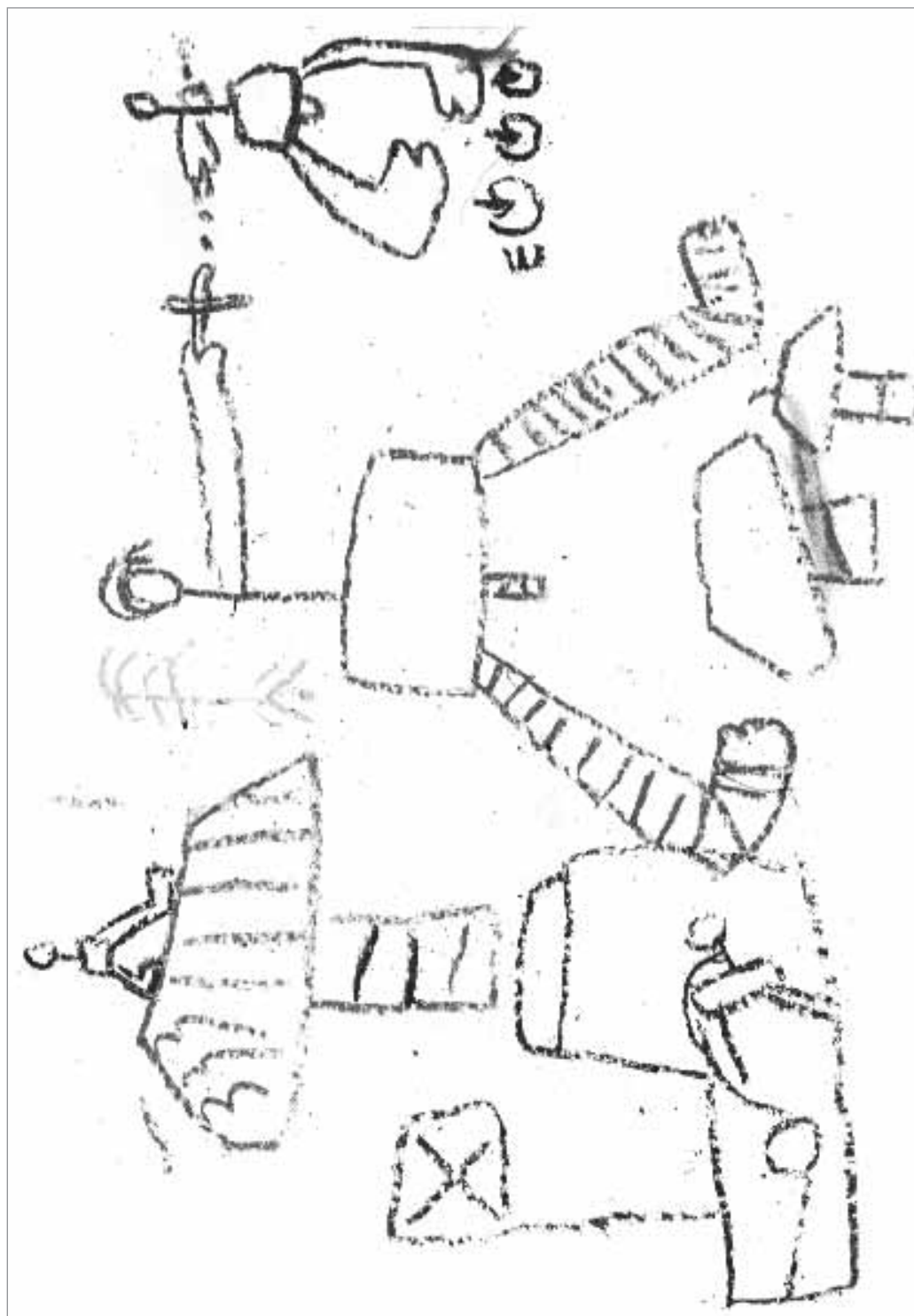


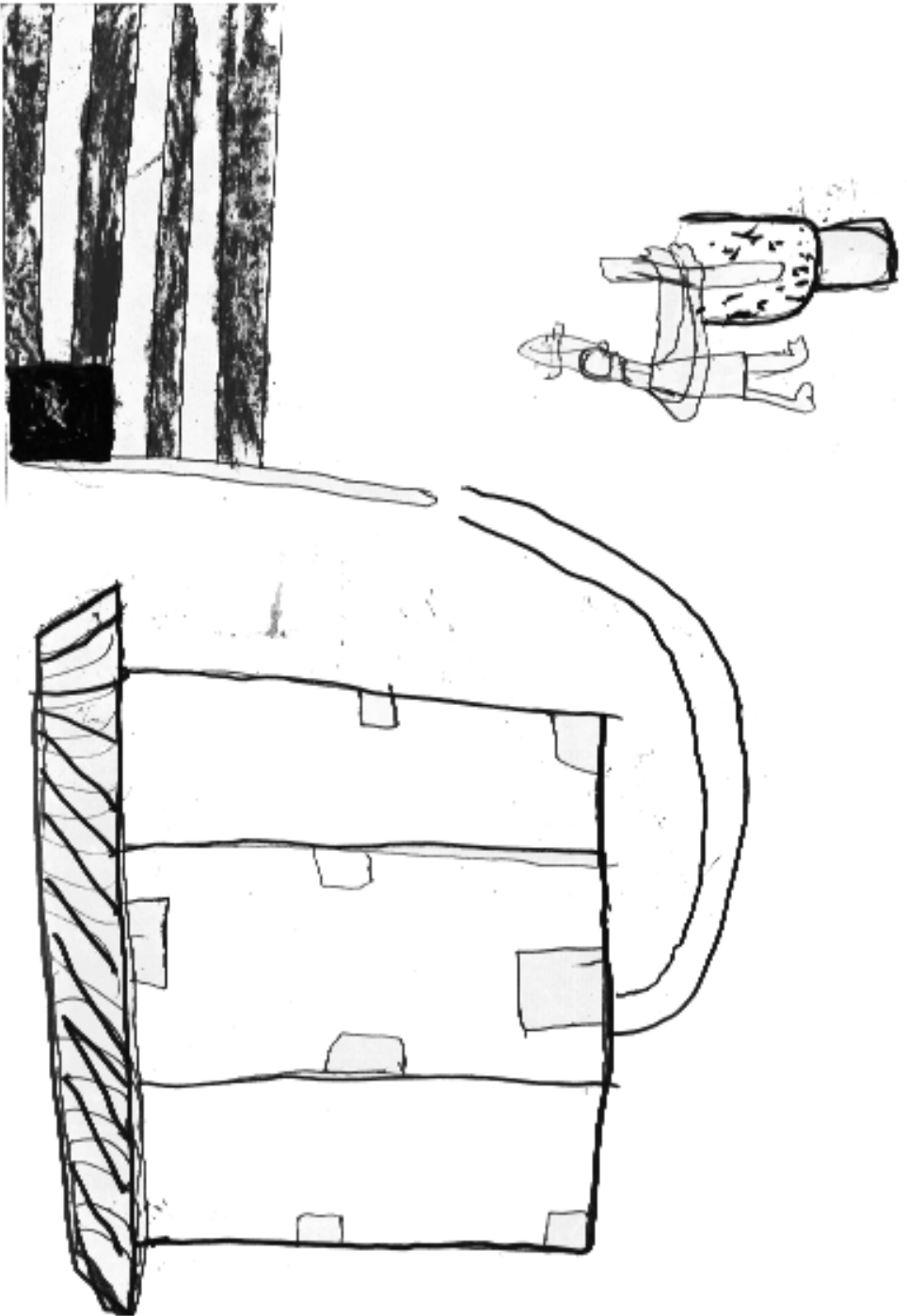
Grade 3M Design with a CKA Big town Sit/
 May-12--2005 Interview # IDP School



KEZOLEC D. Tundu Grade 3 B 6 Year Day 12 2005



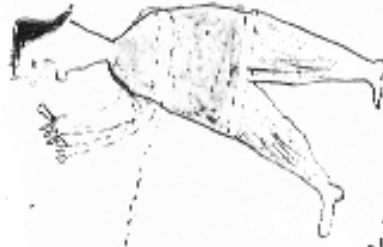




Salala I.D.P School

Stephen G. Zamaku

Age 22 Grade 9th
5/3/05



Let go to the next
town.



you going to die.
I beg you not to die
Kill me

Two Krubo wolebah I am 16 years old



Present

Korto Dolo (8^o)

I am a student of the above mentioned, my experience is what has taken place in my life. I have been suffering because of war. I started my school since 1997 and because of the war I am behind. I was in Lofa county going to school. When the war started we began to run from place to place. no where to sleep, there was no school to attend so my parent took me to this school. My hope here is to learn, so dear helper help me so I can help myself

You say we are your future. Liberia can you see what is going on? Nothing will stop my education besides God, God will bless all of you for helping us

We are losing our parents, our friends are dying, we are dying because of war. My life is education. Now we want to go home to build school houses. We don't want no more war in our country.

Thank you for your understanding.

Tarnue Mayayeh (3^o)

This is my home. I and going to school Salala 2 IDP

I am coming form Lofa county Vonjama city. In my home my mother used to cook rice for us in loaf. My father used to make farm for us. My class teacher name is Mr. Gbouam. My mother, father, brothers, sister and I are living in the displace camp. We are going JRS school we all are displced in Salala. The World Food Programme supports us in Salala I.D.P. camp.

We want to go home. We are tired with the displace
JRS supports us with books and pen.

My father is working with W.F.P.

My brother is working with JRS

MSF is helping us with medicines,

Red cross helps us to get our family

Ox fam helps us to get water

L.W.F. helps us with soap

G O Y F L O R - VANQUOI. 28 Year old



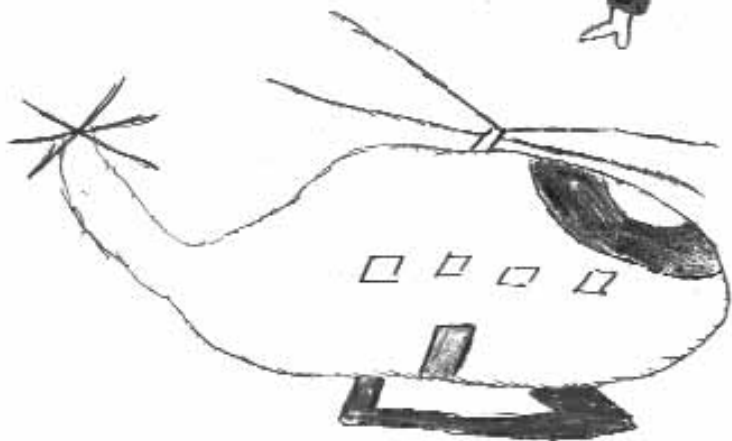
BOSCO MORLEY - 3B - 16 years old I was born
in 1990. This is the school building at the I.D.P
Camp



Peter. Flama Crole HB AG 14 Year

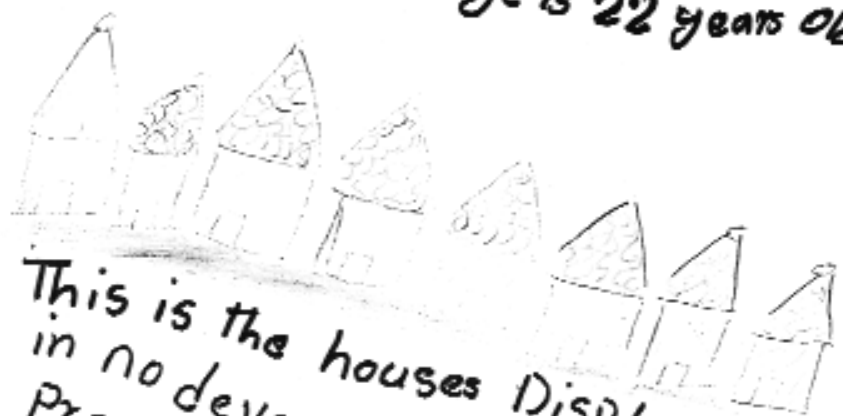


GUMOR
BANA
YEAR 15



6th Grade Name David Duwlor April 27/05

Age is 22 years old



This is the houses Displace live
in no development, we can^{not} receive
proper Food, no Materials things like
cloth, Footwear etc.

this is the another important
thing that I want to tell you people
We are fire living in this displace
life we want go home we are —
appling to ~~UN~~ UN to please
~~Can~~ Carry us to our very Various
Villages.

NAME: John Koiwa

AGE: 16

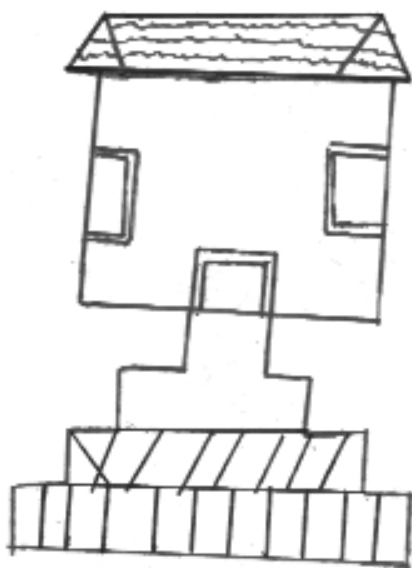


This is the place
where I take my
Food



Elomo Gellia Grade 4-B

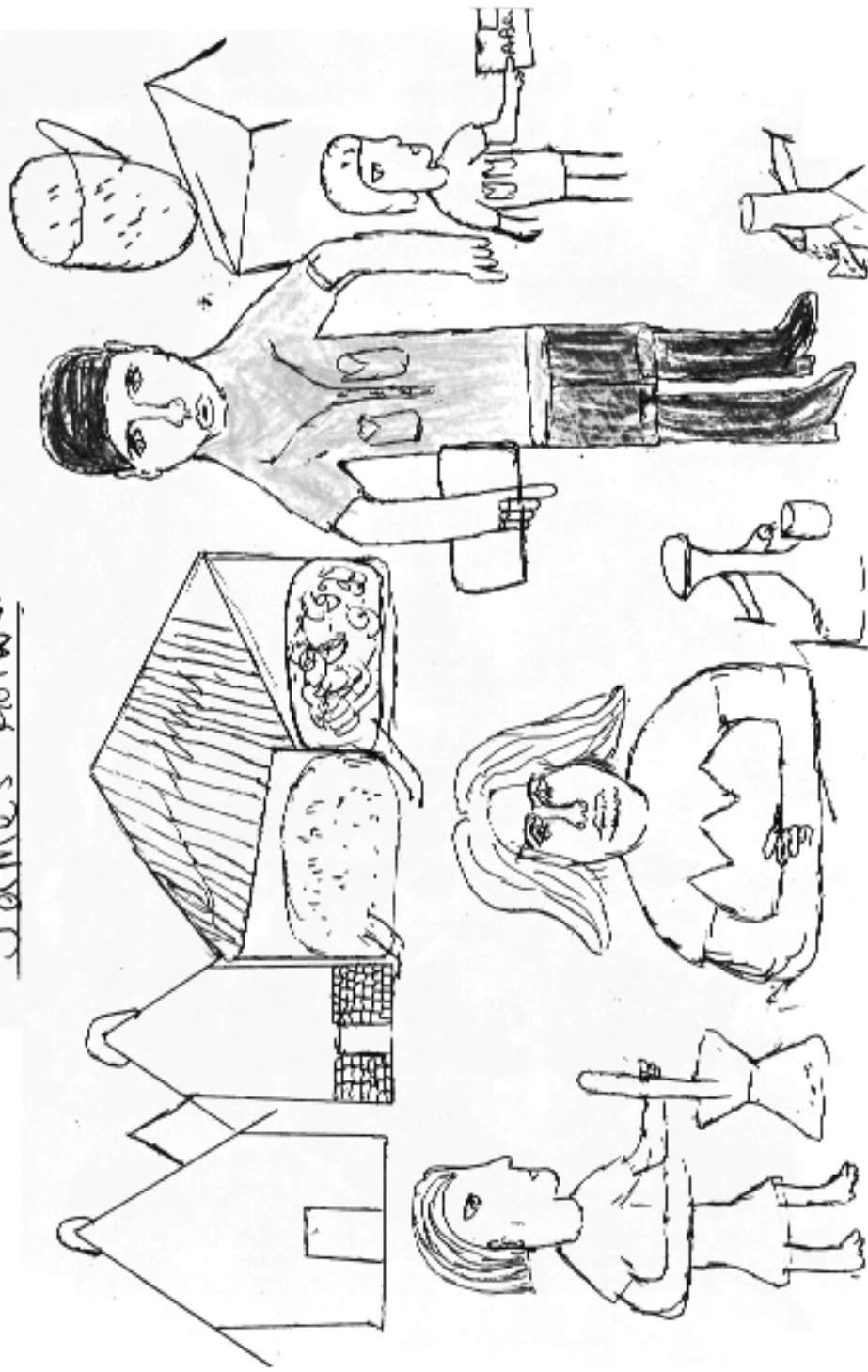
I am 16 years old



G o k a T a k a L



James Koiwu Age 19



Michael S. Andrews 18 year of age. April 26 1915

The car kills people on the
car road during the war.



The woman and the son are beating burger
weat to their house.



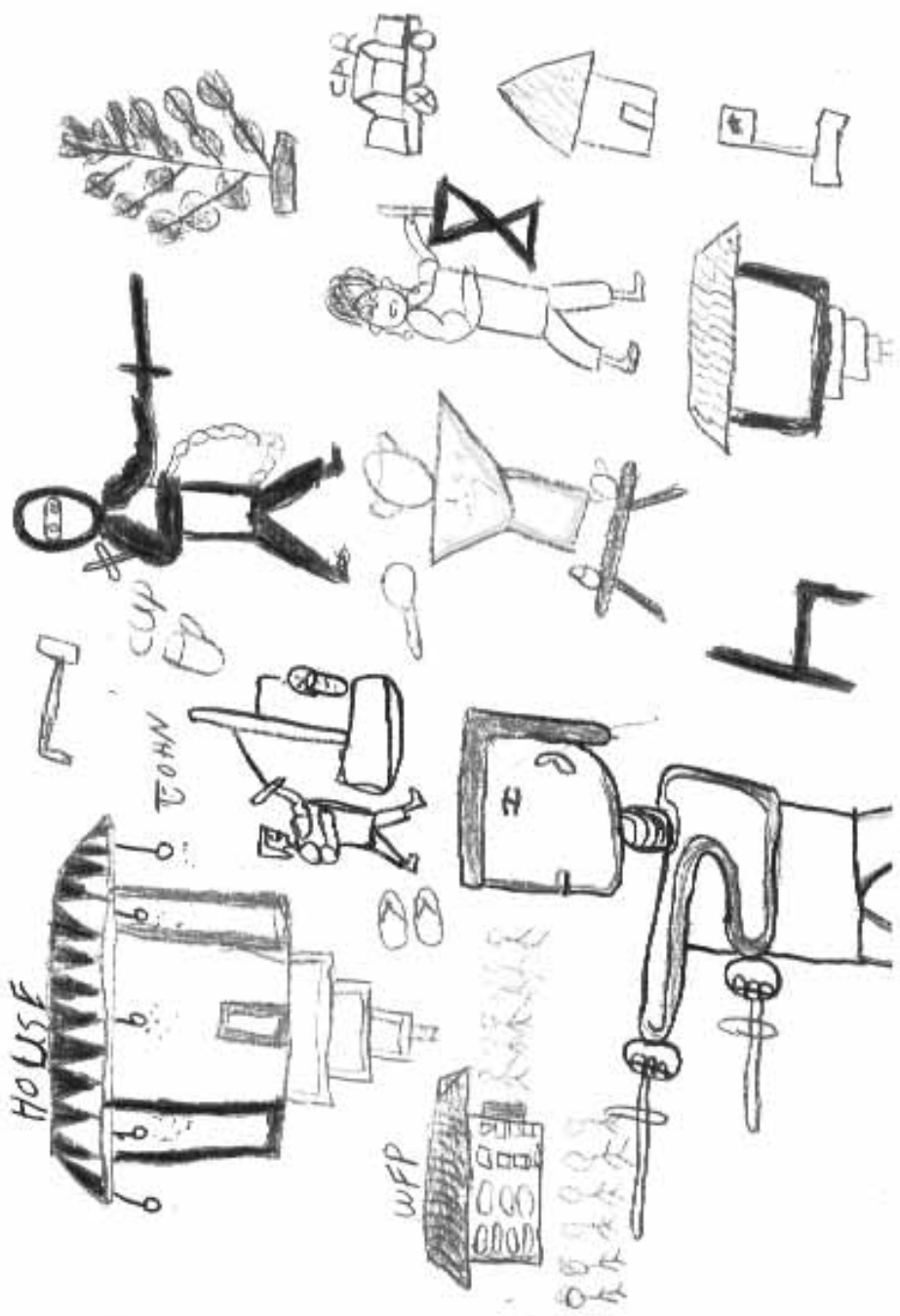
The girl
is going
for water



The boy carrying wood at home



WOLLIE SUMOB
HOUSE



WFP

JOHN

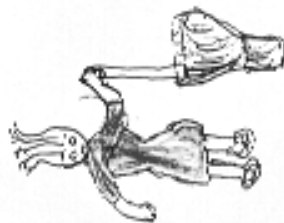
cup

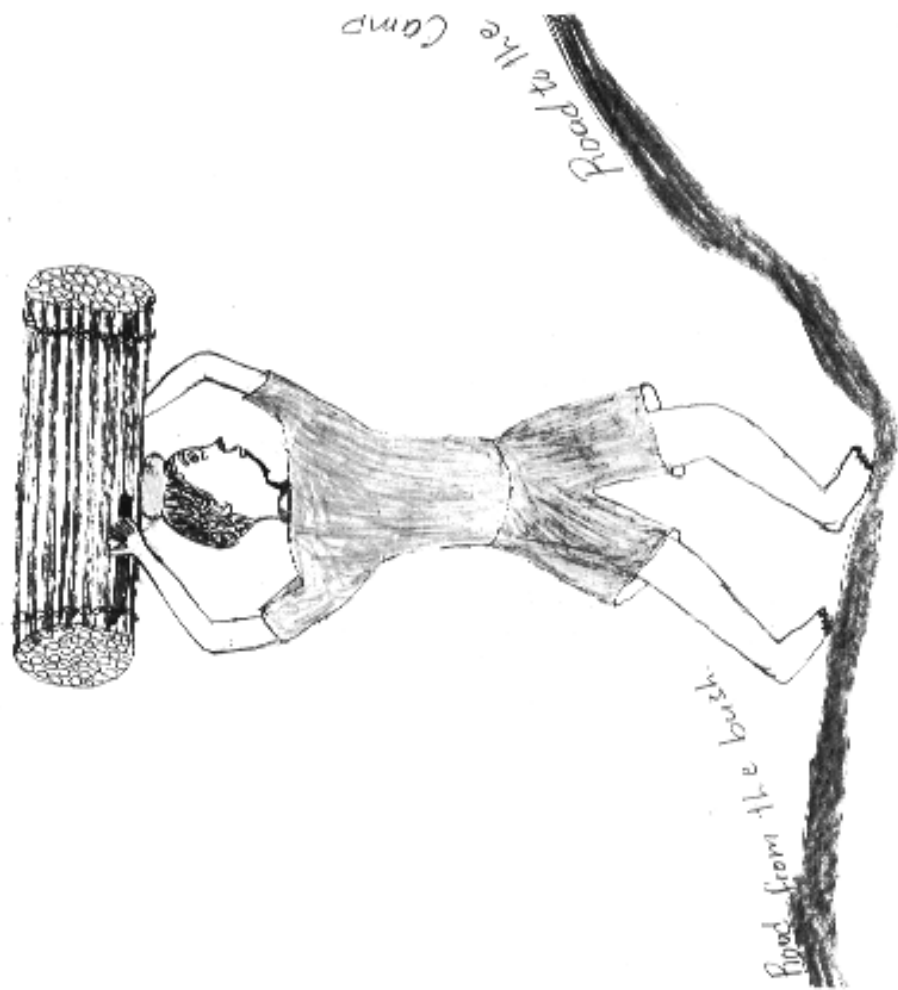
James Y. Muibah

I am 19 year of age

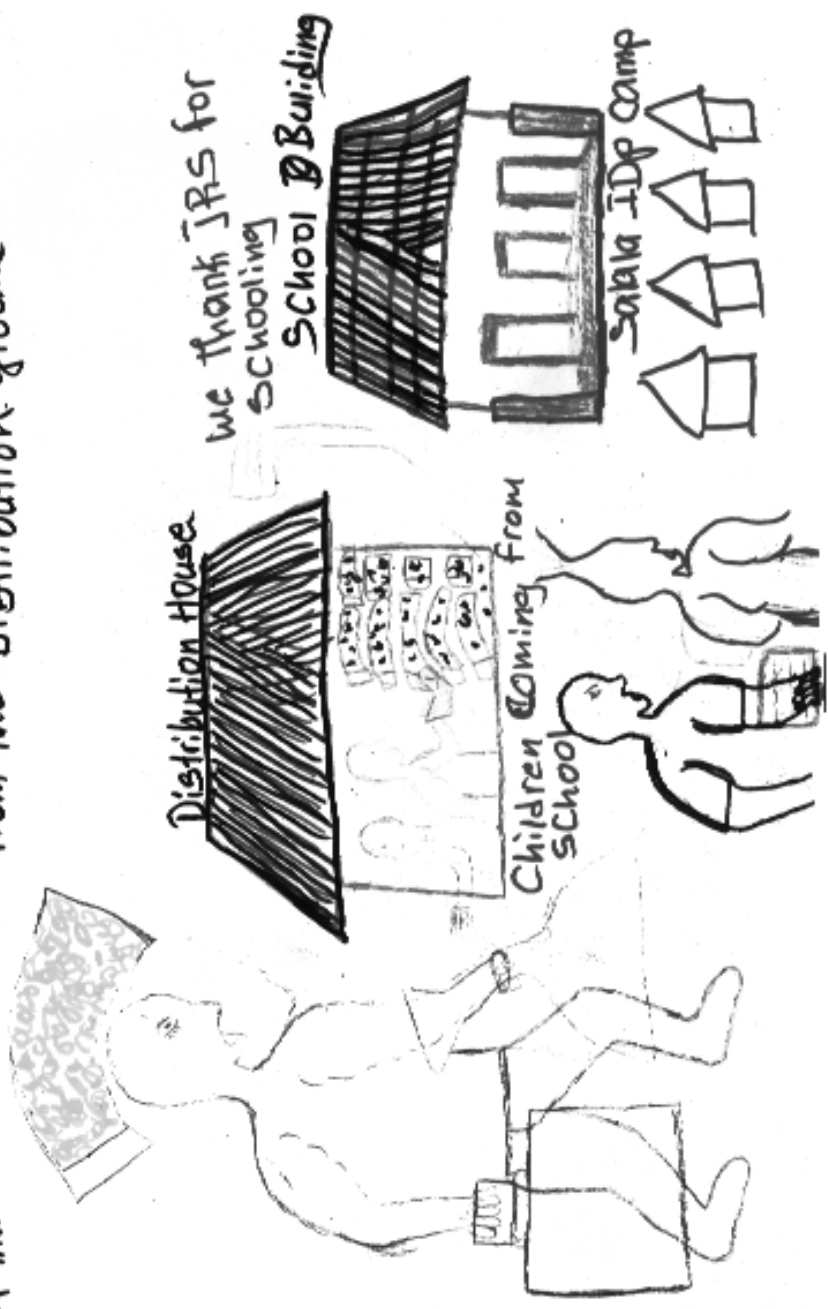


Singa Zaza Hasi-10 Grade 2A Class

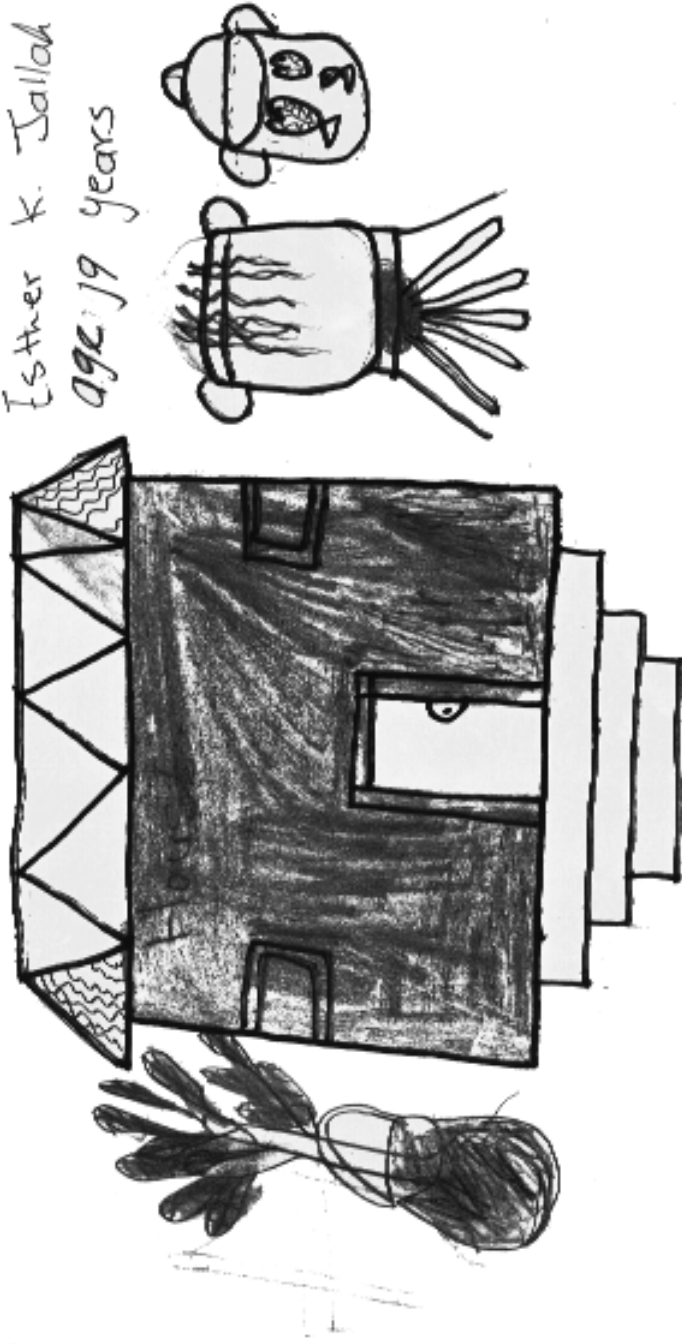




Emmanuel K. Baysah 18 year old 4/27/0005
A man with his material from the Distribution ground



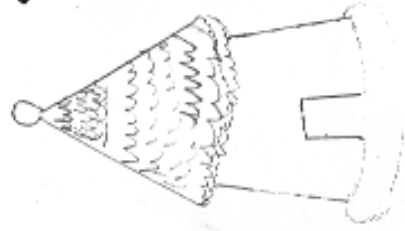
Esther K. Jallah
age 19 years



This is my House and also this is
the pot that I ^{can} Cook in, in this Camp

Name: John M. Joekollie AGE 22 years

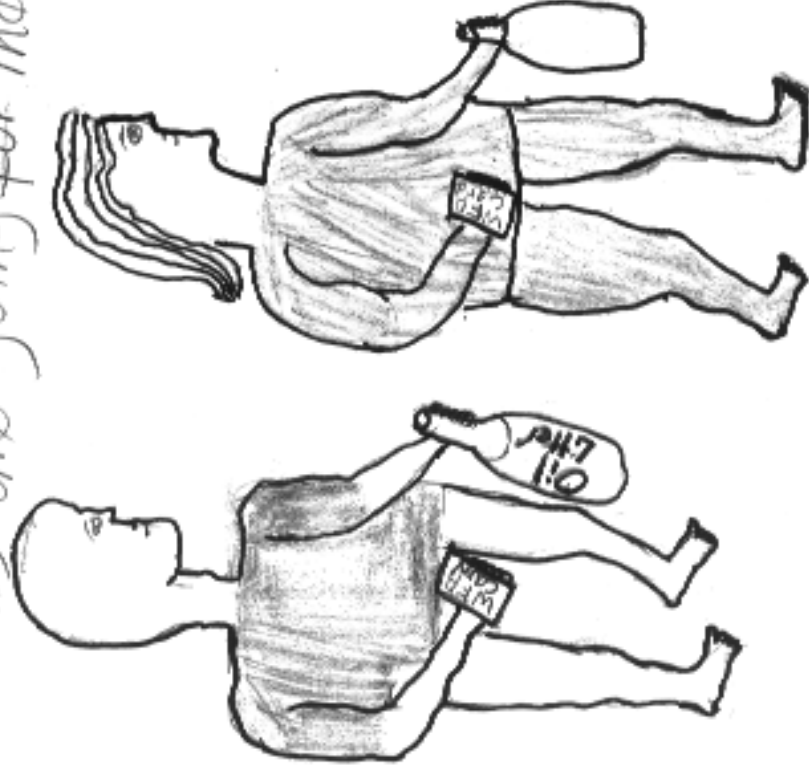
This is the fire that was
behind us.



you are going to die

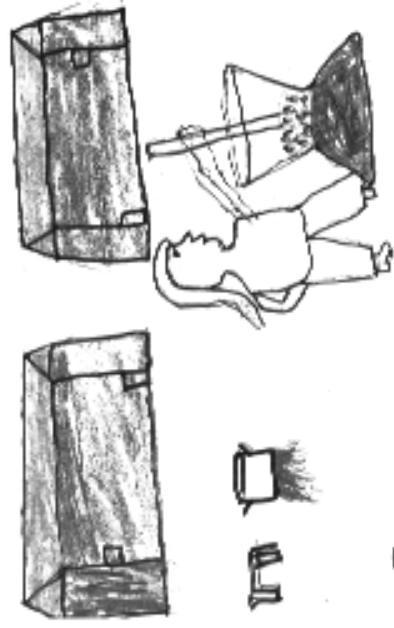
Paul G. Kollie Age 18

They are going for their foods





F. Edwin K. Connor - Ages 25



The men is
drawing water
from the pump

Salala I D P Camp
Block-M-Quarter-3.

Future

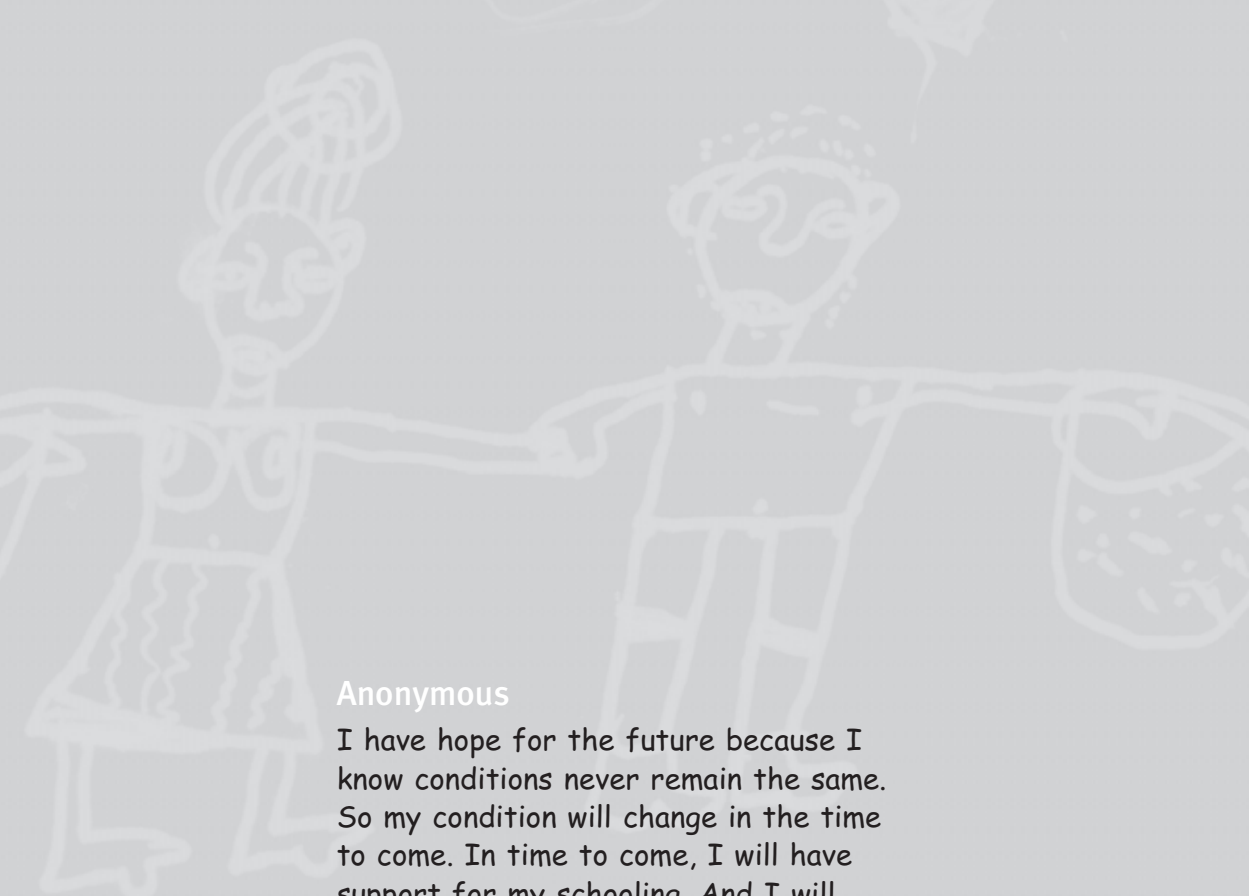
Harris Flomo (2^o)

They will carry us in our home and we will be going to school I will land both for me and my family. My father and my mother will send me to school. I will make farm for my mother and my father. I will kill the animals we eat. I will land for our people in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, again are will cult palm for my mother. I will live with my mother and my father. I will be a doctor when I grow up I will help my family.

Massayan Jallah (8^o)

In my life when I was in Lofa county I used to eat good food and attend good school but since I left from Lofa county I face serious problems to get money in the IDP's camp. As for the school I thank God that JRS is supporting us in the IDP school.

In my life I will like to be a President for Liberia to develop my country and to help the Liberian people in the future. Again in my life I will like to live in good areas where there is no war. Because war is not good, war can cause you to do any thing that is not good. Again when war is in the country there is no peace, no understand, no education.



Anonymous

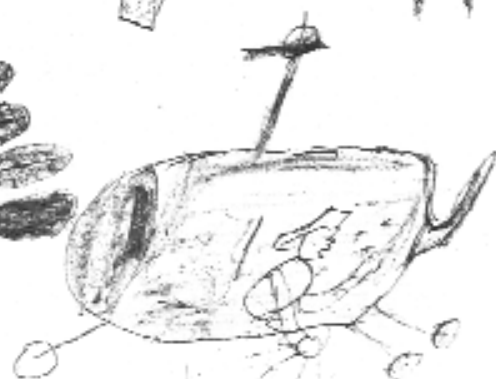
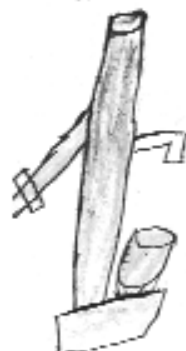
I have hope for the future because I know conditions never remain the same. So my condition will change in the time to come. In time to come, I will have support for my schooling. And I will live a life that will please God. So no need to worry because I don't know what tomorrow will bring. As long as there is life, there is hope.

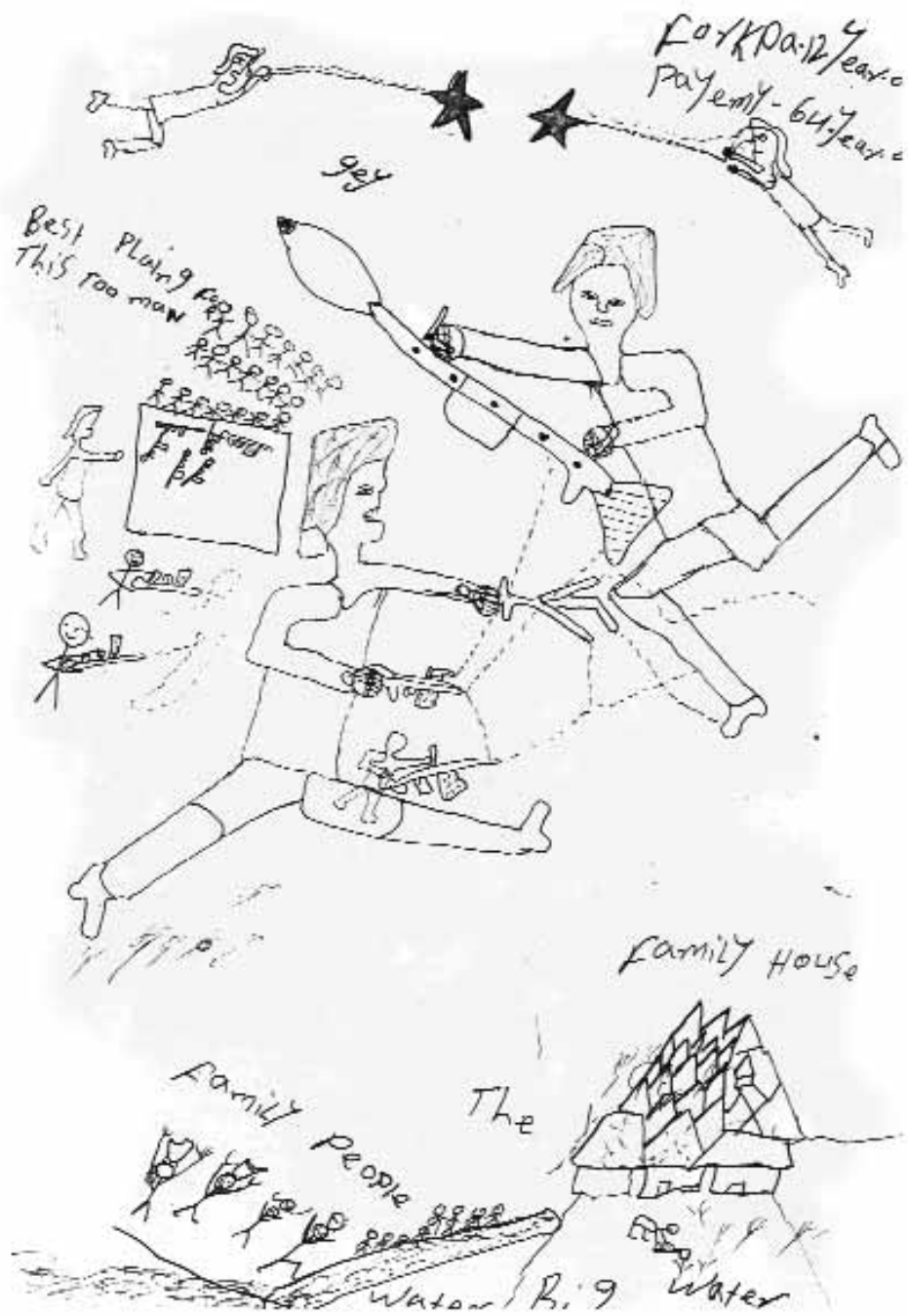
5/11/05 | Joseph Kallie, Fall 14

in Sam2000? color



Worksheet - Geography - Grade 7A





MARY PEWEE Year 15 year



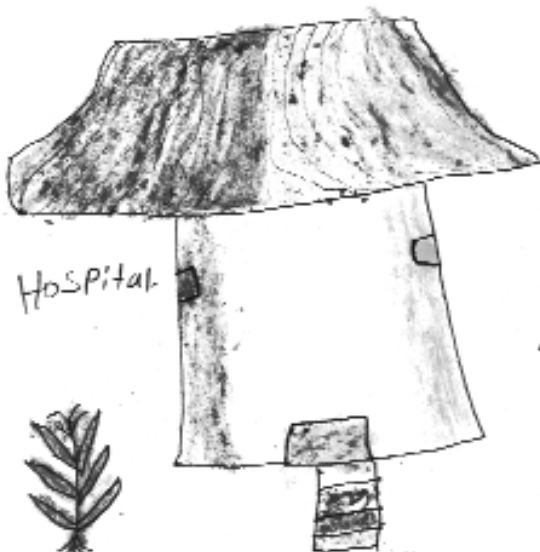


My life will be fine when I graduate from school
Because I will be working.



My life will be fine when
go to school. Because I will be
going to school.

Agnes K. Wordapelee
Age 16 year



Hospital



I am a nurse.



School Building.



I am going to school.

I pray to God For Good President in this Country
Liberia and for me to continue my education and
also to be a nurse



Subject Drawing Skill

MAY 17/05

Barkolleh Y. Sumo

Topic: How Your Life will be tomorrow.



School
Building

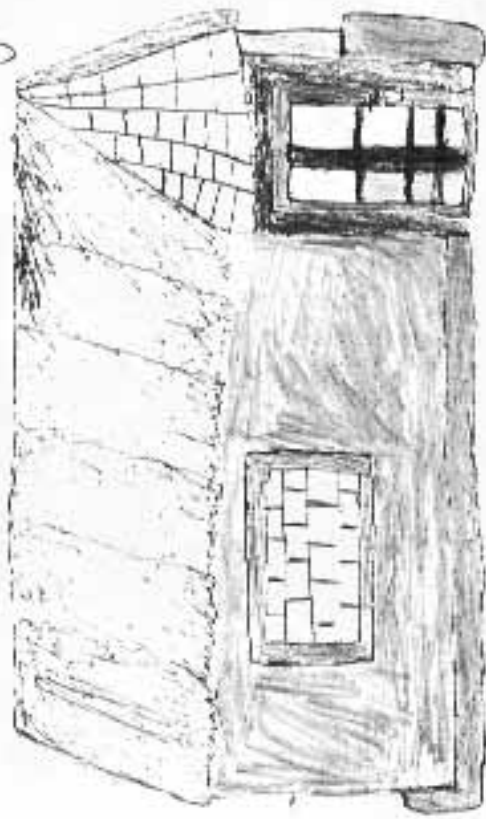


Elementary and
Junior and Sen.
high school



He is reading
about the good
news: And the
good news say
that peace, peace
come in Liberia.
let us have good
development in
our nation.

Tanne-F. Barbu ^{Exu} Grade

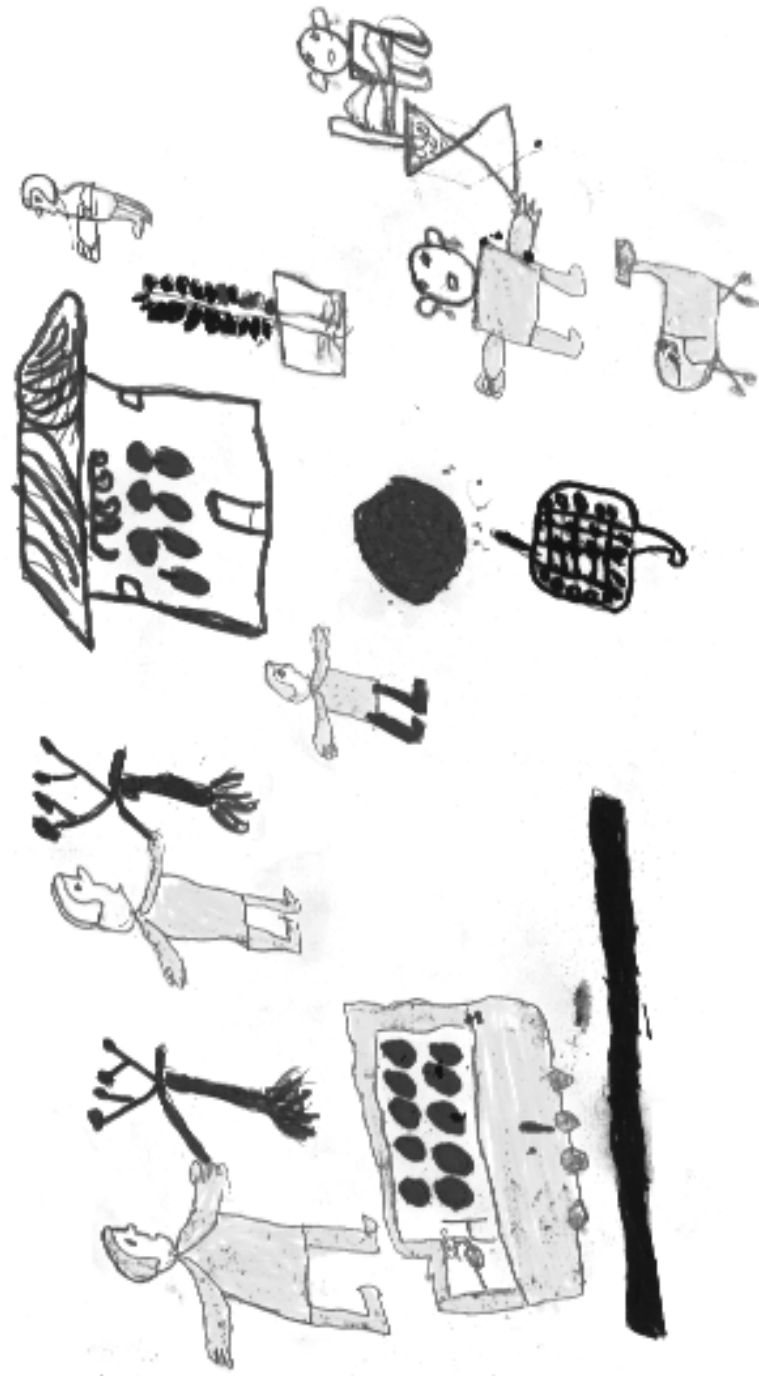


This will be my
life after the
Camp

PA-PAY@FLC.MO"
KGI-2

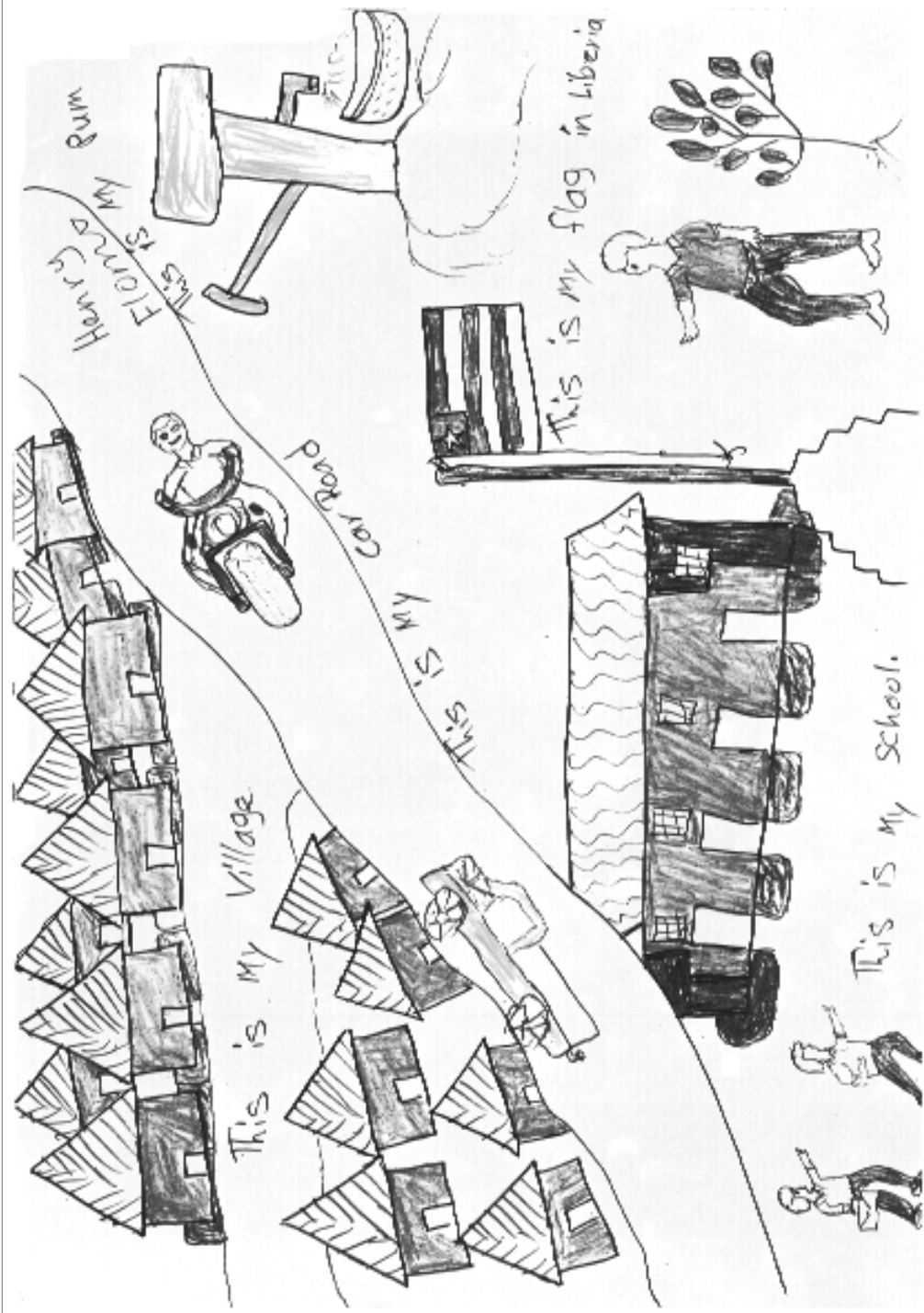
KG-2

11



Mrs. Mary Gooden
Age 15 Year Old





James Gayflor

In the year 1990 it was the time that war started in Liberia. People started killing people with guns, and also people dying with hunger. During that time people was suffering, at the time war broke out and people started to fight. During the year 1995 many Liberians lost their life. Because of Liberia war many people lost their material things and their life. During the year 2002 was the time when war broke out in Monrovia, people started suffering for food. And also people was looking for materials just for survival.

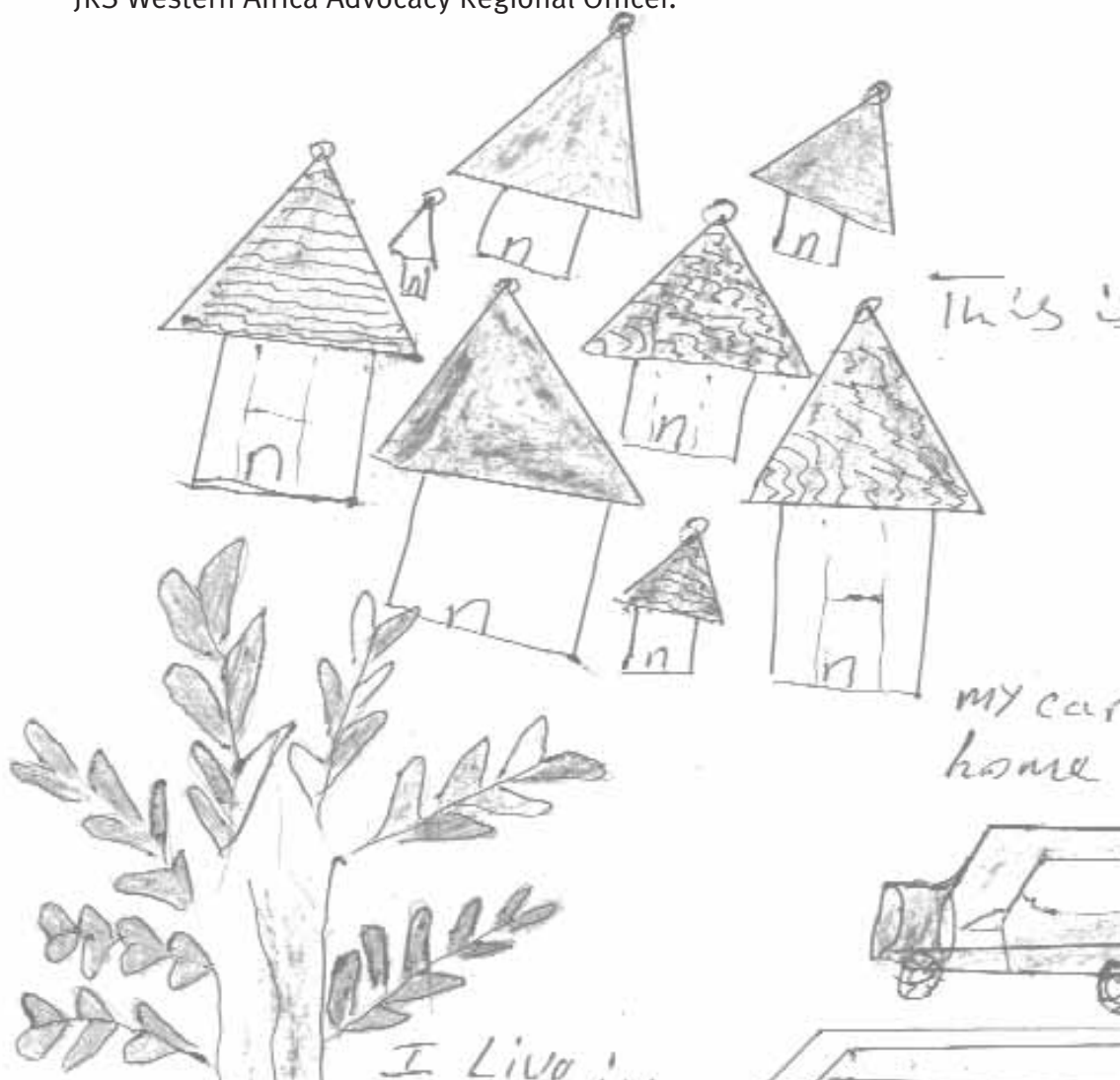
In the year 2004 was the time that WFP started to support the displace from Lofa. At that time the condition was so good with us in the camp. UN started to support the displace with soap, cooking materials, sleeping materials, and food so at they time I tell God thank you for my life. And also I can tell WFP thank you, because they are supporting the displace with wheat, oil, beans, coco, and salt. At the time war was fighting people could get common bugur wheat to eat so at this time I tell God thank you because I can get bugur wheat to eat. Before war could take me from my home, I was living in good condition people could not died with hunger.

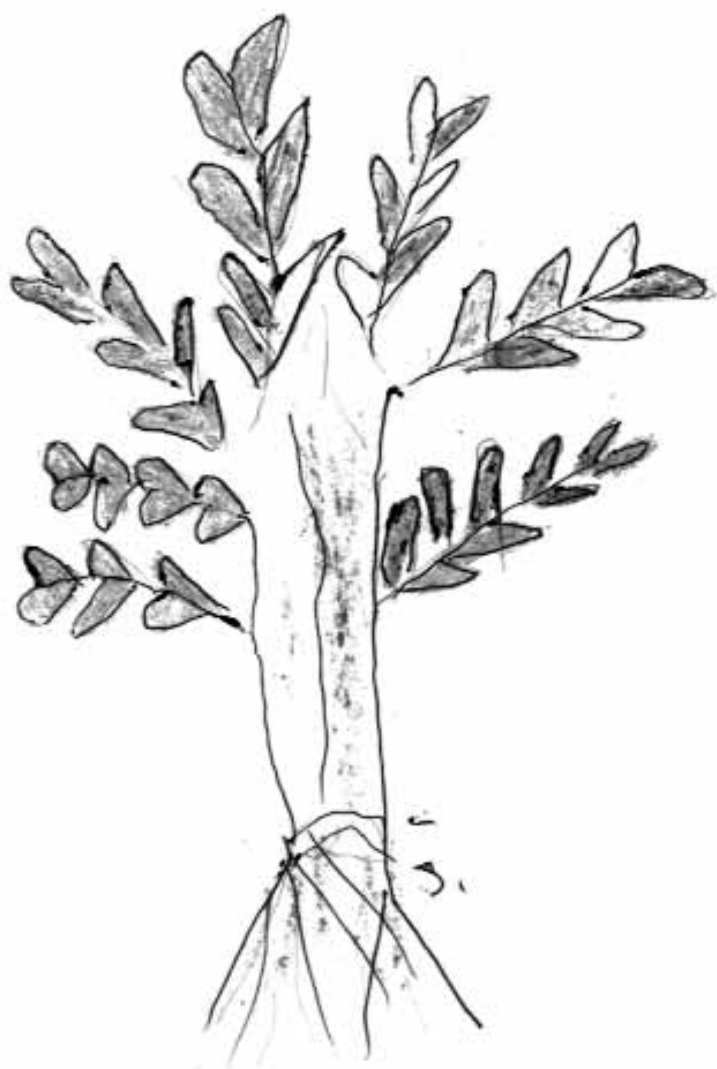
Chapter 4

A place to live

Gonzalo Sánchez-Terán.

JRS Western Africa Advocacy Regional Officer.





The children who lived in the Salala displaced camps in 2005 knew no other thing than war: since 1989 Liberia had been immersed in the brutal war which resulted in the deaths of a quarter of a million people. The majority of the parents of those children had known no other existence than political unrest and violence: since 1980, the moment in which a semi illiterate Samuel Doe, took control of the country. The country was devastated by ethnic cleansing and the merciless repression of any kind of opposition. In fact, in 2005 no Liberian person, however old they were, had ever experienced anything that could be considered as democracy: since the foundation of Liberia in 1847 all power and wealth had been hoarded by a well armed minority that was backed by the United States and which condemned the vast majority of people in Liberia to poverty and exclusion.

The investiture ceremony of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as president of Liberia, on January 16th, 2006, marked the start of a new era for this small West African country: for the first time Liberians had voted freely and without the threat of war for one of their own to put an end to a century and a half of war and injustice. The task that lies ahead of Johnson-Sirleaf is enormous: joining together the bits and pieces of a nation in ruins and finally making Liberia into a place where one can live in peace. You cannot start from the bottom: according to the International Monetary Fund even if the country enjoyed an annual growth rate of 10% during the next 25 years Liberia would not manage to reach any more than the situation in which the country found itself in 1980. With its infrastructure in ruins, a destroyed education system and with a Parliament filled with previous “warlords” and “rebel chiefs”, the new president insists that without the firm and constant support of the international community, Liberia may once again fall back

into the situation of war and this fall will drag other countries in the region into conflict.

Liberia lies at the heart of one of the poorest and most violent regions in the world. One cannot understand its civil war without understanding the political and social crisis which have shaken West Africa for decades. In October 2006 UNICEF stated that West Africa is still the worst place in the world to be a child. The wars in Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast, the dictatorships of Guinea and Togo, the droughts in the Sahel and the battles for power in Nigeria nourished and heightened the deep-rooted causes of the instability in Liberia. Surrounded by countries in crisis, full of weapons and with rising levels of unemployment, the international community must strive to solve both the daily problems of the population, mainly the children, who have spent years in internally displaced and refugee camps, and confront the structural problems that prevent dozens of countries from abandoning their underdeveloped condition and violence; so that history does not repeat itself.

Because it has already repeated itself: in the repatriation programs of 1991 and 1997 organised by the United Nations, up to 400,000 Liberian refugees returned to their homes, refugees who would soon have to flee their homes and rice fields again because war had once more broken out. Neither is the disarmament process of the last few years the first of its kind in Liberia: between 1996 and 1997 only in the region of Lofa, to the north-east of the country, the Ulimo K, the most powerful rebel force in the area handed in more than 700,000 pieces of ammunition. Seven months later, during the new disarmament process, 800,000 weapons were collected. The failed processes of reintegration, the absence of alternative employment and the general insecurity of the region are like barrels of petrol tipped onto a land which has been in flames for decades.

There are three problems that should focus the attention of the donor countries to avoid the cycle of violence starting up again: the situation of the child soldiers, unemployment and the lack of education among the young, and the chronic poverty of the region that forces many Africans towards violence or emmigration.



Child soldiers

Once the war had ended, boys and girls who had fought in any of the armed groups scattered around the Liberian territory started to arrive at the internally displaced camps of Salala and Monserrado and also the refugee camps in southern Guinea. Many were taking part in Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) programmes, others had simply abandoned their weapons and walked exhausted from who knows where. It is estimated that when were signed the peace agreements there were 21,000 child soldiers in Liberia, according to the definition of child soldiers in the Cape Town Principles which includes fighters, carriers, cooks, sexual slaves, etc. Of those 21,000 children only 12,000 have access to DDR programs. This means that thousands of children are still without any support, suffering the trauma of their past and sometimes the social rejection of their families and community. It is essential to design projects that reach all the children who have participated in one way or another in the war.

In Liberia, throughout the DDR programs, it was decided to pay the child soldiers the same as if they were adults, 300 dollars for each weapon they handed in. The money was in the hands of young children without any other experience apart from war and this did not help in their reintegration but deepened the feeling of mistrust in the local communities: the local population rightly thought that that money was stained with blood. To this we must add the fact that the majority of the programmes for child soldiers excluded the children who lived in returned communities, producing a certain amount of resentment which made it even more difficult for them to be reinserted. In order to avoid these distinctions, the programmes for child soldiers must include those children who lived in the affected areas of war so that they can construct a future together.

Since the end of the war, crime has not stopped growing in Monrovia. Many of the children who participated in the war, incapable of adapting to the life in their villages of origin, came to the capital or the large plantations and there a new process of marginalisation has started, now as children of the street who turn to crime to survive or as badly paid workers. In these circumstances children become easy prey for those who continue to recruit

soldiers destined to the war in the Ivory Coast or an explosion in the fragile country of Guinea. It is necessary to recover these children and reinsert them into an education system through specific accompaniment programmes.

The thing that worries the humanitarian organisations and local authorities the most is that the same might happen in Liberia as in Sierra Leone. After the initial enthusiasm of the international community to reconstruct a country which has recently ended its conflict, financial donors started to leave the area moving towards new crisis and leaving Sierra Leone in the situation of poverty and social unrest similar to the times before the war. Likewise, the “fatigue of the financial donors” has been extremely present in Guinea, where assistance to Liberian refugees almost disappeared resulting in the closure of the secondary schools. The first consequence of the reduction of funds is that the reintegration processes for child soldiers is abandoned; the second is that it is impossible to introduce long-lasting prevention activities. Prevention in the situation of post conflict such as that found in Liberia, demands a decisive and sustained involvement of the donor countries to support the initiative of the governments and the local and international NGOs.

At the same time as work is being carried out for the normalisation of the lives of those who, during school-age, were made to form a part of a military structure, sensitisation and education efforts are also being made so that other children do not fall into the same trap, it is essential that those adults who are responsible for recruiting these children be taken before a court of law. The impunity of all these military leaders at the end of the first stage of the war (1989-1997), encourages new leaders to take up arms and make the use of the children to enlarge their numbers. The sentencing of Charles Taylor in The Hague, more than a show of an end to the impunity has meant its verification, because the majority of those responsible for the war are still at large and some have even managed to obtain a position of responsibility in the National Parliament. Furthermore, presidents from neighbouring countries were also responsible for recruiting children through the rebel forces that operated from their territory. The people responsible for these groups and their protectors need to be taken to court to put an end to the immunity which has prevailed in West Africa.



Unemployment

At the end of the process of returning to the villages and cities of origin, the youths from Salala were not to be faced with a very promising reality. It is estimated that unemployment in Liberia reaches 80% of the population. The age group which is most affected by unemployment is the young: Liberia is one of the few countries in the world where the levels of illiteracy is greater among youths than adults. Fifteen years of war have produced generations who have not even attended primary school. Throughout the whole of West Africa the proportion of youth unemployment rates is three times greater than that of adults. Not having work means, for millions of young people in West Africa, not having a present or a future. The problem is not going to disappear and it is not improving. According to the United Nations in the year 2020 there will be 430 million people living in West Africa; this is an increase of 100 million in under 15 years.

The consequences of unemployment are quite dramatic: for many young people violence, whether it is a life of crime or joining a group of rebels, becomes the only form of survival; for many others, the increasingly risky option of emmigration to the North is the only door which they have open to them for some kind of future. Even before the returning and repatriation processes, despite all the hopes that an end to the war should have produced, the young in the internally displaced camps and the refugees dreamt of entering one of the relocation programs which would take them to the United States, Canada or Australia. Some of them already spoke of the possibility of reaching Europe by crossing the desert.

The destruction of the Liberian educational system destroyed with it the few professional training centres that existed in the country. In Liberia, as in the rest of the region, the absence of staff with enough technical capability has meant that many humanitarian organisations have brought expatriots to occupy positions which, if there had been the capability, could have been filled locally. All the financial efforts that the international community is making to reconstruct the country in the immediate future will require professionals capable of maintaining the situation. The creation of quality professional training centres based on the studies of the market is imperative to rebuild the economic situation of Liberia.

During the 1950s, 60s and 70s Liberia, or at least a part of its population, became rich thanks to its mining industry. Agricultural activities were relegated to second place and were identified as the lowest class on the social scale. The period of prosperity was followed by political unrest and later war. For 14 years, rural Liberia was occupied by all kinds of rebels who destroyed and looted the countryside. Thus Liberia, a fertile land, became an importer of rice, the staple food. It is essential that agricultural training programmes are carried out in the villages so that Liberia can become self-sufficient in food crops and the young in the rural areas can earn a living.

An evaluation of the many demobilisation, disarming and reintegration processes which have taken place in the world shows that reintegration nearly always dissolves away and remains inconclusive because of lack of funds and perseverance. The reintegration cycle into society is not closed until a soldier finds employment. The creation of new infrastructure in an obliterated country like Liberia should be linked to the promoting of local employment through local employment promotion plans. Humanitarian organisations should also develop micro credit programmes to serve as an incentive for local entrepreneurs.



Regional safety

Since its independence, West Africa has lived through five civil wars, thirty-nine successful coup d'etats, three separatist rebellions and an endless number of failed coup d'etats. In the last decade alone, nearly all the states in the region have been receivers or senders of refugees, or both at the same time, such as Liberia, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. This has produced some terrible results: of the thirteen countries that make up the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a total of eleven are among the twenty-two poorest countries on the planet according to the United Nations Human Development Index. Ghana is the only one that has achieved a medium development; Liberia does not even appear on the

index because of lack of information. Furthermore, the five least developed countries in the world belong to the region: Guinea-Bissau, Burkina Faso, Malí, Sierra Leone and Níger. The consequences of this are well-known: people who cross borders, risking their lives in search of a better future and conflicts that cross over borders like a devastating wild fire.

The conflict in the Ivory Coast is still the greatest threat for peace in Liberia. Several human rights groups have reported that both rebel forces and the army have come to Liberia in search of recruits. The rumours that when the disarmament process in the Ivory Coast takes place, 900 dollars will be given for each weapon handed in, which has become a powerful magnet for hundreds of young Liberians. The approval of the United Nations Resolution 1721 in November has been interpreted by the participants in the crisis as an extension until October 2007: nobody can see a solution to the conflict and the international community gives the impression of wanting to wash their hands of the whole affair as much as possible. With war deeply entrenched in the neighbouring country, Liberia continues to be a natural territory for recruitment and contraband, to finance the different warring factions. The international community should definitively become more involved in the Ivory Coast conflict if it does not want new episodes of violence in Liberia.

In the same way as Liberia finds itself in a post conflict situation, Guinea is in a pre-conflict situation. With an economy which has been dropping sharply in the last five years and with the second highest level of inflation in the continent, the risk of an imminent confrontation is extremely high. The fall of Guinea would inevitably drag with it Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is not the only dark cloud on the horizon: after the end of the Civil War in Liberia the Guineans started to emigrate towards the South in search of work which the reconstruction funds promised. The north-east of Liberia is an area where ethnic tensions have been historically strong and the new arrival of immigrants from Guinea can relive the age-old hatred. The United Nations should study the need for democratic and economic development from the regional perspective to guarantee peace in Liberia.

The risks of massive immigration towards the south does not come exclusively from Guinea: the population of Malí, Burkina Faso and Níger (Níger is the country in the world with the highest population growth rate) will continue to search for a better way of life beyond their borders and, if the

access to Europe is closed they will have to move south. The breakup of the ethnic balances which we have witnessed in the Ivory Coast could reappear in less advanced societies such as Liberia with even more disastrous results. If the countries of the Sahel cannot develop economically, safety in the region would be affected in the short or long term. However, the European Union and the United States continue to place obstacles for the cotton trade, its main product of exportation. Until the United States and the European Union do not put an end to the agricultural subsidies and encourage the construction of infrastructure to give more freedom to the states of the Sahel, large migratory movements with unforeseeable consequences will be inevitable.

Wealth can also be a threat. In every country in the Gulf of Guinea and in the desert, crude oil has been discovered. Prospecting has taken place in Guinea, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. But in very few cases has the crude oil contributed to the development of Africa. The most obvious example is that of Nigeria, which is the seventh largest exporter of crude oil in the world and which has seen how its place in the world, according to the Gross Domestic Product, has dropped sixteen places in the last twenty-five years. Crude oil, like wood and diamonds, can and should sustain the economic boom of Liberia and the other countries in West Africa: for this to take place the multinational mining companies and governments should at last clarify the destination of the funds that are produced by these raw materials.

The possibility, the dream that never again should a displaced camp be opened in Liberia lies in the hands of the Liberian men and women.

Chapter 5

JRS International





Sakala IDP camp





The political pressure efforts of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

To ignore the deeper reasons behind the phenomenon of forced migration is to limit our service to emergency relief, which may be necessary in the early stages of a refugee flow but which does not address the vital questions of why a person has become a refugee, the policies concerning their treatment while in exile, and what could be done to spare others a similar fate. Advocating for the rights of refugees locally, nationally, regionally and internationally has been part of the JRS mission since its foundation.

For example, after the September 11 2001 attacks, JRS expressed deep concern about the repercussions felt by those most in need of international protection: an increasing public perception of refugees and asylum seekers as “criminals” and attempts to create unwarranted links between refugees and terrorism; even greater difficulties in the access to asylum procedures; victimisation of asylum seekers as a result of public prejudice and unduly restrictive legislation.

<p>JRS has the potential for great impact from its advocacy work, as it has:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A widespread field presence working directly with refugees and displaced people. • Credibility that has been built on the accurate information that it has collected from the field. • A presence in centres of power (with representatives in Geneva, Rome, Brussels and Washington). • A commitment to advocacy work as a fundamental part of its mandate.
<p>JRS carries out advocacy work in 3 main areas:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual cases of violations of rights (eg. harassment by police). • General situations of violations of rights that affect groups of people (eg. food shortages in a refugee camp). • Policy issues that affect refugees and forcibly displaced people (eg. mandatory detention policies).
<p>JRS advocacy work involves all actions aimed at:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. • Improving the way in which people treat refugees and forcibly displaced persons. • Promoting governmental and institutional action to address root causes of forced displacement. • Promoting sustainable solutions.



International Protection

JRS is concerned that refugee protection standards have been eroded in many parts of the world. JRS International has co-ordinated the efforts of JRS offices in countries around the world to take action against this alarming trend through lobbying, submission of policy papers, education, media work, and collaboration with other organisations.

From Geneva, the JRS representative continues to voice our concerns coming from the field regarding different aspects of violation of refugee protection. She also represents JRS at international meetings, for example at the Global Consultations on International Protection, which led up to the UNHCR's adoption of the Agenda for Protection. The Geneva representative also represents JRS' concerns during Executive Committee (ExCom) meetings of UNHCR.



Protection of Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

JRS has been very active in advocating for the rights of internally displaced people in places such as Burundi, Sudan, Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka and Colombia.

In November 2003 JRS held the first meeting of its international advocacy network - with all of its regional advocacy and policy officers from around the world - which focussed on ways in which JRS can maximise its potential for advocacy work to promote protection of the rights of the refugees and IDPs with whom we work. JRS continues to hold annual international advocacy meetings to develop further its policy positions and its advocacy coordination and planning.



Human Rights and Peace Education

JRS is actively involved in Human Rights and peace education.



JRS advocacy on durable solutions

Repatriation or Return

JRS continues to be vocal, both locally and in international fora, in voicing concerns about premature or forced repatriations of refugees. For example, JRS condemned the forced repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Burundi in June 2005. In many countries JRS monitors repatriation processes and also tries to ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable returnees are protected, a role which JRS has been playing, for example, with the Angolan repatriation.

JRS was able to play this role because of its presence in both the country of origin as well as the countries hosting the refugees. JRS witnessed the value of such a cross-border presence in relation to the return of East Timorese refugees who had been living in West Timor. Following the exodus of hundreds of thousands of East Timorese in 1999, JRS established a presence on the island on both sides of the border, and played a vital role in encouraging repatriation by assisting in reconciliation programmes between communities living in both parts of the island.

JRS works to ensure that refugees and IDPs have access to appropriate impartial information so that they are enabled to make informed decisions about repatriation/return and to participate in the planning process for repatriation/return proposals.

Local integration

JRS advocates for refugees' self reliance while in exile - for access to land, to the labour market, to self employment, to skills training and language courses, for access to services, for freedom of movement, and to change negative perceptions of refugees. JRS also lobbies for development assistance for refugee-hosting areas.

Resettlement

JRS is not a resettlement agency, but we do advocate for improvements in the resettlement system - an issue that has been taken up by JRS/USA in Washington.



JRS advocacy on conditions in exile

Detention

JRS monitors the situation of asylum seekers and refugees in detention, and offers legal counsel whilst lobbying various international organisations, e.g. the UNHCR, to pay attention to their needs and to speed-up refugee status determination and resettlement of very sensitive/urgent cases.

JRS is active in assisting prisoners in immigration detention centres in many countries where we operate, eg. in Los Angeles, El Paso, Bangkok, Berlin, Australia, Malta, Southern Africa and Eastern Africa.

JRS has joined an international coalition on detention of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. JRS lobbies for governments to comply with international human rights standards relating to freedom of movement, and for detention standards consistent with human rights law.

Education

JRS advocates for access to education for refugee and displaced children without discrimination, including post primary education. Many JRS projects are focused on ensuring that disadvantaged groups (eg. girls, minority groups) get access to education. JRS works to promote enhancement of the protection element of education and to ensure that schools are a protected environment. JRS also advocates for recognition of refugees' qualifications gained whilst in exile.

Food security for Refugees and Internally Displaced People

JRS works to call attention to and alleviate the present food shortage for refugees, and to promote changes in the system that will result in a reliable and adequate food security for refugees.

Urban refugees

JRS advocates for, and raises awareness of, the needs of urban refugees and works to influence UNHCR's policies on urban refugees.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

JRS raises awareness about the impacts of SGBV on refugee and IDP women's and girls' lives, works to combat SGBV, and to ensure that survivors of SGBV gain access to services and to support.

International Campaigns

Child Soldiers Campaign

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, a group formed in 1998 by six leading NGOs, including JRS, has been campaigning vigorously to draw attention to the estimated 300,000 child soldiers currently fighting in more than 35 countries world-wide. JRS also works with young people who may be vulnerable to recruitment into armed groups in a number of countries including Colombia and Venezuela and with former child soldiers in places such as Sri Lanka, Burundi and Thailand.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child entered into force on 12 March 2002. To date it has been signed by 117 countries and ratified by 101. JRS provides information on child soldiers in several countries and lobbies for ratification and signing in many countries.

The web site of The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers can be found at **www.childsoldiers.org**

Campaign to Ban Landmines

JRS adopted the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in 1994, to accompany those hurt by mines, help survivors tell their story, promote solid ethical reflections, and support national campaigns. The awarding of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the Campaign gave a boost to the many tireless JRS staff who participated in the campaign. Tun Chunnareth, who has worked with JRS Cambodia for years and who is himself a landmine victim has been a prominent spokesperson for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and he accepted the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on behalf of the campaign. JRS continues to lobby for the signing and ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty by other countries. JRS provides information for the ICBL's annual 'Landmine Monitor', an in-depth study into the on-going use, production and destruction of landmines, as well as a watchdog style report on States' commitments under the Mine Ban Treaty, or Ottawa Convention of 1997. JRS has played a leading role in the campaign and contributed research on Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia for this year's 'Landmine Monitor'. In addition JRS continues to support landmine survivors in countries such as Bosnia, Angola, Cambodia, Zambia, Thailand, and Kosovo, and is active in raising awareness of the issue in these and other mine-affected countries.

The web site of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) can be found at **www.icbl.org**

International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants

JRS is a founding member of this new international coalition, started in 2005. The purpose of the coalition is to raise awareness of detention policies and practices and promote the use of international and regional human rights standards and principles as they relate to the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

The specific objectives of the coalition are:

- To prevent and/or limit the use of detention of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.
- To advocate for alternatives to detention, and for the use of the least restrictive forms of detention.
- To promote greater protection of and respect for the human rights of those held in detention.
- To promote the development and adoption of best practices in the use of detention.

Subjects of concern for the coalition include standards governing detention, including procedural safeguards and conditions of detention, and restrictions on freedom of movement in refugee camps. The coalition plans to carry out its work on the above objectives through networking, advocacy, research and reporting on issues worldwide relating to the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

The web site of the International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants can be found at **www.idcoalition.org**

Sketching the future



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