

# Grant Park campout publicizes Ugandan plight

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It wasn't exactly camping weather, but a group of young people concerned about the forced recruitment of child soldiers in northern Uganda spread out blankets in Grant Park on Saturday night to draw attention to the problem.

Some of the high schoolers and college students involved in the "Global Night Commute" project walked from their homes to the park to symbolize the miles that many Ugandan children must walk each night to flee rural villages victimized by the violent Lord's Resistance Army, said local organizer Nathan Mustain.

It's estimated that at least 20,000 Ugandan children have been abducted, tortured, brainwashed and forced to kill or act as sex slaves for the cultlike group over the past 20 years.

Participants were moved to act after seeing "Invisible Children," a documentary about the Ugandan children's plight made by three young Southern Californian filmmakers.

The event complements activities in 136 cities nationwide aimed at getting the United States and the global community to take action to end the conflict. Organizers have gotten attention from Oprah Winfrey and national politicians.

*Stephanie Zimmermann*