

Draft General Order on SPLA Interaction with Children, 2012

1. It has become apparent that there is a need to regulate the manner in which SPLA personnel interact with children.
2. For purposes of this instruction, the definition of a child is any person under the age of 18 years of age.
3. The primary mission of the SPLA is to uphold the Republic of South Sudan's Constitution, secure its territorial integrity, and protect its people, especially the children...
5. The aim of this directive is to provide comprehensive and unambiguous instruments pertaining to the appropriate manner by which children are dealt with by the SPLA.

DIRECTIVE:

6. PROHIBITION: It is expressly prohibited to: ...

C. Occupy schools or interfere with or disrupt classes. Under no circumstances are school buildings or school facilities to be used for any military purpose.

7. The only exception to this instruction that will be tolerated is where children are in imminent danger owing to conflict or natural disaster and there is an identified need to evacuate children for their own safety. Such authority must be sought from the Chief of General Staff, via the Judge Advocate General of the SPLA (Director, Military Justice and Legal Affairs Directorate). If children are permitted access to SPLA camps or premises pursuant to this exception, the camp or unit commander will immediately contact his unit's or his superior unit's child protection officer to enable evacuation of such children to Unicef, UNMISS, Save the Children, or similar international or humanitarian organizations that can provide assistance to the children in a civilian environment.

DISCIPLINARY

8. Failure to carry out these directives and instruction will lead to the offender being charged under section 67 of Ref (A), the SPLA Act, for disobedience of lawful orders. Upon conviction, any offender who is the commanding officer of an SPLA unit shall be relieved of his or her command.

Draft General Order on SPLA Interaction with Children, from General James Hoth Mai, Chief of General Staff, November 2012