

## Excerpts from Village Students' Letters to Obama

"I'm Chinese and Japanese. This year is my second year in the US and I'm a high school boarder. I know the feeling of being far away from home and sometimes lonely. I understand those young children when their eyes are watering because of talking about their family. It's miserable for them. I already feel sad when I leave my family, but I can't imagine what if one day I lose them. Whenever I think about that, I will not be able to control myself. Those children are facing the loss of their family members, which is not what they should worry about at their ages. They should have the right to enjoy a golden childhood, not a dark one. The power of an individual is like a water drop, but a group of people is like an ocean."

"Until two days ago I didn't realize how great my life is and how much I have been taking it for granted. Two days ago, I didn't know about the crisis in Africa. Two days ago the Invisible Children came... I was horrified by the things that the kids were forced to watch, forced to do."

"I'm from Mexico. I remember I went to a friend's funeral, a kid like me who was kidnapped and shot to death. Then I realized how wrong those things are and how I feel guilty for getting used to the violence for settling and hiding. In a way I identified, especially with the fear and the hiding not being able to go outside after 7 pm. I know things in Africa are far worse than in my city, but the thing I was thinking by the end of the presentation was, 'I wish I was that brave.'"

"When I lived in Australia, I had a friend who grew up in the Congo. His village was attacked when he was very little and he told me a story where his parents were killed in front of him. He and one of his brothers made it out of the Congo... More people like my friend are being driven from their homes, and other less fortunate children abducted to fight in a war that is not their business. When Invisible Children visited my school, it showed me that there is something that I can do to help the people in the world that don't have a voice."

"I saw the Invisible Children film, and it affected me a lot. I think it's terrible that kids younger than me are being abducted and forced into doing horrible things. It is so far away from my world and the film made me see how lucky I am. It opened my eyes and I definitely want to help."

"This presentation brought tears to my eyes and everyone else's in the room as the personal stories we saw and facts we learned about were more alarming and tragic. I personally felt relieved and extremely fortunate to not be in a dangerous surrounding like these poor children. I felt guilty for complaining about my problems from time to time and feeling sorry for myself. Furthermore, I felt like it is our duty as citizens of this world and human beings to help these innocent children. What Joseph Kony is doing must be stopped. Many kids at my school have started a Frontline campaign. We are trying to do as much as we can."