

Kati Marton
Chief Advocate
Office of Special Representative of the Secretary General
For Children and Armed Conflict

Author and journalist Kati Marton was born in Hungary and has spent two decades writing and reporting from the United States, Europe and the Far East. Kati Marton is a director and former chairman of the board of the Committee to Protect Journalists and a member of the Freedom Forum's Media Studies Center Advisory Committee. She also serves on the board of directors of the International Rescue Committee, the Human Rights Watch, the New America Foundation, the Central European University, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Ms. Marton's book, *Hidden Power – Presidential Marriages that Shaped History*, was published in September 2001.

Since 1980, Ms. Marton has published four books and contributed as a reporter to numerous news organizations, including ABC News, Public Broadcasting Services, National Public Radio, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Times of London*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Republic*. Her first book, *Wallenberg*, a biography of Raoul Wallenberg, was published by Random House in 1982. From 1983 until 1984, she was a columnist for the *Sunday Times of London*. Her second book, a novel entitled *American Women* was published in 1987. Her investigative history, *The Polk Conspiracy – Murder and Cover-up in the Case of CBS News Correspondent George Polk*, has been acquired by Mel Gibson for a feature film. Her fourth book, *A Death in Jerusalem – the Assassination by Extremists of the First Middle East Peacemaker*, was published by Pantheon Books/Random House in the fall of 1994. From 1995 until 1997, Ms. Marton hosted *America and the World*, a weekly half-hour broadcast on international affairs from National Public Radio, produced by the Council on Foreign Relations.

From December 1977 until December 1979, Ms. Marton was Bonn Bureau Chief and Foreign Correspondent for ABC News. While based in West Germany, MS Marton reported from many countries, including Poland, Hungary, Italy, Holland, Northern Ireland, East Germany, and the Middle East. Ms. Marton was a news writer/reporter at WCAU-TV, the CBS-owned-and-operated affiliate in Philadelphia from January 1973 until November 1977. At WCAU, Ms. Marton covered City Hall, the courts, and labor-related stories, and anchored newscasts, documentaries and talk shows. From March 1971 until October 1972, Ms. Marton was a reporter for National Public Radio in Washington. In addition to diplomatic and political assignments, Ms Marton was involved in the development of NPR's program, *All Things Considered*.

Kati Marton has received several prestigious honors for her reporting, including a Gannett Fellowship in 1988 and a George Foster Peabody Award for a one-hour documentary on China. She was a Freedom Forum Media Studies Center Visiting Scholar at Columbia University from 1992 until 1993. She also received a Philadelphia Press Association Award for Best Television Feature Story and a Channel 12 (PBS) Award for reporting. In 1997, she was awarded the Marc H. Tannenbaum Foundation for

the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding Media Bridge Award and the Athens, Greece-based Kyriazis Foundation award for the promotion of press freedom. Most recently, she was awarded the Rebekah Kohut Humanitarian Award by the National Council of Jewish Women, in 2001.

Ms. Marton attended Wells College in Aurora, New York, the Sorbonne, and the Institute des Etudes de Science Politiques in Paris. Ms. Marton was awarded a B.A. in Romance Languages and a M.A. in International Relations by the George Washington University in 1971.

Kati Marton is married to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and lives in New York City with her children Elizabeth and Christopher.

Ishmael Beah Child Soldier

Most of us go through difficult stages in our lives. Some of these difficult stages transform and enlighten our view of life. The devastating effect of family problems and the civil war in my country helped me appreciate my existence and the existence of others in a positive way.

I was born in Sierra Leone West Africa, in 1980. During my early childhood years, my country was peaceful and I lived a satisfying life that was full of love, friendliness and happiness. Between the ages of nine and eleven, everything changed. My father and mother separated and a civil war began.

When I was thirteen, the civil war that had already been going on for several years in my country, came to my town and interrupted my life. During that period of chaos, I lost my family and wandered alone. I had no inclination where I was heading, but the determination to find safety. After months of traveling, sleeping in the bush, and having to eat and drink only what the forest provided, I arrived at a village that was occupied by Sierra Leone Military Forces.

Since I was in pursuit of food and protection, I felt that it was safe to be with the military who provided me food and a place to sleep. As a result of what I thought was generosity, my interaction with the soldiers grew daily. The misery that almost cost me my life awaited just around the corner.

After months of staying with the soldiers, rebels started attacking the village. The soldiers fought back day after day. They lost most of their men in battle. As a result of fewer soldiers, the rebels came closer and surrounded the village.

The Military was in need of people to increase their number. All the boys in the village were asked to join the army. There was no way out. If I left the village I would get killed by the rebels who would think I was a spy. On the other hand, if I stayed in the village and refused to join the army, I wouldn't be given food and would eventually be thrown out, which was as good as being dead. I was briefly trained in warfare and unwillingly became a child soldier.

I can never forget being in the battlefield for the first. At first, I couldn't pull the trigger. I was lying almost numb in ambush watching kids my age being shot at and killed. That sight of blood and crying of people in pain triggered something inside me that I didn't understand, but it made me pass the point of compassion for others. I lost my sense of self.

After crossing that line, I was not a normal kid. I was a traumatized kid. I became completely unaware of the dangerous and crooked road that my life took. In fact, most of the horrible events that I went through didn't affect me until after I was taken out of the army and put in a psycho social therapy home years later.

At the psychosocial therapy home, I began to experience my trauma. I had sleepless nights. Every night I recalled the last day that my childhood was stripped away from me. I felt I had no reason for staying alive since I was the only one left in my family. I had no peace. My soul felt corrupted and I was lost in my own thoughts blaming myself for what happened to me. The only times that I found peace with myself was when I began writing songs about the good times before the war. Through these writings, as well as the help of the staff in my psychosocial therapy home, I was able to successfully overcome my trauma. I once again found my childhood that was almost lost. I realized that I had a great determination to survive. Also my songs gave me hope. Fifty percent of the kids didn't overcome their trauma.

Fortunately, I was reunited with my uncle and started school again in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. At this point in my life, I grew a sense of appreciation for everything around me and became only interested in the positive outcome of every situation. I came to the conclusion that I survived the war for a reason. That reason was to fight for peace so that the tragedy that befell me would not continue to affect the lives of other children in my country and around the world.

In 1996, I was chosen to represent the youth of my country at a "Young Voices" conference at the United Nation. I went back home after the conference and started working with the youth of my country. First I tried to enlighten them about their rights, then, urged the government to make sure that the youth would have a voice in the decisions made for them. But the campaign didn't last long because the civil war escalated to the city. All educational, governmental and productive institutions were brought to a halt. It became very dangerous for anti war people to live in the country. With the help of Laura Simms, a facilitator that I met at the Young Voices conference, I was able to leave my country. She brought me to the US so that I would have a better education. I am currently living with her as my new mother in New York.

One of the lessons that I learned from the tragic events of my life, summed up in a parable of my country is that "once there is life, there is hope for a better future." I think that every human being should be aware of the possibility of change. I strongly believe all humans are positive beings and are capable of thinking positively. It is just that life brings us different roads to travel, in order to find sanity in ourselves. It is possible for everyone to arrive at this hopeful conclusion.

If we think of the future positively, our actions towards that future will be positive. Everyone can make a difference. You don't have to be rich or famous to do so. If one person can change the way they interact with other people, no matter who they are or where they are from, that makes a big difference. It seems to me, one of the problems of our last century was the inability to get along with each other.

Back home my elders said, "Sometimes good comes from bad." It is true. It is also true that good comes from good.

Iain Levine
Chief of Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy
Office of Emergency Programmes
United Nations Children's Fund

Iain Levine has worked on humanitarian and human rights issues for nearly 20 years for non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. He spent over ten years in Africa working in a variety of health and humanitarian programmes with Save the Children UK and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), particularly in Mozambique and Sudan north and south. His particular interest in the protection of children's rights led him to Amnesty International where he served as United Nations Representative from 1997-2000. He has been Chief of Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy in the Office of Emergency Programmes of UNICEF since June 2000.

Jo Becker
Children's Rights Advocacy Director for
Human Rights Watch

Jo Becker is the Children's Rights Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch, an independent organization that conducts regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses in some seventy countries around the world. Ms. Becker represents Human Rights Watch before the press, government officials, and the general public, and works with other non-governmental and international organizations to stop abuses against children, including the use of children as soldiers, hazardous child labor, and ill treatment during detention.

Ms. Becker was the founding chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and serves on the steering committee of the U.S. Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. She has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the issue of child soldiers and recently returned from a three-week investigative mission along the Thai-Burma border to document child recruitment in Burma.

Her writing has appeared in the Washington Post, New York Times, International Herald Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, Miami Herald and numerous magazines. She is also author of Human Rights Watch reports on the detention of unaccompanied minors by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and worldwide violence against children.

Prior to joining the staff of Human Rights Watch, Ms. Becker was the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a national interfaith peace and justice organization.

Ms. Becker has an International Baccalaureate from the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific, a BA from Goshen College (IN), and a Master's degree in Political Science from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Peter W. Singer
John M. Olin Post-Doctoral Fellow
Foreign Policy Studies

Expertise

Foreign policy, national security

Current Projects

The privatized military industry

Education

Ph.D., Harvard University, 2001; A.B., Princeton University 1997

Background

Previous Positions: Doctoral Fellow, Harvard University; Action Officer, Balkans Task Force, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Special Assistant, International Peace Academy; Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Duke University Talent Identification Program

Publications

Articles:

“A New Model Afghan Army,” with Anja Manuel, *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2002)

“AIDS and International Security,” *Survival* (Spring 2002)

“Pakistan’s Madrassahs: Ensuring a System of Education not Jihad,” *Brookings Analysis Paper* (November 2001)

“Winning the War of Words: Information Operations in Afghanistan,” *Brookings Analysis Paper* (October 2001)

“Corporate Warriors: The Rise and Ramifications of the Privatized Military Industry,” *International Security* (Winter 2001-2002)

“Caution: Children at War,” *Parameters* (Winter 2001)

“National Missile Defense: What Should the United States Do Now?” *Harvard International Affairs Colloquium Paper* (May 2001)

“Bosnia 2000: Phoenix or Flames?” *World Policy Journal* (Spring 2000)

“The Thucydides Tapes,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1999)

“America and the Greek Revolution,” *Paralos* (Summer 1996)

Major Jim Gray
Royal Marines

Major Jim Gray is the Royal Marine Staff Officer on the British Naval Staff. He is responsible to the Naval Attaché and the Marine Attaché for the conduct and administration of all Royal Marine matters in the United States. He is the primary desk officer in liaison with HQ USMC and the USMC in general. He is responsible for the administration of the RM PEPS and US based RM Officers and SNCOs. He assists in the planning and preparation of exercises involving the Royal Marines on behalf of HQRM.

Major Gray joined the Royal Marines in April 1992 as a direct entry. On completion of Royal Marine Officer Training at Lympstone he subsequently served as a Troop Commander with Comacchio Group protecting Britain's nuclear assets in Scotland. He was then selected to study for a Bachelor of Arts Degree with the Royal Navy. He is a trained and experienced Intelligence Officer who has been employed in a variety of G1, G2, G3 and Peace Support appointments. He is trained in Jungle and Desert Warfare and is a qualified Diving Supervisor. He is a Graduate in Maritime Defence, Strategic Studies and Military Technology. During early 1999 he deployed to Sierra Leone in West Africa with the UN. What followed was a series of life changing encounters and experiences in one of the most savage and brutal parts of the world.

Appointments:

Apr 92-Jul 93	Young Officer Training Lympstone
Jul 93-Dec 93	Troop Commander Comacchio Group (Scotland & Cyprus)
Jan 94-Jun 94	'in-service' Ba (Hons) Degree BRNC Dartmouth A1/A2
Jul 94-Jul 95	'in-service' Ba (Hons) Degree RNEC Manadon
Jul 95-Jun 96	'in-service' Ba (Hons) Degree RNC Greenwich
Jun 96-Nov 96	Recruit Troop Commander CTCRM Lympstone
Nov 96-Dec 96	Brigade & Regimental Intelligence Officers Course
Dec 96-Jan 99	Intelligence Officer 40 Commando Royal Marines (Far East, South Africa, Middle East & R1/R2 Ops with JRDF)
Jan 99-Jul 99	United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (as UN Observer & Mil Spokesman)
Oct 99-Apr 00	Junior Command & Staff College
Apr 00-Jun 01	SO3 Visits & Protocol Officer CTCRM Lympstone
Jul 01-	RM Staff Officer, British Defence Staff Washington DC

Interests:

Major Gray, and his wife Sam, live in McLean Virginia. He is a keen technical diver and has been fortunate enough to have dived extensively around the world. An avid sports fan, he participates in and follows a range of sporting interests particularly football (soccer!). During his free time he enjoys fly-fishing and is an enthusiastic amateur chef.