

Emmanuel Jal and *War Child* in the International Media (Selected)

Where: The Washington Post -

When: January 2008

How: Two-Page Spread With Photos in Main Sunday Entertainment Section

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/04/AR2008010401256.html>

Headline: Emmanuel Jal: A Child Of War, a Voice of Peace

A Sudanese 'Lost Boy' Hopes to Sing Away the Pain

Excerpt: Short dreadlocks, stylishly askew, frame Emmanuel Jal's face, aglow with a sheen as brown and smooth as coffee beans. His story as a Sudanese child warrior turned rapper is a tapestry of tragedy and sheer luck. Jal's narrative flows between darkness and light, the terror that befell his family and kinsmen, the horrors he went on to inflict upon others, and a deep-seated desire to set things right.

Kind strangers rescued him, and now at 27 he wants to protect the childhood of others. Jal had confronted Bob Geldorf, the organizer of the Live8 concert in London's Hyde Park, for putting together a performance benefiting Africa that did not feature African entertainers. Eventually Jal got to perform at the Live8 show in Cornwall, England. Good looks and stage presence, raw pluck and a message of pain have shaped his nascent career and cause.

A documentary on Jal, "*War Child*," will have its premiere next month. An album with the same title will be released in April.

Where: Newsweek.com

When: October 2007

How: Front page story on www.newsweek.com

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/44855>

Headline: "I Can't Believe I'm a Human Being"

Excerpt: Popular hip-hop artists are not usually the silent type. But Emmanuel Jal, one of Africa's up-and-coming rappers, is hardly typical. As a preadolescent boy Jal carried an AK-47 for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. He once was so hungry in the bush that he was tempted to eat the flesh of a dead friend.

Where: CNN, CNN International, and CNN.Com

When: October 2007

How: Four Minute Segment Featuring Jal's DC Visit and "*War Child*" Movie Aired More Than Twenty Times and was Most Popular Story of the Week on CNN.com.

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/10/10/dougherty.rapper/index.html>

Headline: Ex-child soldier raps about hellish life

Excerpt: When he was a little boy in Sudan, singer Emmanuel Jal's mother was killed. Soldiers raped his sister. At the age of 9, filled with longings for revenge, he became a child soldier. "I had a lot of hatred, I had a lot of bitterness," he says.

But despite his beyond-brutal background, the dreadlocked Jal is gentle, almost shy. He's tall and skinny with a blinding smile. As one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, he has traveled a road of pain many people cannot imagine, survived against all odds and come back to become an artist, rapping about those experiences.

He started concerts for homeless children in Nairobi. He put out a single paid for by supporters. Another song, "Gua", which means "power" in Arabic, streaked to the top of the charts in Kenya. He sings in five languages: English, Swahili, Arabic, Dinka and Nuer.

Where: Fox News

When: October 9, 2007

What: Three Minute Feature on Jal, His Music, and His Activism; Aired Continuously for One Week

<http://www.virb.com/emmanueljal/videos/27730>

Headline: War Child

Emmanuel still speaks with pain of his experience as a child soldier in a continent where children are still fighting adult battles. "Half of my heart wanted only to go to school, but half of my heart wanted revenge against those who killed my mother and burned my village."

Where: *Time Magazine*

When: September 25, 2005

What: Interview With Jal for *Time Magazine International Editions*

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1109296,00.html>

Headline: Ten Questions for Emmanuel Jal

My earliest memories are from 5 when it used to be my whole family, when there was war running here and there. I used to hear that so-and-so died. As a child, I didn't know what they mean by 'to die.' So I grew up in a place where people used to die all the time but a child is not allowed to see a dead body. When you ask "where is so-and so?" you're told he's gone to another world where we all go to live in the future. There are no happy memories — everything was just violence, trauma, war. That's what I remember.

Where: National Public Radio (U.S.)

When: October 10, 2005

What: Five Minute Radio Feature on Jal Aired on Various Shows

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4950821>

Headline: "Rapper Emmanuel Jal's Trip to Peace."

Excerpt: Jal's new CD, *Ceasefire*, pairs him with Abdel Gadir Salim, a celebrated singer and musician from northern Sudan. Their music reflects the juxtapositions found in many parts of the world: Christian and Muslim; modern and traditional.

The project — a rare collaboration between musicians from southern Sudan and its north — is one close to Jal's heart. By the age of 8, he was carrying a gun as a conscripted soldier in the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Only with the help of his adoptive British mother did he manage to get away from the violence.

Where: *USA Today*

When: March 13, 2005

What: Feature Story on Jal's Rise to become "Kenya's Hottest Rapper."

http://www.usatoday.com/life/music/news/2005-03-13-kenya-rapper_x.htm?POE=LIFISVA

Headline: Ex-Child Soldier Now Kenya's Hottest Rapper

Emmanuel Jal was eight when he was handed an AK-47 and trained to fight. By the time he was 13, he was a veteran of two civil wars and had seen hundreds of his comrades reduced to cannibalism as they struggled to survive in the Sudanese bush. Today, the former child soldier is coming to grips with his new status as Kenya's hottest rapper. "What I have gone through and where I have been should encourage other people to realize that they can be saved, too," he says above the throbbing bass line pumping through the studio. Earlier this month, his debut album — *Gua*, which means peace in his native Nuer language — had hit No. 4 on the Kenyan charts. The songs mix messages of peace, delivered in staccato English, Arabic and Nuer, with Jal's personal tale.

Where: BBC Radio

When: October 2005

What: Documentary on Jal's life and music

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/1extra/tx/documentaries/soldierboy.shtml>

Headline: Soldier Boy

Rap star Emmanuel Jal is a former starving child soldier who contemplated suicide and cannibalism. He's topped the charts in his adopted home of Kenya, performed at Live8 in Cornwall, and got a US tour lined up this year.

He was recruited to fight in Sudan's civil war, by the age of eight had learnt to fire an AK-47 and at 13 was fighting on the front line. He trekked over 1,000 miles across Sudan, surviving drought and famine, and was eventually rescued and smuggled into Kenya.