

## EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte une (1) page

## 4. Child Labour in Africa.

In some of the poorest provinces of Burkina Faso, villages are “hemorrhaging” their children. Several local journalists reported after a recent tour through Sanguié, Nayala, Kossi and other parts of that West African nation. They uncovered a recurring story: countless children mostly under the age of fourteen have left their families in search of work elsewhere in the country or across the border in neighbouring Côte d’Ivoire. Some departed “voluntarily” or at the urging of their parents to escape the severe poverty of their home areas. Others were ensnared by labour traffickers.

In almost all cases according to some of the children who managed to return, they ended up in arduous and poorly paid jobs on plantations or in domestic service, often at a great risk to their health, sometimes beaten or prey to sexual predators. Eric Bationo, a child in Reo, was kidnapped in 1997 and did not come back until three years later, suffering from gangrene, according to his mother.

Faced with a clear increase in such “abominable practice,” stated Sir Boniface Coulbaly, secretary-general of Kadiogo province, the highest authorities of our country could not simply cross their arms or close their eyes. In May, the national government ratified convention 182 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) prohibiting the worst forms of child labour. And like a number of other countries in Africa, it launched a campaign, supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies to oppose this practice.

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Vocabulary:

To ensnare = prendre au piège

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