

# OPINION



**New Prices Effective May 1, 2010**

## Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services**  
**Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00**  
 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

**CARPET CLEANING**  
**2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area**  
**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)**  
**1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00**  
 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00**

**Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum**  
**Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool): \$40.00 Minimum**

**Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)**

### UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$69.00  
 Loveseat: \$49.00  
 Sectional: \$109 - \$139  
 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49  
 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services



**SEE CURRENT FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL PRICES & SERVICES**  
**Call for Appointment (503) 281-3949**



# Gun Violence and Children

Have we no shame or respect for children's lives?

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN



Recently, the United Nations expressed new concern about a crisis many Americans know little about: the use of child soldiers in global conflicts, especially in Somalia.

Somalia, whose government collapsed in 1991, has been in a constant state of conflict and tension for years and still has no legally recognized government. The United States joins Somalia as the only two countries in the world not to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty recognizing the human rights of children that UNICEF points out is the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history.

One of the convention's provisions prohibits the use of soldiers younger than age 15 in conflicts. The United States did ratify a later optional protocol prohibiting the use of soldiers younger than 18. But in Somalia, both insurgent groups and the Transitional Federal Government--which is dependent on help from the West, especially the United States--have been widely accused of violating this principle.

The United Nations estimates the Somali military is using hundreds of child soldiers,

some as young as age nine. As one official from the transitional government told The New York Times, when it came time to recruit and equip their army, "I'll be honest...we were trying to find anyone who could carry a gun." In addition, the Times said, "Officials also revealed that the United States government was helping pay their soldiers, an arrangement American officials confirmed, raising the possibility that the wages for some of these child combatants may have come from American taxpayers."

As shameful as it is that the United States may be inadvertently paying the salaries of Somali child soldiers, it shouldn't be surprising. Our nation continues to allow gun violence to destroy thousands of children's lives at home too. The Children's Defense Fund has documented the threat of gun violence against American children for nearly two decades. The minimal progress we've made toward reducing gun violence is at risk of being negated by an aggressive NRA pro-gun campaign and a Supreme Court decision relaxing the reach of gun control laws.

In our latest yearly report, Protect Children, Not Guns 2010, we show that in 2007, more than 3,000 children and teens died from gunfire in the United States. That's eight kids and teens dying every day as a result of homicide, suicide, or accidental or undetermined shootings. Almost six times as many children and teens suffered non-fatal gun

injuries, which have serious physical and emotional consequences. Random violence, especially in poor communities, drives thousands of vulnerable young people into the pipeline to prison where they remain trapped with little chance of escape. Since 1979 gun violence has ended the lives of 110,645 children and teens in America.

Violence is a widespread problem for American youths. Almost one in five high school students admitted carrying a weapon in 2007; one-third of those students brought the weapon to school. One in 20 admitted carrying a gun. One in 18 high school students reported staying home from school because they felt unsafe at or on the way there.

There are over 280 million privately owned firearms in the United States, which is the equivalent of nine firearms for every 10 men, women and children in our country. Recent court decisions challenging handgun bans could add to these numbers. Just as children should not be paid soldiers in armed conflicts half a world away, they also should not be forced to live in fear of the widespread armed threat in American streets, schools, and homes.

What is it going to take for adults in America to stand up and say "enough!" to the violence that is terrorizing and killing our children?

Marian Wright Edelman is the president of Children's Defense Fund.