



Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars **Viewing Guide**

Name: _____

Directions: Analyze the song *Weapon Conflict* in terms of its message and purpose.

Background: From 1991 to 2002, the small West African country of Sierra Leone was devastated by civil war in which brutal war crimes were committed by all sides. To escape the violence, hundreds of thousands of Sierra Leoneans fled to the neighboring country of Guinea, where they lived for years in United Nations refugee camps. Out of these circumstances emerged the band, Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, who perform the song *Weapon Conflict*.

Lyrics to *Weapon Conflict*

A weapon conflict for the sake of power (repeats)

When two elephants are fighting
The grass they will suffer
(repeats)

Which is the position of the civilian, Lord I cry

Them a big fool us (repeats)

Have no mercy for the old ones
Have no mercy for the children
Have no mercy for the women

Oh, we a go suffer (repeats)

1. What social issues are addressed in this song?

2. Explain the main message or theme of this song.

3. How do the historical context details provided on this handout and the images in the video help you to interpret this song?

4. What do you think is the purpose of writing and performing a song like this?