



## **The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative**

### **Situational Report: December, 2009**

#### ***Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Bill Passed by Parliament:***

- Legislation outlawing female genital mutilation is presented to the House for the second reading and passed into law. When consulted, communities where the practice is being carried out, women and girls wanted a stricter punishment beyond 10 years for perpetrators, while the men wanted the punishment reduced to two years, a sign that women are forced into the practice (MONITOR).

#### ***HIV Prevention and Control Bill 2008 Receives Criticism:***

- The UN and other activists fear the bill will further stigmatize those with the virus and undermine the work done to stop its spread. Among other things, will compel HIV-positive people to reveal their status to their partners and also allows medical personnel to reveal one's status to their partners. It also criminalises and imposes death penalty on intentional transmission of the virus (MONITOR).

#### ***UN Forces On Alert Over Possible LRA Christmas Attacks:***

- The lack of civilian protection in the LRA affected areas was called into question after it was reported that the LRA have stated they will "be celebrating Christmas" with Congolese civilians (ENOUGH & REUTERS).

#### ***U.S. Legislation on Northern Uganda is Delayed:***

- LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act 2009 was 'hotlined' by the U.S. Senate meaning it can be passed by Senate immediately. However one Senator has placed a 'hold' on it preventing delaying it from being passed (ENOUGH).

#### ***U.S. and Archbishop of York Express Concern over Proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill:***

- U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton singled out Uganda calling the proposed law, "a very serious potential violation of human rights." A White House Statement echoed the response by stating, "The president strongly opposes efforts, such as the draft law pending in Uganda that would criminalize homosexuality and move against the tide of history." The U.S. joins numerous countries who oppose the bill, some threatening to cut aid to the Uganda should the law be passed (WALL STREET JOURNAL). The Archbishop of York, Ugandan born Dr John Sentamu condemned the bill saying it not only seems to "victimize but also is a diminishment of the individuals concerned" (BBC).

#### ***Marriage & Divorce Bill-2009 is Tabled in House:***

- The revised version of the Domestic Relations Bill meant for Christian and Hindu marriages was sent to legal and parliamentary affairs on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Bill seeks to harmonise all laws relating to marriage, separation and divorce, marital rites and duties, and recognition of cohabitation in relation to property rights (NEW VISION).

### ***LRA Training Camps Now in South Darfur:***

- SPLA Spokesmen, Maj-Gen. Kuol Diem Kuol accused the Khartoum government of supporting the LRA after finding food left behind by the rebels that was manufactured from Northern Sudan. He also stated that, "LRA is re-grouping and training in Sudan in Dimo in Southern Darfur. This is a fact known to the intelligence community - in the area of Kaskagi in the northwest of Darfur" (SUDAN TRIBUNE).

### **LRA Activity During the Month of December:**

#### ***Sudan:***

- On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria State, Joseph Ngere, said two senior leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army, (LRA), surrendered this week to the joint forces. (MIRAYA FM).
- It was reported that during the period of December 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 100 LRA surrendered in Western Equatorial State (UNMIS).
- On December 19<sup>th</sup>, SPLA and LRA engaged in a skirmish causing the LRA to flee towards CAR (MONITOR).

#### ***DR Congo:***

- On November 29<sup>th</sup> the LRA reportedly attacked a convoy delivering humanitarian aid destined for displaced people in Bangadi, Province Orientale (UNOCHA).
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the LRA reportedly attacked the area of Manawoe, 18 Km east of Dakwa, abducting 7 school age children (CARITAS).
- During December 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Province Orientale, the LRA threatened 2 people in Kpegba, kidnapped 12 in Kpegba and Sabuni, killed 3 others in Ngulu, and beat 2 women in Q. Bamokandi, Dungu (UNOCHA).
- It was reported on December 17<sup>th</sup>, that a police officer and a government employee killed after a raid by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the village of Tapili (MISNA).
- Threats by the LRA were reported indicating possible attacks against civilians over the Christmas season causing many to flee their homes for safety (ENOUGH/CARITAS).

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