



The Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative

Situational Report: August, 2011

Security Council Encourages Concerted Efforts to Address Regional Instability in Central Africa:

- On August 18th the United Nations Security Council urged the recently formed U.N. Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to work concertedly with other agencies and regional governments to address regional instability. Concerned primarily with the continued threat posed by the marauding LRA in the region, the Security Council urged the UNOCA to collaborate with the AU and other regional bodies to strengthen border security and stem the increasing tide of illegal arms entering the region (UN NEWS SERVICE).

Ugandan Youth Recruited into the Allied Democratic Front (ADF):

- Congolese Defense Minister, Crispus Kiyonga, reported on September 1st that ADF leaders are currently in hiding in the forests of Eastern Congo. He claimed that the ADF is actively abducting and recruiting Ugandan youth from across the border in an attempt to bolster their ranks before launching an attack within Uganda (THE NEW VISION).

Joint Ugandan/South Sudan Border Survey Begins:

- The end of August saw the beginning of a joint mission by the Ugandan and South Sudan governments to define the official border between the two countries. The project, which aims at re-establishing the British colonialists' demarcations, comes on the heels of reports of land disputes within Northern Uganda between Ugandans and South Sudanese unsure of official boundaries (THE NEW VISION).

Cessation of Mineral Smuggling Urgently Needed in Central Africa:

- South Africa's Institute for Security Studies recently released a report on the negative impact of mineral smuggling within the Great Lakes Region. Praising recent initiatives to stem this illegal flow, much of which comes from the mineral rich but politically unstable Congo, the report outlined the political and economic

benefits to be gained from curbing this booming trade—namely, cutting off revenue for local and regional militia groups while simultaneously strengthening national economies through the regulation of these valuable natural resources (INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES).

President Obama Calls for the Formation of a U.S. Atrocities Prevention Board:

- On August 18th President Obama ordered the formation of a bi-partisan, interagency board to predict, analyze, and propose solutions to impending or occurring instances of mass atrocities worldwide. The board is intended to equip future U.S. policymakers with multiple intervention options in the event of such cases (RESOLVE UGANDA).

Government Ministers Wrangle with Akaa Residents:

- It was reported on August 29th that Ugandan government officials visiting Akaa were involved in a fracas with local villagers. Three people were reported injured while 24 complained of eye irritation as a result of tear gas dispersal. The incident comes after months of volatile disputes between Akaa residents and officials from the Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) over local land settlement—UWA officials claiming residents are settled on game reserve land but residents staunchly denying these allegations (THE DAILY MONITOR).

Oxfam Reports Eastern DRC More Vulnerable than Last Year:

- The international NGO Oxfam recently released a report entitled “‘We are Entirely Exploitable’: The Lack of Protection for Civilians in Eastern DRC.” The report concludes that residents in the DRC feel more vulnerable than one year ago. Chief among the reasons for these feelings of vulnerability is the continued presence and activities of the LRA in the region. During the first three months of 2011 alone, the report notes, 30,000 Eastern Congolese were forced to flee their homes. This most recent wave brings the total number of those displaced by LRA attacks to 330,000 (OXFAM INTERNATIONAL).

Links to these and other news items can be found at ARLPI’s website: www.arlpi.org

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