



Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative
Situational Report: May 2011

Outstanding War Debt Claims will Mount

The Acholi War Debt Claimants Association expects to see a spike in claims as victims of the war continue to return home and “shall definitely demand more money from the government.” This will increase demands on government funds at a time when Kampala has failed to meet outstanding claims for compensation amounting to nearly Shs 40 trillion. (Cissy Makumbi for the Monitor, posted May 24, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1168222/-/c1fcscz/-/index.html>)

Kwoyelo to be Tried

Former LRA commander Thomas Kwoyelo will be tried at the High Court’s War Crimes Division once the government has made its final preparations. Kwoyelo reportedly faces 12 charges, including the intent to murder. Kwoyelo becomes the first suspect to be charged with offences related to war crimes. Kwoyelo was captured in 2009 in CAR. (Bill Oketch for the Daily Monitor, posted May 24, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1168294/-/c1fcm3z/-/index.html>)

Woman-Run NGO Works to End Cattle Rustling

The Kween Women in Peace Initiative (Kwipi) organized and facilitated peace talks between tribes who have a history of mutual cattle rustling. The tribes discussed the causes of cattle rustling and searched for solutions to tribal conflict, while Kwipi and its funding partners presented alternative livelihood strategies to cattle rustlers. (Stephen Otage for the Daily Monitor, posted May 24, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1168292/-/c1fcm5z/-/index.html>)

Rights Report Urges Uganda to Address Abuses

An Amnesty International report released in May 2011 documents human rights violations by law enforcement agencies and rebukes the government for failing to investigate long-standing allegations. Government officials responded by noting various investigations into allegations and by reiterating the UPDF’s commitment to fight impunity. (Emmanuel Mulondo for the Monitor, posted May 15, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1162710/-/c1jet1z/-/>)

Human Rights groups call for US envoy to the Great Lakes Region

A coalition of over 70 African and international human rights groups called on Barack Obama to take the lead and step up the effort to protect civilians from the LRA. They called for

the development of mobile phone warning networks, an increased number of UN Peacekeepers, and the appointment of a special envoy. The call comes one year after Obama signed into law the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act, committing the US to help civilians in central Africa. (Joe DeCapua for Voice of America, posted May 23, 2011 at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-lra-us-23-may11-122455449.html>)

Catholic church celebrates 100 years in Uganda

Celebrations were held at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Gulu Sunday May 24, marking 100 years since missionaries introduced the Catholic faith to Northern Uganda. Highlighted was the Catholic leadership's role at Lacor Hospital and in pushing for negotiations with the LRA through ARLPI, but leaders face the persistent challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty. President Museveni and the Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries attended the celebrations. (Moses Akena and James Eriku for the Daily Monitor, posted on May 22, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1167228/-/c1g24cz/-/>)

Otunnu shakes hands with Museveni

Dr. Olara Otunnu shook Museveni's hand for the first time in 30 years at the celebrations at Gulu Cathedral. The sign of peace, which occurred on the encouragement of Archbishop John Baptist Odama, drew cheers from the crowd. (Richard Wanambwa for the Daily Monitor, posted on May 23, 2011 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1167644/-/c1fxwuz/-/>)

ARLPI commemorates massacres, calls for reparations

On April 20th, community members commemorated the 1996 massacre of 200 by LRA rebels. ARLPI and the Atiak Massacre Survivor Association called upon the government to provide meaningful reparations for both the dead and those who continue to suffer today. (James Eriku for All Africa, posted 28 April 2011 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201104280082.html>)

Amid Protests, Religious Leaders call for Non-Violent Solutions

After protests in Gulu led to the death of 3 people, and continued protests in Kampala led to the death of two and injury of over 100 protesters, religious leaders called for non-violent solutions. Police and army retaliation have been blamed for the majority of deaths and injuries. Food prices in Uganda have risen by 30 to 40% in the last year.

HRW Documents Deficient Response to Continued LRA Atrocities

In recent months the LRA has carried out its signature abductions and killings in Southern Sudan, CAR and the DRC despite the claims of Congolese and Ugandan authorities that they have defeated the LRA. Neither government armed forces nor MONUSCO has offered sustainable protection for civilians in the DRC, where LRA attacks have been particularly

devastating. Human Rights Watch calls for a redoubled commitment to collaborative efforts by regional and international actors to protect civilians and apprehend the LRA's senior leadership.

Human Rights Watch also highlighted the continued attacks, abductions, and rape directed by the LRA in Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Human Rights Watch wrote that from January to April 2011, the LRA led 120 attacks, killing 81 and abducting 193 civilians. (Human Rights Watch, posted on May 23, 2011 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201105231721.html>)

LRA Activity in South Sudan

- LRA rebels killed one and abducted five in an attack in Western Equatoria. The location of the latest attack was near a town bordering the CAR, where the LRA is thought to be based since it left Uganda. (Richard Ruati for the Sudan Tribune)

LRA Activity in the Central African Republic

- Watchlist and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre report that the LRA has abducted up to 1500 children in the Central African Republic. The report adds that other groups including the rebel CPJP and local defence militias have recruited children. The report calls for increased international attention and funding for children's programs. (The report "An Uncertain Future? Children and Armed Conflict in the Central African Republic" can be found on the Watchlist website at <http://watchlist.org/the-countries/central-african-republic/>)

LRA Activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Human Rights Watch highlights that the majority of LRA attacks occur in the DRC where more than 38,000 Congolese civilians have been forced to flee since the start of 2011. (Human Rights Watch report available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201105231721.html>)

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