



## The Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative

Situational Report: November, 2011

### ***Donor Funding Cuts to Affect 300,000 On ARVs, Government Says:***

- The Global Fund announced that it had cancelled the next round of funding to several countries, including Uganda, due to the global financial crisis, an estimated 300,000 people, who currently receive ARVs out of the total 600,000 who need the drugs, therefore will hardly access them, risking interrupting their treatment regime. The recent cancellation of grants from Global Fund to fight HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis which will have diverse effects on the procurement of life-saving antiretroviral medication (ARVs). Health Minister Christine Ondo said yesterday her ministry is considering putting the matter to Parliament to devise means of ensuring that patients on ARVs continue receiving them uninterrupted. The minister made the heart-breaking revelation at Kololo independence grounds during the commemoration to mark the World Aids Day (ALL AFRICA NEWS).

### ***Ugandan Government Minister Claims ARV's are Worsening HIV/AIDS's Epidemic:***

- Mr. John Byabagambi, Uganda's Minister of State for Works, claimed this month that the continuing spread of HIV/AIDS is, at least partially, due to the availability of Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARV's). Mr. Byabagambi claimed that having the life-extending drugs available is causing people to live recklessly and diminishing their concern for the very serious consequences that come with contraction of the disease. It is reported that, of the 1.2 million people infected with the disease in Uganda, only 290,000 have access to ARV's (ALL AFRICA NEWS).

### ***Corruption Still a Problem in Uganda:***

- Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Index ranks Uganda poorly in regards to perceived levels of nationwide corruption and graft. Falling slightly from

its 2010 position, in 2011 Uganda ranks 143<sup>rd</sup> out of 183. The government has dismissed the rankings, claiming they lack scientific credibility (ALL AFRICA NEWS).

***Uganda, DRC, and South Sudan Look for Ways to Collaborate:***

- A conference held this month brought together over 100 religious, cultural, and political leaders from Uganda, DRC, and South Sudan to explore ways in which their respective communities could collaborate with one another. Addressing such topics as food insecurity, environmental degradation, low education levels, inadequate health facilities and poor infrastructure development, the conference opened communication channels between the various communities and enhanced already existing ties (ALL AFRICA NEWS).

***Kony Quits Using High-Tech Tools, UPDF Claims:***

- Top UPDF commanders claimed in late November that they believe their most recent push, with the assistance of U.S. military advisors, to root out Joseph Kony and disable his LRA is meeting with mild success. According to their report, Kony has abandoned using high-tech communications gear in favor of runners for fear of being surveilled by the UPDF and their U.S. comrades as they continue to hunt for him across central Africa (ALL AFRICA NEWS).

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