



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: July, 2010

African Union Summit Results:

- The African Union during the summit collectively condemned the attacks on Kampala by Al Shabab. They are planning new phases for AMISOM, supported by a African Standby Force (ASF). They have also called on the UN to transform AMISOM into a UN Mission and commit greater resources to Somalia.
- With concern to Maternal and Child Health the AU will launch the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality (CARMMA), mobilize adequate resources for integrated health programmes up to 15% of national budgets, share best practices, and report.
- The AU decided to support the UN Human Rights Council as a “global forum for dialogue on human rights issues based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, objectivity and non-selectivity.”
- States were encouraged to accede to the *Convention on banning the use of certain conventional weapons with a traumatic effect or which strike indiscriminately*. (AFRICAN UNION).

Regulation of Interception Bill 2007 into law:

- The Ugandan parliament has passed the Regulation of Interception Bill into law allowing the government to tap into anyone’s phone calls if suspected of illegal action. Many opposition MPs were very opposed to the bill fearing that it will be used against them during the election period. It is a set toward Uganda becoming a ‘Big Brother’ state where the government is allowed to intrusively monitor any citizen’s activity. An interception warrant is required, but all cell phone companies are required to install the system and register all cell phone users (THE INDEPENDENT).

Report released that summarizes Ugandan perspectives on the American LRA bill:

- In their report on the US government’s current LRA bill and Ugandan responses to the bill, the Institution for War and Peace Report include ARLPI’s opinion on the bill, disseminated through our “Open Letter to Obama” (INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING).

Uganda is Set for the First War Crimes Trial:

- The public prosecution office is preparing to refer the case of ex-LRA commander Thomas Kwoyelo to the war crimes division of the Ugandan High Court. This will be the first time that an ICC situation country has the capacity to try their own war criminals. Though he has not yet been assigned a lawyer there is some indication that the trial may begin before the end of 2010. The war crimes division got approval from the ICC to move ahead just before the recent ICC conference in Kampala (INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING).

Allied Defense Force (ADF) and Congolese army clashes displace thousands in the DRC:

- During the army offensive in the DRC against the ADF Ugandan group the local NGOs estimate that approximately 90,000 people were registered as displaced from the Bini, North Kivu district (UNOCHA). Most displacements are the result of retaliatory attacks in response to the military offensive. According to the Congolese army an estimated 22 ADF soldiers were killed. MONUSCO has not been involved in the region, but on July 14 announced they would be setting up a temporary base in the region. Other Relief NGOs are also present (IRIN/ REUTERS/MONUSCO). After an attack on a Congolese Army

brigade on June 25 near the Ugandan boarder Uganda has sent a brigade to patrol the DRC-Uganda boarder (THE INDEPENDENT).

LRA Activity During the Month of July:

Sudan:

- The LRA killed one person and abducted four others, including two young girls and one boy, in Yabulo village of Raja County in Western Barh El Gazal state. They also looted for food and clothes from the village (HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP TEAM).
- UNHRC has estimated that in southern Sudan an estimated 2,500 people have been killed and 87,800 displaced in 2010 by the LRA (INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING).
- Four women abductees were recovered by vigilantes in Sudan's W. Equatoria (SUDAN TRIBUNE, July 26, 2010).
- The SPLA reported that the LRA killed one person and abducted four others in Yabulo village of Raja County in Western Barh El Gazal (MARAYA FM, July 25, 2010).

DR Congo:

- The LRA is guilty of committing abuses against populations in Dungu and Faradje including killing at least three people, and kidnapping several more. It is also reported that the LRA has been plundering hawkers and sportsman. Finally, they have begun targeting administrative buildings (RADIO OKAPI, July 19, 2010).
- UNHCR has termed the DRC "epicentre of the LRA atrocities." It estimates that since the beginning of this year, 1,800 civilians have been killed there, with 2,500 abducted and 280,000 displaced so far in 2010 (INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING).
- In the Niangaga region the LRA has attacked during a key rice producing period resulting in grave consequences for the economic wellbeing and household survival of the area (ACTION AGAINST HUNGER).
- Abuses against civilian populations have been reported in the Uele province district by both the LRA and the FARDC Linakofo (10 km N of Dungu-centre) region (UNOCHA).
- In the province of Orinal, district of Haot Uele, 207,387 people were registered as displaced in June (UNOCHA).
- 857 displaced people in Ndedu, Dungu and 2600 displaced in Isiro, Rungu due to LRA activity (CARITAS).

Central African Republic:

- On July 11, 2010 the Red Cross reported four people killed and six people kidnapped in the village of Mandabazouma located at hundred miles away from Bangassou (HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP TEAM).
- UNHRC has estimated that in CAR 36 have been killed and 10,000 displaced (INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING).

For more information on the above, please contact ARLPI's Information, Documentation, and Research Officer at pressing_forward@hotmail.com or +256 (0) 782807156.

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New Reports:

The following is a list of new reports and documents available for review. To request a copy, please contact ARLPI's Information, Documentation and Research Officer at nfehr@nd.edu.

ARLPI Reports:

No new ones at this point in time.

Other Reports:

- *The Lord's Resistance Army: in Search for a New Approach.* Published by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations.