



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: May, 2010

If Acholi Religious Leaders Can Achieve Obama's Goal, So Be It:

- The Vision reported that the Acholi religious leaders warned President Obama about the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act. It was stated that the Acholi religious leaders claimed military action during the past two decades failed to bring peace. Museveni's Assistant for Political Affairs, Moses Byaruhanga claimed that the Juba peace talks did not bring peace to the area and the government allowed the talks in order for Kony to release all of the people that had been abducted during the conflict (THE MONITOR).

ICC Meets—Peace Activists Demand Special Taskforce for Witnesses of War Crimes:

- Peace activists ask for a special taskforce to be present during a meeting of the ICC due to the high number of victims who are traumatized during and after conflicts. It was also reported that women with children born in captivity have been labeled rebels and have not been fully accepted into society (THE MONITOR).

The ICC President Interacts with Affected Communities in Northern Uganda:

- In previous documents it was reported that Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International Criminal Court, spent two days in the Acholi-sub region of northern Uganda to interact with multiple people from affected communities in order to gain knowledge of their concerns in relation to the mandate and of the Court. President Song met with the Resident District Commissioner and the Chairman of the Local Council Five. Song also attended an outreach meeting at the Lukodi Camp where over 650 internally displaced persons were present. The President declared that the ICC has been extremely important during the fight for justice (INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT).

Immediate Arrest of LRA Commanders Demanded by Gulu War Victims:

- It has been reported that victims living in the Gulu District of northern Uganda have asked the International Criminal Court to arrest the top commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army and to persecute them as soon as possible. The suspects, including LRA leader Joseph Kony, are wanted for arrest due to crimes against humanity and crimes of war. The president of the ICC, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, is to promptly meet with the victimized community in Gulu (THE MONITOR).

Women MP's Warn Public on Female Circumcision:

- The President of the Ugandan Women Parliamentary Association, Jane Alisemera, reported that people who practice female genital mutilation must stop or they will risk being arrested because of new laws that have been implemented. The Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Laws have been established to help women fight for their rights because of the shame that genital mutilation and human trafficking brings to lives of women. (THE NEW VISION).

Peacekeepers Vow to Defend Themselves:

- United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur have reported that they will defend themselves if they are attacked in Darfur. Attacks on international peacekeepers are considered to be a war crime, a violation of international criminal law. It has been noted that UNAMID has lost 24 members since January 2008 due to ambushes, abductions, or attacks (THE NEW TIMES).

Museveni Soften on Opposition:

- President Museveni argued that political rivalry should be based on beneficial ideas and not on personal attacks or expressions. It has been reported that Museveni's statement contradicted his previous declaration that the Ugandan political Opposition is "ideologically bankrupt." The

President has mentioned national defense and security, human rights, justice, and other freedoms as top areas of concern for forms of political agreement (THE MONITOR).

LRA Activity During the Month of May:

Sudan:

- Three men, including two policemen, were murdered by the LRA in Tambura county. A few villagers were quickly abducted from their homes during the ambush. It was reported to be one of the worst attacks in the area thus far (SUDAN TRIBUNE).

DR Congo:

- It was reported that 100 men, women, and children in LRA units in Congo have caused over 318,000 civilians to leave homes and fields. The total number of people killed by LRA this year is up to 500 in number according to UN Humanitarian Chief (REUTERS).
- Reports of dramatic rise of rebel attacks against civilians alarm UNHCR. Due to remote and unprotected villages atrocities can remain unknown for extended periods of time (UN NEWS).

Central African Republic:

- Reports from Guerekindo village state that the LRA attacked field workers around 4:00 p.m. on a Friday. Villagers killed two LRA rebels due to self defense. It was noted that the rebels vowed to take revenge (AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE).

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