



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: August, 2009

Former LRA Commander Charged For Kidnapping:

- Thomas Kwoyelo, a former LRA commander captured earlier this year during military operations in the DR Congo, was charged with 12 counts of kidnapping with intent to murder in a court in Gulu, northern Uganda. Kwoyelo was abducted by the LRA in 1987 at the age 15. It was reported that he will face further charges for war crimes once the Special High Court is fully operational.

Museveni's Remarks Open Up Issue of Tribalism:

- Conflict arose when President Museveni wrote a letter to suggesting calling for political positions in Bunyoro to be 'ring-fenced' for ethnically Bunyoro residents in order to solve divisions between migrants and the indigenous population. These comments resulted in a storm of criticism creating further division between people in the area. The Bunyoro currently hold 70% of political seats in the region.

New Statistics Point to Dire Situation for Returnees:

- New UN statistics show that over 40% of families who return home from displacement camps are leaving children behind in the camps because of better access to education and health care there, while less than 30% of families who return home have access to clean drinking water.

LRA Team in Peace Talks Resign:

- LRA's chief Negotiator David Nyerokach-Matsanga and Mr Justine Labeja, who have been part of the team that negotiated various agreements aimed at ending the Ugandan civil war, resigned on August 13th citing lack of commitment on the part of Museveni and Kony to sign the FPA. Matsanga later announced he will be running in the 2011 Presidential Election.

Cattle Rustling Affects Kitgum & Pader:

- Cross-border incursions, particularly into Kitgum and Pader districts, by illegally armed Karimojong posed a security concern. One such incident in June resulted in the deaths of two people following a shoot out in Kitgum, while a civilian was killed in another incident in Pader.

Forced Displacement of IDP's:

- According to a report by the Amuru District Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Coordinator, 200 families were evicted from Pabbo IDP camp under the orders of the local sub-county authority, reportedly to make way for the rehabilitation of a health centre. Out of the 438 huts demolished, 47 EVI's were left with no shelter.
- In June, a total of 101 households, 23 of which were EVIs, were forcibly evicted from Rackoko IDP camp in Awere sub-county of Pader District to make way for the open-

ing of a road. The 528 individuals and EVIs affected by the evictions in Pader, as with the affected families in Amuru, require assistance with shelter and food.

Food Insecurity Continues in the North:

- A WFP food security needs assessment determined that 1,022,285 people in northern Uganda (Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts) are highly food insecure. In August, the agency began distributing a one month, one time food ration at 50 percent of the recommended daily requirement.

LRA Activity during the Month of August:

- The UN announced that 3,000 new peacekeepers will begin arriving in the DR Congo this month, some of whom will be deployed in areas suffering from ongoing LRA violence.

CAR:

- According to local authorities, following attacks by the LRA on the villages of Goubéré (5km north-west of Obo) and Ligoua (20km south-east of Obo), more than 1,000 people from Goubéré have temporarily relocated to the prefectoral school in Obo town in the far east of CAR. A further 100 people from Ligoua are reported to be currently accommodated by host families in Obo (Southeast CAR).
- According to local authorities, on August 5th the Ugandan Army unit currently based in Obo captured LRA five officers after clashes in the village of Goubéré, 5km from Obo.
- On the 6th of August, a man and 2 girls were abducted by the LRA in Diagbe.
- On the 8th of August, LRA attacked Lagabe (12 km SE of Aba) forcing 80 people to flee to Southern Sudan.
- On the 9th of August, the LRA re-attacked the region of Banda burning down 10-20 homes and abducting 26 people.
- It is believed that the LRA have a permanent base in Esse, 50km N of d'Amadi.
- Humanitarian sources report fighting between the UPDF and the LRA in Gbudugugbu and Kpanzu (75 km W of Niangara).
- Three of the people (two men and a woman) captured by the LRA during the previous attacks on Gougberé in order to help carry their loot were set free on 15th of August at Kerre as they moved north-west. The others abducted at the same time remain in the hands of the LRA, including two girls, 13 and 14 years of age who were captured in Gougberé in an attack which cost the life of one villager.
- According to JUPEDDEC, there are now 1,207 refugees from DRC in CAR (849 in Mboki and 358 in Obo) after fleeing LRA attacks south of the border, and a total of 2,725 IDPs from the villages of Gassimbala, Koubou, Ligoua, Gougberé, Dindiri, Kamou and Ndigba.
- According to a 17th of August survey by JUPEDDEC, 225 people have arrived in Obo from Gassimbala (15 km east of Obo) and 281 people from Koubou (10 km east of Obo) leaving the villages largely uninhabited.

DR Congo:

- A civil society group in the DR Congo reported that authorities have ordered some civilians to leave their homes in order to allow Congolese and Ugandan troops to pursue LRA forces.

- On August 5th, FARDC forces tracked the LRA along the River Dungu, 16 km E of Dungu stopping six. Four others fled
- On the 6th of August, one man was injured in an attack by the LRA (3 men and 1 women) 10km NW of Dungu (by Ngilima).
- On 7th of August, the LRA abducted one man 80 km east of Dungu.
- On 7th of August, the LRA injured a mama in Nagonyo, 17 km NW of Dungu.
- During the week of August 10-14th, people fled from the villages of Gbudugbu and Kpanzu in Province Orientale after fighting between the LRA and armed forces broke out.
- UN officials have reported a spate of human rights abuses, including ten killings, committed against Congolese civilians by Congolese soldiers sent to protect them from the LRA.
- Breakdown of displaced population by region resulting from LRA activity as of August 21st, 2009: Dungu (126 000 displaced: 25 000 now in Dungu centre, 20 000 more now at Doruma), Faradje (56 000 displaced: 20 000 now in village of Faradje), Niangara (28 000 displaced: 8500 now in village of Niangara), Poko (28 000 displaced), Bambesa (10 000 displaced), Bondo (4600 displaced).
- 27 500 others have fled to UNHCR refugee camps in South Sudan.

Sudan:

- In Northern Province Orientale, the terror spread by the LRA has led to population displacements in many locations of both districts of Bas-Uele and Ahut-Uele. As of 31 July, the total number of IDPs is estimated at almost 268 592 persons (226 084 persons in Haut-Uele and 42 508 in Bas-Uele). 27 488 persons have sought refuge in Southern Sudan.
- On 12th of August, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels allegedly attacked an IDP camp, a church and a government house in Ezo Town, Western Equatoria State and looted food that had been distributed on that day. 2 people were killed, 3 injured, and 10 girls were abducted during the attack. Four more attacks by the LRA were reported in the same area during the same week.
- On 13th of August, the LRA reportedly struck Bereamburu village, burning down the local church and health centre, as well as looting medical supplies.
- With UNMIS support, 27 humanitarian workers were evacuated from Ezo Town to Yambio on 13 August.
- According to local authorities, 186 people have been killed by the LRA in Southern Sudan in 2009. A total of 133 people have been abducted, many of whom are young girls. In total there are over 65,000 IDPs displaced by LRA attacks in 11 counties in Western and Central Equatoria States.
- On August 23rd, the representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) announced that the organizations operating in south Sudan have suspended their activities at Ezo area in Western Equatoria due to the attacks by the LRA.

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

Wade George Snowdon

IDR Officer

ARLPI-Gulu

www.arlpi.org