



## **The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative**

### **Situational Report: August, 2010**

#### **US bill of conflict minerals**

On May 18 US passed an amendment to the *Restoring American Financial Stability Act* that will require companies to disclose where they are getting their minerals from, including cassiterite, columbite-tantalite, wolframite and gold. This is significant considering the large export of conflict minerals related to the conflict in eastern DR Congo. It is yet to be seen whether or not this legislation will be effective in increasing corporate transparency. Critics note that it fails to directly confront responsible governments including Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC itself.

(AFRICA FOCUS)

#### **Congolese rebel leader that is being released by the ICC due to lack of evidence**

On July 8, the ICC halted the trials against Thomas Lubanga due to lack of evidence and then ordered his release. However, the release is currently being appealing. According to Paolina Massidda, the Principal Counsel of the Office of the Public Counsel for Victims at the International Criminal Court (ICC), one of the greatest concerns with unconditional release is the safety of the witnesses who have testified against him. Currently Lubanga, who faces charges of conscripting, enlisting, and using child soldiers in armed conflict, continues to be held in the Hague pending the appeals court verdict. (LUBANGA TRIAL WEBSITE)

#### **The UPDF admits that 100 soldiers have been killed in the last year**

Gen. Katumba Wamala, the commander of the Land Forces, announced in parliament that 113 UPDF soldiers have been killed during the last year while fighting in Somalia, Central African Republic and Karamoja sub-region. Another 240 have been seriously injured in the same conflict locations. (THE MONITOR – August 4, 2010) Gen. Katumba also noted in a separate report that from June 2009 through July 2010 the UPDF has killed 397 LRA members. During that same time period 123 rebels defected to the UPDF, 63 were captured, while 364 rifles were recovered. (NEW VISION – August 3, 2010)

#### **Law on Sedition Scrapped**

On August 25, 2010 the Ugandan law on Sedition was ruled as unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court and thus has been removed from the penal code. "Sedition is where a person utters or publishes statements aimed at bringing hatred, contempt or disaffection against the President, the Government or the Judiciary." The removal of the law is a step forward towards greater freedom of speech and expression in Uganda, particularly for the media. There may yet be an appeal to re-implement the law. (THE MONITOR – August 26, 2010)

#### **ADF Activity:**

Between July 11-16 approximately 12 people were executed by the ADF in the Nord-Kivu Province of the DR Congo. More than 50 people disappeared the week before the executions. Since June more than 80,000 people have been displaced due to ADF/FARDC fighting. FARDC has also been accused of looting in the area. (AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE- August 22, 2010)

#### **LRA Activity During the Month of August:**

##### ***Sudan:***

- In Southern Sudan the LRA ambushed a truck killing the driver and injuring four others. (RESOLVE UGANDA)

- 25,000 people have fled their homes in Sudan's western equatorial state due to new spate of LRA attacks in recent months. The LRA is blamed for approximately 200 deaths in the region since 2009 and has displaced almost 250,000 since late 2008. (UNOCHA)
- Lise Grande, the UN's top humanitarian official for Southern Sudan, claims that the LRA has "completely paralyzed the breadbasket of southern Sudan." The LRA has been choosing to attack the region precisely as the crops are ready for harvest resulting in widespread displacement and food shortage in Southern Sudan. (BLOOMBERG)
- Richard Todwong, a former aid to the Ugandan President noted that the LRA could make a possible attempt to re-enter Uganda from Southern Sudan before the Southern Sudanese Referendum in January. (SUDAN TRIBUNE)

#### ***DR Congo:***

- Since December 2007, the LRA has killed 1,893 civilians, abducted 2,469 people, including 854 children. Currently there are 402,778 IDPs, of whom 100,000 have been displaced since July 2009. (UNOCHA)
- The Bas Uele area of the DRC bordering CAR has become a safe haven for the LRA. It has been targeted for the last 15 months in an attempt to empty the area to ease cross-border movement. Currently around 58,000 Congolese are displaced and 5,000 are refugees in CAR. Overall 51 attacks and 105 deaths have been documented. (CATHOLIC INFORMATION SOURCE FOR AFRICA)

#### ***Central African Republic:***

- The LRA has abducted more than 697 adults and children in a largely unreported campaign in the Central African Republic and the neighboring Bas Uele district of northern Democratic Republic of Congo over the past 18 months. (HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH)
- UNHCR has begun to move some 1500 CAR refugees into a newly constructed refugee camp some 70km into the DRC. The refugees have fled the LRA between March and May this year and have taken shelter in isolated border villages in Bas-Uélé district in northern DRC. According the UNHCR some 15,000 have been displaced in CAR since the beginning of 2010, mostly have remained internally displaced. (UNHCR)

For more information on the above, please contact ARLPI's Information, Documentation, and Research Intern at [nfehr@nd.edu](mailto:nfehr@nd.edu) or +256 (0) 788076097.

#### **Nicole Enns Fehr**

IDR Intern, ARLPI-Gulu  
[www.arlpi.org](http://www.arlpi.org)

#### **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](mailto:nfehr@nd.edu).

#### *ARLPI Reports:*

No new reports at this time.

#### *Other Reports:*

- Human Rights Watch. *CAR/DR Congo: LRA Conducts Massive Abduction Campaign*. Press Release. Can be found at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/08/11/cadr-congo-lra-conducts-massive-abduction-campaign>.
- Human Rights Watch. "As If We Weren't Human" *Discrimination and Violence against Women with Disabilities in Northern Uganda*. Released August 26, 2010. Can be found at: <http://www.hrw.org/node/92611>