



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: February, 2010

Defense Asks for More Money to End LRA Violence:

- On Feb 15th, 2010 the Defense ministry topped a list of 18 ministries and government agencies asking for Shs285.5 billion in supplementary budget, which would increase this financial year's budget, approved seven months ago, to over Shs7.3 trillion. Although it was anticipated the virtual end of LRA insurgency in northern Uganda would ease pressure on military spending, the army now says it has now exhausted Shs433 billion allocated to it last July and requires an extra Shs71.9 billion "for continuing Operation Lightning Thunder" and clearing unspecified domestic arrears (MONITOR)

Church Of Uganda Says No To Anti-Gay Bill:

- On Feb 9th, the Church of Uganda released a statement that rejected the 'Anti-Homosexuality Bill' in its current state. Archbishop Orombi states that instead of the death penalty, the bill should do better to protect vulnerable boys. He also said that, "the Church of Uganda is committed at all levels to offer counseling, healing and prayer for people with homosexual disorientation, especially in our schools and other institutions of learning." The bill calls for the arrest of any religious leaders who engages in such and does not disclose information to the police (CHURCH OF UGANDA).
- The Anglican Church of South Africa also released a statement opposing the bill calling on Christians to oppose the bill (ARCHBISHOP THABO MAKGOBA).

Museveni Rejects Prospect of Further Peace Talks:

- During his speech at a recent event, Museveni stated that the peace talks are over and that he rejects the prospect of any further talks with the LRA (MONITOR).

Paramount Chief Reject New Lamogi Chief:

- Paramount Chief reportedly refused to recognize the replacement of Lamogi Rwot Otinga Otto Otuka Yai. Rwot David Onen Achana II said he will not recognize the new chief, Mr Paul Olango Loka, whom Lamogi clan members had proposed to take over office claiming that it is an attempt to disorganize the Acholi Cultural Administration. Mr Otinga has been alleged by the community to be involved in graft, and meddling in both politics and land matters (MONITOR).

Religious Leaders Meet in Kisangani, DRC to Discuss LRA Conflict:

- Religious Leaders from the LRA affected areas attended a workshop organised by Pax Christi to seek a way forward to deal with LRA violence. Archbishop Odama and Bishop Ochola attended on behalf of ARLPI and presented the history of the LRA as well as ARLPI's role in bringing and end to the conflict. The declaration which followed the event can be found on ARLPI's website.

U.S. Ambassador Calls For Religious Tolerance:

- U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, Mr Jerry Lanier called for tolerance between Muslims and the "rest of the world" at a symposium held at Makerere University. He said relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims should be based on "mutual respect and the principle of justice" (NEW VISION).

Non-Violent Action Taken In U.S. To Push The "LRA Bill" Through Senate:

- More than 7000 people have signed a petition to lift a hold off of the U.S. "LRA Disarmament Bill" while a demonstration has been organised for concerned American citizens to sleep on the lawn of the Senator Coburn's Office until a "compromise is reached and he agrees to pass the bill." Oklahoma Senator Coburn has blocked the passing of the Bill over concerns over the amount of money the bill would provide to LRA affected areas (RESOLVE).

Uganda Take New Measures For Small Arms Control:

- The National Focal Point for Small Arms and Light Weapons has begun marking firearms for better tracking. Under the initiative in which all firearms in government possession will be marked, a firearm is given a regional mark, a country code, department number, serial number and a unique identification number, traceable to the holder (NEW VISION).

Enough Project Releases Press Release on LRA Violence:

- The U.S based organisation, 'Enough' released a press release calling for better civilian protection by UN peacekeepers and Congolese soldiers in light of continued attacks by the LRA in the region. Recently however the UPDF spokesperson stated that the LRA threat is over (INDEPENDENT).

Acholi Farmers to Receive Compensation for LRA Raids:

- Gulu Chief Justice has recently fixed the amount the Government should pay for livestock raided by the LRA during the decades long war. A local bull below 10 months will be compensated with sh350,000, while a local heifer and a mature bull will be compensated with sh550,000 and sh600,000, respectively. An exotic heifer will fetch sh950,000, while a local and an exotic sheep/goat, shall fetch sh75,000 and sh355,000, respectively. A total of 245,056 animals were registered as being raided during the insurgency. (NEW VISION).

LRA Activity During the Month of February:

DR Congo:

- On Jan 27th, it was reported that LRA abducted two children near Niangara, Eastern Province while one person was killed and five houses burnt in another attack near Dungu (UNOCA).
- In a report released on Jan. 29th, the UN stated that 1,496 civilians were killed and 2,741 (including 699 children) abducted by the LRA from December 2007 (UNOCHA).
- In a report released on Feb. 1st, the UN stated that approximately 100 people have been killed by the LRA on Jan 13th in Mabanga, Orientale Province (UNOCHA).
- In the sub-division of Niangara, Dungu, the minister of education reported children who have fled to IDP camps due to LRA violence are not able to gain access to school. In one camp, 1,017 children were not enrolled while in another, 193 children were not in school (RADIO OKAPI).
- In 2009, 849 civilians were killed, and 1,486 abducted, including 185 children by the LRA in Orientale Province (UNOCHA).
- It was reported that during the month of January, 26 LRA attacks against civilians took place with 23 in Dungu. This led to 31 deaths, 26 abducted including 3 children, and the displacement of over 15,000 people.

Central African Republic:

- On February 15th, the LRA reportedly attacked the village of Kamandare taking 10 people hostage and ransacking houses (AFP).
- On Feb 17th, the LRA reportedly attacked the village of Gbangomboro however the inhabitants of the village had fled after receiving a warning before the attack (AFP).
- LRA reportedly killed 2 and abducted 30 in a raid on the eastern city of Rafai on February 19th. It is the third reported LRA raid in two weeks in the area (REUTERS). Another report said 40 people were abducted wounding one soldier and several 'tong-tong' (local militia) (NEW VISION).

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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