



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: January, 2010

South Sudan Vows to Use Military Force Against LRA:

- On January 2, 2010 it was reported that the Government of Southern Sudan said it will resort to the use of military force in its fight against the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), due to the failure of peaceful means. Minister of Presidential Affairs in the government, Luka Biong, emphasized the need to end the presence of the Ugandan rebels militarily, after peaceful negotiations reached a dead-end. The LRA's leading delegate, David Matsanga told Miraya FM that his group would not go into combat with the Government of Southern Sudan. (MIRAYA FM).

LRA Weapons Destroyed in Gulu:

- It was reported on January 4th that UPDF and the Police destroyed 7,127 bombs and rusty weapons that were abandoned by the LRA in the return villages in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Amuru districts. The ammunition included 23 landmines, 277 grenades, 154 rocket propelled grenades, 471 mortars, 6,171 guns and 10 bombs (NEW VISION).

Report on Transitional Justice Bill Released:

- Principal Judge James Ogoola said the “bill focuses on three main areas: establishment of a formal mechanism to hear war crimes, cases of commanders who ordered genocide and atrocities; establishment of a truth telling commission like the South African commission which would be used to ask tough questions, about problems leading to wars and how to avoid the recurrence; and the establishment traditional justice where some combatants would be reintegrated into society.” The report also stated that Religious Institutions are the ‘most trusted’ to facilitate the process of reconciliation (INDEPENDENT).

East African Community Considers Creating a Regional Army:

- The East African Community, comprised of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi, is considering plans to create a joint regional army to deal with both internal conflicts - such as the fighting in DR Congo - and external threats to their security (RESOLVE).

Foreign Judges to be Appointed to Special High Court:

- Principal Judge James Ogoola stated that considerations are being made regarding the hiring of foreign judges to “help deal with crimes which are international in nature”, as it will “improve the quality of judgement and perceptions of the Court” (NEW VISION).

President of the Assembly of States to the Rome Statute Visits Acholiland:

- In preparations to the Review Conference of the Rome Statute to be held in Kampala in May, Mr Christian Wenaweser attended an ICC Community Outreach Meeting in Tingkidi village. During the meeting he heard addressed concerns about the ICC from over 800 community members from the villages of Gaya, Choke, Awee, Aboo, Pamineano, Palwong, Wiyanono, Jeng-Gara, Lamogi and Pagak (INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT).

United States Set to Monitor Elections:

- IN an effort to ensure 'credible, free and fair elections’, American Congress has directed Obama's administration to closely watch Uganda's preparations for the 2011 elections requiring Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton to appraise electoral lawmakers and closer scrutiny of candidates' security during campaigns (MONITOR).

Majority of U.S. Senate Back Anti-LRA Bill:

- The Anti-LRA Bill which if passed calls on Obama's administration to draw a plan to effectively deal with the security threat has received enough support from the U.S. Senate to be passed. However, there is currently a block out on the bill by one senator preventing it from being passed. Last year ARLPI had direct contact with the office of the senators who drafted the bill asking for amendments to be made to ensure that military action is not employed among other changes. To date, none of the amendments have been made (U.S. SENATE).

UPDF Kills 30 Civilians in Air Raid:

- The Ugandan Lawmaker, Peter Abraham Lokii has accused the UPDF of killing 30 civilians in an air raid against cattle rustlers in Karamoja and is demanding a UN investigation. Eastern region military spokesman, Henry Obbo stated that the UPDF dispatched a helicopter gunship in pursuit of men accused of cattle raiding but denies killing civilians.

LRA Activity During the Month of January:

Sudan:

- On January 5th, Commissioner of Lainya County in Central Equatoria State, Sube Samuel Manase, said the security status in the county has improved compared to last year as a result from preventive measures to curb the activities of LRA (MIRAYA FM).

DR Congo:

- On December 29th, it was reported that LRA 'Captain' Ocen turned himself in to the Congolese army in Paika two days before Christmas, according to Capt. Peter Mugisa, the UPDF spokesman for West Nile region. 4 other LRA under his command also surrendered and 30 rounds of ammunition recovered (NEW VISION).
- By the end of December, it was reported that over 20,000 people remain displaced as a result of LRA attacks in Haut-Uele, Province Orientale (UNOCHA).
- The UN released a new report on the LRA attacks in Upper and Lower Uélé in Eastern DR Congo last December, recording at least 30 attacks on communities in which LRA fighters killed 83 people and abducted 106 (RESOLVE).
- On Jan 13th, 7 people were reported to have been killed and another 4 injured after an attack by the 6 LRA in Bamukandi, Dungu. Shortly after, it was reported that the LRA ambushed the town of Bangadi. Civilians were also reported to have been abducted (RADIO OKAPI & MISNA).

Central African Republic:

- It was reported that on January 1st, the UPDF killed LRA second in command, Bok Abudema north of the town of Djema in southeast CAR. 2 women who were with him were 'recovered' (AFP).

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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ARLPI-Gulu

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