



# The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

## *Situational Report: July, 2009*

### ***U.S. Legislation on LRA Disarmament:***

- The “*Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009*” was introduced to the U.S. Senate on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, detailing the way in which the United States wishes to engage with the conflict. The bill seeks to support peace and recovery efforts in the north while calling for a multifaceted approach in eliminating the threat of the LRA including the provision of diplomatic, military, and intelligence support. So far 24 cosponsors in the Senate and 103 in the House of Representatives have signed on to the bill.

### ***Chissano Gives Final Briefing to UN Security Council:***

- Joaquim Chissano, former UN envoy for LRA-affected areas, recommended that the international community implement a two-pronged strategy of pursuing negotiations as well as military action to stop LRA violence in central Africa. Giving his final briefing to the UN Security Council, Chissano also stressed that the credibility of any negotiations would be measured by the level of LRA leader Joseph Kony's direct involvement.

### ***Domestication of Rome Statute:***

- On July 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, Archbishop Odama and Rt. Bishop Ochola attended a workshop at the Uganda Parliament Conference Hall in Kampala regarding the domestication of the Rome Statute. The meeting sought to present a drafted bill which seeks to update the laws of Uganda to coincide with the commitments made during the signing of the Rome Statute. Such a bill would require the government of Uganda to put measures in place to adequately deal with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It also calls for the country to internalize and spell out how crimes committed in the rest of the world will be addressed if the perpetrators either visit Uganda or are of Ugandan citizenship. The finalized bill is set to be presented in September.

### ***Drought and Famine Affects Region:***

- Due to the lack of rain and the unpreparedness of the government, hunger related deaths have been reported in both Lango and Acholi regions, while Teso has been the worst hit. Museveni has been reported as saying the problem is a ‘minor issue’ while aid organizations have made the urgent plea for donations of food and logistics to provide aid to the affected communities.

### ***Bashir and the ICC:***

- Uganda found itself in a dilemma after the invitation of Sudanese President Omar El Bashir who has been indicted by the ICC to a conference in Kampala. Uganda at first stated that it would not pursue the arrest of Bashir, the position also held by the AU. However other top Ugandan officials stated that the police would be obligated to due undertake the arrest. After the chief prosecutor of the ICC, Luis Moreno Ocampo

visited Uganda to remind Museveni of Uganda's obligations under the Rome Statute, Museveni asked suggested that Bashir not attend to avoid diplomatic 'embarrassment'.

- Southern Sudan also warned of violence if indeed Uganda facilitated the arrest of Bashir.

***Formation of new Rebel Group:***

- A total of 14 individuals have been arrested by CMI and are accused of starting a new rebel group. HURIFO issued a press release condemning the nature of the arrests stating that charges must be brought against the suspects within 48hrs of arrest and that family members should be informed.
- Norbert Mao was among those accused after it was found he had received a document from the alleged rebel group and did not disclose the information. However he was not arrested after stating that the information he received was not of a threat to the security of the region.

***LRA Activity during the Month of July:***

- LRA attack villages of attacked the towns of Mboki, Bassigbiri, Ligeua and Dindiri in Central African Republic (CAR) killing at least 10.
- In the first three weeks of July, 49 people were killed and 147 kidnapped during 55 LRA attacks on Congolese communities.
- Recent LRA attacks in the CAR have forced over 500 people to leave their homes and flee into South Sudan. There are unconfirmed reports that the LRA is concentrating its forces in the CAR, and the Ugandan army is reportedly extending its operations against the rebels into CAR.
- LRA carried out 33 attacks in the districts of Upper and Lower Uele, DRC, killing 26 civilians and abducting 144.
- Nearly 600 Congolese fled to CAR in July to escape LRA violence.

For more information on the above, please contact ARLPI's Information, Documentation and Research Officer at [pressing\\_forward@hotmail.com](mailto:pressing_forward@hotmail.com) or 0782807156.

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