



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: June, 2010

International Criminal Court Reaches Partial Agreement on Crimes of Aggression:

- It was reported that the 4,000 delegates in Kampala came up with a description for the crime of aggression but failed to provide the international court jurisdiction over the crime. Delegates proposed an amendment stating that the UN Security Council will hold main accountability for determining if an act of aggression has occurred. The meeting ended with the 111 signatory states resolving to re-examine the subject at the next conference in seven years. Several countries say the authority to handle cases of aggression should remain with the UN Security Council. They suppose that having the ICC take total control over the crime could compromise the courts effectiveness (RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE-PARIS).

ARLPI Open Letter to President Obama Concerning LRA Legislation:

- The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative has reported that the peace process that started in 2006 is responsible for the calming nature of northern Uganda. ARLPI has composed a letter for President Obama to request that the U.S.A. explores non-violent actions to resolving the conflict regarding the LRA. ARLPI acknowledged that violent military action has not stopped the conflict and that the conflict has spread causing further distress to innocent members of society. Opposition believes that Kony will refuse to partake in peace talks and that he must be pursued militarily due to his disrespect of peaceful means for solving conflict (THE MONITOR).

United Nations Declares That Uganda Has the Best Refugee Policy:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that Uganda has the world's best refugee policy because Uganda is the only country that willingly gives land for cultivation to refugees. It was also noted that Uganda was the first to sanction the African Union convention on internally displaced persons. The High Commissioner added that Uganda's voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sudan was the most successful in 2008 and 2009. Uganda is a host for refugees from DR Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and other places (THE NEW VISION).

House Urges the Banning of Female Circumcision:

- Parliament has reported that a motion will be passed to ban Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in September at the General Assembly. Issues of maternal and reproductive health will also be addressed. FGM is performed in over 25 countries and the World Health Organization has estimated that over 130 million have undergone the procedure. Last year Uganda passed a bill called "Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation" which was presented in March to President Yoweri Museveni (THE NEW VISION).

Thousands Pray for Forgiveness and Peace:

- Over 6,000 worshippers gathered at Kololo Independence Ground for the national day of prayer and repentance. It was reported that the chief guest, President Yoweri Museveni, declared that his mission on Earth is to give peace and unity to the country of Uganda. Museveni commented on human sacrifice, idolatry, witchcraft, sexual perversion, and other immoral acts. The President advised the congregation to study science in order to tame and connect nature. He also challenged the religious leaders that were present to focus on the goals that they want the believers to accomplish. (THE NEW VISION).

UNICEF Seeks to End the Use of Child Soldiers:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has reported that it is researching ways to keep children from becoming child soldiers in Central Africa. It has been stressed that groups recruiting child soldiers will be held accountable before the International Criminal Court. Representatives from Chad, Nigeria, Sudan, the CAR, Niger, and Cameroon are to sign the N'Djamena

Declaration, which will determine countries' pledge to end recruitment of children in armed groups. The Declaration seeks to develop opportunities for children, such as education and employment, once they have left armed forces (UN NEWS SERVICE).

LRA Activity During the Month of June:

Sudan:

- It was reported that LRA rebels abducted two boys and one girl between the ages of 8 and 15 years old from a Tambura County school. The mother of the children has been following the LRA in order to take back her children. It has been determined that the rebels want to boost their forces by raiding school systems in the area (SUDAN TRIBUTE).
- Five bodies that were abducted by the LRA were discovered on the Yambiyo-Maridi road. It was reported that the bodies were immediately taken to a mortuary and that villagers moved to Bangasu town due to fear of the rebels (RELIEF WEB).

DR Congo:

- Recent LRA attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have forced thousands of villagers to flee their homes. Rebels have killed an average of 102 Congolese civilians every month since last December. OCHA stated that only \$251 million of the \$827 million sought by aid agencies have been received thus far (UN NEWS SERVICE).
- During the week of June 28th, a series of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks were reported this week in Dungu area in Haut-Uele District. Although no killings were reported, goods were stolen during an attack against small traders. Abductions were reported following another attack in Kiliwa Village. The National Army blocked an LRA attempt to attack a school in Dungu while young people were sitting their final exams (UNOCHA).

Central African Republic:

- In a report released by The Enough Project it was stated that the two-year campaign of terror produced by the LRA in Central Africa has been largely ignored by the rest of the world. Due to the instability of the area NGO's are afraid to go to the remote region where there are no UN offices present. There have been over 57 attacks in the area (RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE-PARIS).

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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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 +256 (0) 782807156 or pressing_forward@hotmail.com.

ARLPI Reports:

- Open Letter to President Obama Regarding the "*Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (S.1067/HR 2478.)*"
- Guide to Land Conflict Referrals
- Guide to Land Conflict Mediation
- Land Conflict Referral Poster
- Resolving Land Conflict in Acholi Land: A Guide for Community Based Stake Holder's
- ARLPI Newsletter: January to June 2010