



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

### **Situational Report: November, 2009**

#### ***European Union Calls for LRA to Sign FPA:***

- On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the EU Council called on the LRA to honor its commitment to sign the final peace agreement. It insists on the necessity of a comprehensive approach for a solution to LRA related problems, including the protection of civilians, in close cooperation with UN peacekeeping missions in the region and other international partners. The Council underlines the importance of the Government of Uganda implementing all applicable provisions of the Juba Peace Agreements (RELIEF WEB).

#### ***Kony's Mother Dies:***

- Norah Anek Oting, LRA rebel leader Joesph Kony's mother succumbed to cardiac failure and lung disease on November 10<sup>th</sup>. She was laid to rest on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> in Odek. ARLPI's Sheik Musa Khalil and Mrs. Lucy Larubi attended along with other numerous dignitaries (ARLPI).

#### ***UN Security Council Condemns LRA Attacks:***

- On November 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Security Council commended the States in the region for their increased cooperation, welcomed the joint efforts they have made to address the serious threat posed by the LRA, and encouraged them to cooperate fully with the United Nations and share information with the United Nations operations in the region. The also called on the regional UN missions to coordinate strategies for, and information on, the protection of civilians, in light of the attacks by the LRA (UN SECURITY COUNCIL).

#### ***Calls for LRA to Face Congo Crimes:***

- Human rights organisations including Human Rights Watch has called upon the ICC to investigate crimes committed by the LRA in the Congo. In response, Emeric Rogier, a representative of the ICC stated that investigations had already taken place and that their priority is the arrest of Kony and the other LRA indicted by the ICC (IWPR).

#### ***Parliament Passes Domestic Violence Bill:***

- In an effort to stop the endemic problem of domestic violence in the country, Parliament passed a new Domestic Violence Bill. Domestic violence complaints will be made to a Police officer and local council court. Cases will then be tried by the local councils, the magistrates' courts or family and children courts, depending on the magnitude of the offense. Previously, such matters were referred to clan heads or the local council. The bill also allows calls for protective measures for victims who report such cases (NEW VISION).

#### ***Anti-Homosexuality Bill Receives Widespread Criticism:***

- The Anti-Homosexuality bill proposed to parliament has received criticism over the failure to adhere to international human rights standards. A Ugandan coalition of

human rights organizations states that it threatens the human rights of all Ugandan citizens (RESOLVE/ CATHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICES).

***Government Stops Forced IDP Repatriation:***

- Local officials halt the repatriation of displaced persons from Masindi to the north citing it as, “inhuman and against the government policy of voluntary return”, after reports that the displaced were being rounded up, put in trucks and dropped off at various point in the north. Families whose children were in school were greatly affected. 2,492 IDPs living in Kihura A village, 1,300 in Kihura B, 1,511 in Kasubi and 1,843 in Nyamiringa were to be repatriated. The repatriation will continue for those who wish to ‘voluntarily’ return (IRIN).

**LRA Activity During the Month of November:**

***Sudan:***

- More than 220 people have been killed and at least 157 abducted this year in Southern Sudan by the LRA, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).
- A team from Western Bahr el- Ghazal State Government and UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) visited Bor town on Oct. 30th to assess the security situation following an attack suspected to have been carried out by the LRA. During the incident, three policemen and two civilians were killed while a number of people were abducted. Sudan People's Liberation Army in freed 49 abducted people in the process. Chief of Bor Madina, Ali Mohammed Sayed, attributed the occurrence of the attack to the lack of enough police forces in the area (MIRAYA FM)
- On Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, it is reported that the West Nile army spokesperson, Capt. Peter Mugisa, stated that 2nd Lt. Richard Odoki of Lotiny village and Sgt. Patrick Otika Okwerango of Lamino-Dyek village in Pader district have surrendered to the UPDF and will be brought back to Gulu. The third returnee, Pt. Samuel Ojara, is from Kilak sub-county in Amuru district. Ojara, 16, said he was abducted from his home in 2003 at the age of 10 (NEW VISION).
- On 27th October, it was reported that the LRA attacked very close to Namvuru, Source Yubo camp, killing two women, and abducting 15 people. Food was looted from the villages. The arrow boys reportedly pushed the LRA back into CAR (UNOCHA SUDAN).
- Western Equatoria State Governor, H.E. Jemma Kumba expressed serious concern about alleged strong alliance between the Amboroos and the LRA. That there is evidence that the Ambororos are feeding and arming the LRA, who in turn do not abduct their children or loot their properties (UNOCA SUDAN).
- On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the LRA was suspected to have killed 4 people including one child, 2 women and one man in the town of Buremanga, 8km Southwest of Nzara County (MONITOR).
- It was reported on November 16<sup>th</sup> that the village of Tumba in the province of Western Equatoria was attacked by LRA killing 3 civilians (MISNA).

***DR Congo:***

- The UN estimates that no more than 100 LRA fighters remain in Congo, with the bulk having fled to neighboring Central African Republic (REUTERS).
- Charles Arop, a top LRA commander reportedly surrendered to the UPDF along with one of his soldiers in Northeastern Congo. He is believed to be behind the ‘Christmas Massacre’ in Faradje where 143 civilians were killed and 160 other abducted (CNN).

- All parties taking part in ‘*Operation Rudia II*’, which followed ‘*Operation Lightning Thunder*’ have accepted that there are only about 50-100 LRA left in Congolese territory. However they also stated that that some have moved into Central African Republic (CAR). “As for the LRA, it is still present, of course, on the border between DR Congo and CAR but also in the area around Faradie. Almost every week there are surrenders of LRA members, including some commanders, or clashes between FARDC and the LRA, and that many members of the LRA are being neutralized and people abducted by the LRA manage to escape” (MONUC).
- On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 LRA entered the town of Nazara and killed 4 civilians; 3 men, and one woman (RESOLVE).
- 10 civilian bodies were recovered in Ngilima, 45km from Dungu after attacks from the LRA on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (RADIO OKAPI).
- On November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 civilians and 2 members of FARC were killed during LRA attacks on the village of Matanga, 7km from Ngilima (RADIO OKAPI).
- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the bodies of 3 civilians were found with their heads crushed in Beremanga; 2 men, one woman (RESOLVE).
- The Republican Guard which was protecting Haut-Uele from LRA attacks for the last 6 months has pulled out citing that security has been stable (MONUC).
- Ugandan authorities claim that 34 LRA surrendered to the UPDF in Faradje on November, 19<sup>th</sup>. Brig. James Mugira, the Chief of Military Intelligence, stated that 10 were Ugandans, 2 Sudanese, and 22 Congolese. “They returned with 12 sub-machine guns, two walkie-talkies, 11 mobile phones and two solar panels.”
- On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Father Segalini said that 12 rebels surrendered in Lukuku, near the Durba mining area, freeing 22 children, boys and girls. The missionary manages an aid centre for youth in the dioceses of Dondi. He said the youngest of those released are about 10-11 years old, mostly coming from nearby areas except one Sudanese girl, whose parents are refugees left homeless after an LRA raid (MISNA).

#### **CAR:**

- On November 18<sup>th</sup>, UPDF reports it has killed Lt. Col. Okello Ogutti who is the main commander of LRA's eastern forces" said Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye, the Defence and Army spokesman.
- A source in Yubo reports there are 500 new refugees as a result of LRA attacks in a place called Obo in CAR. (10 miles from Source Yubo). An additional 500 IDPs from Bangidi village which is along the CAR border have also entered into Source Yubo centre (UNOCHA SUDAN).

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