



The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

Situational Report: September, 2009

African Leaders Approve Fresh Military Offensive Against LRA:

- African leaders held a two-day special summit on resolution of regional conflicts in Tripoli here which led to a declaration calling for renewed military action against Ugandan rebel group, the Lords Resistance Army (LRA).

LRA Suspends Peace Talks:

- On September 3rd, LRA suspended its peace talks in Juba, saying they no longer have confidence with the chief mediator, South Sudan Vice-President Riek Machar. In a statement from Juba, South Sudan, LRA's military spokesman Commander Okello also directed all the rebels' contacts to stop making any further announcements until further notice. Kony, also directed a number of LRA representatives to cease speaking on his behalf. He also instructed Dr David Matsanga to be on standby for instructions. (*Daily Nation*).

UPDF Pursue LRA into CAR:

- On September 6th, the Ministry of Defense stated the Ugandan forces were pursuing the rebels in the jungles of CAR (*New Vision*).

LRA Asks for New Mediator:

- It is reported on September 26th by LRA's spokesman, David Matasanga, that Joseph Kony would prefer the former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo to the South Sudan Vice President, Riek Machar to serve as mediator. (*Miraya FM*).

Kony Suspected to be Heading Towards Darfur:

- The Spokesman of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Kuol Diem Kuol, has revealed that the LRA leader, Joseph Kony and his deputy have moved from Tumbura in Western Equatoria towards Raja town of Western Bahr el Ghazal state. Speaking to Miraya FM, Kuol said that the rebel leader might likely be heading towards Darfur following an intensive military offensive against him by the Ugandan army and the SPLA. (*Miraya FM*)

UPDF Announces it has been Conducting Operations Against LRA:

- The Ugandan military made its first official announcement during the first week of September that it is conducting operations against the LRA in the Central African Republic (CAR). The Ugandan military has been active in the CAR for over two months, and claims to have captured a senior LRA commander and rescued 98 abductees so far. (*RESOLVE*)
- The Congolese army also claims to have killed 325 members of the LRA and rescued over 500 children from the rebels in the past year, but is accused of also preying on the local civilian population. (*RESOLVE*)

Violence Erupts in Kampala:

- On September 10th the worst riots in the history of Uganda broke out over the blocked visit of the Kabaka to Kayunga by President Museveni. The riots lasted for 3 days with a total of 24 deaths, hundreds more injured, and mass destruction of property. The police have been blamed for brutality and for shooting live rounds into the crowd. The Kabaka eventually backed down

however it is believed that such tribal conflicts continue to simmer throughout Uganda.
(MONITOR)

LRA Activity During the Month of September:

CAR:

- During the first week of September, an army spokesman stated Ugandan forces have rescued 100 kidnapped children and young adults during an operation against a brutal Ugandan rebel group in neighboring Central African Republic. Lt. Col. Felix Kulaigye says Ugandan forces also captured a senior commander from the Lord's Resistance Army. (*Associated Press*)
- On 14th September, senior rebel commander of the LRA, Lt. Col. Santos Alit and five others were killed 15km north-east of Obo in the Central African Republic. (*New Vision*)
- On 18th September, the NGO COPI was attacked by LRA rebels between Mboki and Obo in the South-East, two people were killed. The NGO Solidarités was also attacked by bandits on the 15th September, 2009 between Kabo and Moyenne Sido. The NGO has suspended its activities. (*WHO*)

DR Congo:

- On September 15th, 9 LRA reported to FARDC force in the village of Ajika, 17km from Aba in the territory of Faradji, Province Orientale. 2 Sudanese women and 2 Ugandan women with 5 children also reported to the police station in Aba where they stated they were victims of sexual violence. (*Radio Okapi*)
- On September 17th, LRA fighters raided several villages in northeastern DR Congo, shocking local communities by abducting 90 children from schoolhouses as they attended class. (*RESOLVE*)
- 12 Congolese civilians were killed and over thirty abducted by LRA forces during the week ending September 18th. Intelligence reports indicate that many LRA rebels based in the DR Congo are moving into the neighboring Central African Republic. (*RESOLVE*)
- On September 20th, 5 civilians were killed in Orientale province by the LRA rebels in Bangadi. (*WHO*)
- LRA attack Digba, 43km north of the Ango Territory in Province Orientale leaving 1 Congolese and one LRA dead. (*CARITAS*)
- The humanitarian community in Yambio agree for a committee of trained and experienced personnel from the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), Catholic Church and others with oversight from the County Commissioner to carry out emergency distributions of one-month food rations to 15,000 beneficiaries in Ezo County. Food distribution had previously been halted as a result of LRA attacks after a previous distribution. (*UNOCHA*)
- The governor of Western Equatoria state, Jema Nunu Kumba, states the security and humanitarian situation is calm and the LRA attacks have come to a halt in some parts of the state. The governor said that the authorities had deployed SPLA soldiers to protect civilians from LRA attacks. (*Miraya FM*)

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