



## The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative

### Situational Report: September 2010

#### **Congo and Uganda agree to work together:**

The governments of Uganda and the DRC have agreed to work together to “annihilate” the LRA after a meeting between the defense ministers. They will meet again in November to lay out a strategy. Most likely part of that strategy will be Uganda offering to train DRC troops. (NEW VISION)

#### **Uproar over proposed Public Order Management Bill:**

The government of Uganda has proposed a Public Order Management Bill that would overturn the constitutional ruling that determined section 32 of the Police Act limited the right of gathering. The proposed bill allows the police force to regulate public gatherings. There has been significant backlash among civil society since it was announced. (THE MONITOR)

#### **South Sudan government supports community defense units:**

The South Sudan government has earmarked \$2 million to support community defense units against the LRA. The money will be used to train, arm and provide communication devices for the community defense units, also known as ‘Arrow boys.’ (THE MONITOR - September 29, 2010)

#### **LRA request for new talks:**

Allegedly the residual LRA delegation to the stalled Juba peace talks has sent a letter to the UN Secretary General requesting new peace talks. The army has dismissed the request as a maneuver to buy time (New Vision). There has been no confirmation from the UN that such a letter was received. This letter was reconfirmed in the *Press Statement on Alleged Arms Trafficking by the LRA* released on Sept. 25 by the same LRA delegation, which again confirmed their commitment to returning to peace talks.

#### **UN Implicates Uganda in committing war crimes in the DRC:**

A UN draft report that was leaked implicates both Rwanda and Uganda in committing war crimes in the DRC. The full report was released on October 1, 2010. It implicates the UPDF in civilian massacres, rapes and in the training of child soldiers. It also states that “Uganda as well as Rwanda and Burundi supplied troops, arms and logistical capabilities to a rebel force in the DRC operating under the French acronym AFDL (Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire).” Rwanda has threatened to pull its peacekeepers if the worst elements of the report are not removed. (THE EAST AFRICAN – September 13, 2010)

#### **ADF Activity:**

FARDC launched phase two of its offensive against the ADF. Some regions were recovered and about 30% of the population has returned to their villages on the axle Ndama, in Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo. There is still much need for humanitarian assistance. (RADIO OKAPI – September 8, 2010)

#### **LRA Activity During the Month of September:**

##### ***Sudan:***

- There are conflicting messages coming out about the presence of the LRA in south Darfur. While the Darfuri LJM movement claims that they captured three LRA members, the government has stated that there is no LRA presence in the region. (RADIO DABANGA)
- During September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at least 8 people were killed close to Yambio in Western

Equatoria, Southern Sudan. (VOA News, September 7, 2010) This was just prior to the religious leaders' conference on the LRA in Yambio. During the conference the religious leaders met with IDPs displaced by the weekend attacks.

- The president of South Sudan has alleged this week that the Sudanese government of Khartoum is again providing logistical support to the LRA in order to destabilize the region before the January referendum. A rebel group in South Sudan stated that it was attacked by the LRA from the CAR boarder, who were ordered to do so by the Sudanese government of Khartoum. (RESOLVE UGANDA, September 11, 2010)
- The Governor of the Western Equatoria State of Southern Sudan has stated that at least 10 people have been killed by the LRA (MIRAYA FM, September 10, 2010)

#### ***DR Congo:***

- MONESCO has verified that they are preoccupied by an arms trade occurring over the DRC and southern Sudan borders towards Uganda, in which the LRA is involved. MONESCO, UPDF and FARDC are present in the area and making attempts to block the trade. (RADIO OKAPI) The LRA in a press release denied an arms trafficking.

#### ***Central African Republic:***

- On September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the LRA attacked the town of Ouandda Djalle leaving at least 16 people dead. (AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, September 9, 2010)
- A rebel group in Darfur Sudan stated that it was attacked by the LRA from the CAR boarder, who were ordered to do so by the Sudanese government of Khartoum. (SUDAN TRIBUNE, September 8, 2010)

For more information on the above, please contact ARLPI's Information, Documentation, and Research Intern at [nfehr@nd.edu](mailto:nfehr@nd.edu) or +256 (0) 788076097.

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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 [nfehr@nd.edu](mailto:nfehr@nd.edu).

##### *ARLPI Documentation:*

- ARLPI Statement Regarding the LRA Conflict – released September 27, 2010

##### *Other Documentation:*

- "Press Statement on Alleged Arms Trafficking by the LRA," LRA Peace Team, September 25, 2010.
- *DRC: Mapping human rights violations 1993-2003*, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.