



Fact Sheet: Slow Genocide in Northern Uganda What is going on in Northern Uganda?

Fact:

Over 1.6 million civilians in Northern Uganda are currently forced to live in government-controlled “internal displacement camps” (concentration camps).

Fact:

Over the past 19 years, over 500,000 civilians have been murdered and over 25,000 children have been abducted as a result of these concentration camps.

Fact:

This forced displacement has contributed to producing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world by exposing civilians directly to violence, coercion, and deprivation at the hands of rebel and government forces.

Why?

The government of President Yoweri Museveni has forced the civilians of Northern Uganda into these camps supposedly to “protect” them from the war between Museveni’s Ugandan Peoples’ Defense Forces (UPDF) and the northern “rebel” group Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Camp inmates are now dying more from preventable diseases in the camps than from hostile military actions.

The Problem:

These 1.6 million civilians are no safer in the camps than they were in their homes. In fact, the camps have made them easy targets for both the LRA rebels and the corrupted UPDF soldiers. Furthermore, the civilians are not provided with adequate food, water, sanitation, health care, education, or security as required by International and National legal obligations such as the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1995 Ugandan Constitution.

Related Atrocities:

- Both the LRA and the UPDF are raping, torturing, killing, and abducting Northern Ugandan children and forcing them into their military ranks. (See Amnesty International’s “Child Soldiers Global Report 2004”)
- The children abducted into the LRA army, which consists of 95% children between 8-16 years old, are subsequently killed by the UPDF forces, who failed to protect the children from being abducted from the camps in the first place- a vicious cycle of killing children.
- HIV/AIDS rate of infection has remained at 18-40% in the North and is often used as a biological weapon by raping.
- Overcrowded camps lead to the spread of diseases (often preventable such as tuberculosis, malaria, and sleeping sickness), food and water shortages, and cultural destruction.

What Is the Ugandan Government Doing to Stop This Genocide?

On the contrary, the Museveni government is using the Northern crisis to slowly kill off the civilian population in what is often called ethnic cleansing. Instead of seeking a diplomatic resolution to the conflict, Museveni insists on a military solution that has obviously been unsuccessful in defeating the “rebel” LRA army of children over the past 19 years. The concentration camps are being used as a mechanism to permanently remove people from their land by converting the camps into permanent settlements.

What Can I Do?

It is imperative that we act immediately to stop this genocide in Uganda.

- Get informed- learn more by visiting www.friendsforpeacein africa.org
- Educate others- tell friends, family, and coworkers about this genocide.
- Write to your Senators and Representatives, President Bush, Sec. Of State Condoleezza Rice, and tell them to stop supporting the Museveni regime.
- The FPA website contains printable fact sheets, sample letters, and petitions to use.