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# HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS (HURIFO)

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Plot 5/7 Airfield Road, Gulu – Uganda.

P. O Box 970  
GULU, UGANDA (E.A)

*Tel:* + 256 – (0)471 – 32259

*Fax:* + 256 – (0)471 – 32402

*Email:* [hurifo@africaonline.co.ug](mailto:hurifo@africaonline.co.ug)

*Our Ref:* HRF/ 001/ '02

*Date:* March 1, 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Research work “Between Two Fires” on the internally displaced persons in Gulu District, Northern Uganda**

Human Rights Focus a non governmental organisation operating from a problem spot (armed conflict) of Gulu is pleased to send to you a copy of its first research report on the human rights situation in the internally displaced persons’ “protected camps” for your perusal, scrutiny and appreciation. You will please note that the email copy does not include any pictures, map or cover page, for reasons that they are too heavy for our current email system to carry.

In view of the above, therefore, HURIFO will be pleased to receive some comments, which will indeed help us perform better.

Looking forward to having a continued future collaboration in our effort to give visibility to the plight of the internally displaced persons in Uganda, particularly Northern and Eastern Uganda.

Yours Sincerely,

James A.A. Otto,  
Secretary General,  
**Human Rights Focus.**

**Encl:** <> Email copy of the Report “Between Two Fires”

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Human Rights Focus (HURIFO) with much gratitude wishes to acknowledge the full co-operation received from all the stakeholders which made it's work easy when monitoring human rights situation in the Internally Displaced Persons camps in Gulu district.

The project, which took about a year to reach a report dissemination level, was quite involving. It involved information gathering through oral interview with the victims and/or their relatives including eyewitnesses; sieving of the gathered information and packaging. Community leaders like the local councils at various levels as well as camp leaders rendered quite an invaluable assistance, which needs to be recognised and accordingly appreciated.

Equally worthy of appreciation is the financial support to kick start the project received from Human Rights Watch (HRW), without which the project could have started as late as November 1 2000, when the major funder Ford Foundation came in.

Last but not least the funding support from the Ford Foundation was an impetus to the two year project, which it's first report (product) we are quite pleased to come out with now.

Where as it is not possible to thank all those individuals and organisations that assisted Human Rights Focus in one way or the other in pushing this project forward, special gratitude recognition and appreciation, however, must be made of a person like Julianne Kippenberg of Human Rights Watch without whose technical support we couldn't have come this far, and organisations such as Human Rights Watch and indeed our funder The Ford Foundation.

James A.A Otto  
Secretary General  
Human Rights Focus

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACF	
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AMREF	Africa Medical Research Foundation
AVSI	The International Service Volunteers' Association
CAT	Convention Against Torture
CO	Commanding Officer
CPAR	Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (Uganda)
CPS	Central Police Station
DEO	District Education Officer
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DWD	Department of Water Development
DMO	District Medical Officer
GUSCO	Gulu Support the Children Organisations
HSM	Holy Spirit Movement
HURIFO	Human Rights Focus
ICCPR	International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
KICWA	Kitgum Concerned Women's Association
LDU	Local Defense Unit
L.C.	Local Council
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRA	National Resistance Army
OCHA	Office For the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UPDA	Uganda Peoples' Defense Army
UPDF	Uganda Peoples Defense Forces
U.N	United Nations
UNLA	Uganda National Liberation Army
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance

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# **“BETWEEN TWO FIRES”**

## *THE PLIGHT OF IDPs IN NORTHERN UGANDA:*

*The human rights situation in the “protected camps” in Gulu District, Northern Uganda*

### **Introduction**

Uganda a landlocked country in East Africa, has a population of over 20 million people. She got her independence from the British on October 9 1962 and has had a total of 9 Presidents, the current and longest serving being Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Uganda has many internally displaced persons in several parts of the country. According to OCHA figures of May 2001, Uganda has a total of 583,992<sup>1</sup> Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The IDP camps in Uganda are found in three regions. These are; in Western Uganda mainly Bundibugyo district due to the presence of the rebel group the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). In the East there are camps due to the seasonal cattle rustling by the Karimojong ‘warriors’. In Northern Uganda the IDP camps exist in the Acholi sub-region where a civil strife has been active for the last 16 years. The reasons for displacement and situations of the Internally Displaced Persons may vary from region to region, hence this project by Human Rights Focus (HURIFO) that took a critical look at the Internally Displaced Persons in selected ‘protected camps’ within Gulu district, which has over 50% of Uganda’s IDPs.

### **Geographical distribution of IDPs in Uganda by end-January 2001 and end-April 2001**

	January	April
Bundibugyo	120,000	96,507
Gulu	370,000	356,424
Kabarole	20,000	15,416
Kasese	16,000	18,000
Katakwi	15,000	15,000
Kitgum	82,645	82,645
TOTAL	623,645	583,992

Source: OCHA February 2001 and May 2001<sup>2</sup>

The Uganda Human Rights Commission chief, Mrs. Margaret Ssekaggya, has said the number of internally displaced people has hit 600,000 and it is continuing to rise... - ... “The government as custodian of the people should secure security and peace and protect the human rights of the people,” she said.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: Global IDP; ‘Profile of Internal Displacement: Uganda’ Pg 34

<sup>2</sup> GLOBAL IDP; Profile of Internal Displacement: Uganda, Pg 34

<sup>3</sup> The New Vision November 19 2001, Pg. 6

The formation of IDP 'protected camps' is the first of its kind in the history of Acholi sub-region in northern Uganda. The number of IDPs in the Northern Ugandan districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader (the Acholi sub-region) exceeds 400,000 persons. This sub-region has experienced a prolonged period of civil strife lasting 16 years without end in sight. The forceful displacement of these peoples from their homesteads started in 1996. People were herded into trading centres without their consent or any facilitation and have been involuntarily confined in these sites ever since. The sites have been called 'protected camps' formed purportedly to protect the civilian population from rebel attacks and abduction. Although each site is located where the Uganda Government Army, the UPDF (Uganda Peoples Defence Forces) have a detachment or barracks, the people have still suffered sporadic attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels. A total of about 43 'protected camps' have been formed in this sub-region over the years.

This report is based on testimonies from victims of human rights abuses, witnesses to human rights abuses and relatives of the victims of these abuses, from selected IDP 'protected camps'. The research covers incidences of human rights violations from the period of formation of the 'protected camps' to the time of compilation of this report. The interviews were conducted between March 2000 and November 2001. The location where the interviews were conducted were in the 'protected camp' sites and HURIFO office. Most of the interviews were done in conditions of confidentiality i.e. in private, names and titles of individuals were concealed for protection of the interviewees. In dealing with officials, group discussions were used within the precinct of the camp either in their offices or homes.

Oral interviews were carried out in vernacular for those unable to express themselves in English without any need for interpretation as the researchers are very conversant with the local language, whereas those conversant in English both vernacular and English were used. Camp leaders remain key contacts and the timing of the visits would be early afternoon so as to allow the IDPs the morning hours to cultivate or harvest in their nearby gardens.

The plight of IDPs in the Acholi sub-region poses a challenge of humanitarian, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions just like that of other IDPs elsewhere in the world. No single homestead in the countryside of Northern Uganda has escaped the acrimonious violence due to the conflict between the various rebel groups and the Uganda government Army. The IDPs driven into the 'protected camps' against their will are often times at a fix because of the violence and hardships in or outside the camp.

The decision to create the 'protected camps' was officially announced by the President of Uganda and Commander In Chief of the Uganda Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. This was to the Parliamentary Committee on the Presidential and Foreign Affairs on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1996, but some camps had already been formed several months before. As early as August 1996, in areas like Pabo, Ajulu and Lalogi the Army had already started forcing people to move into the centres. To implement the forcible relocation of the people a week later, the Army started looping mortar bombs as well as

using the helicopter gunship indiscriminately in the villages grossly abusing the rights to protection of the remaining but recalcitrant civilian majority population.

Not all the IDPs in the camps were forcibly brought to these sites. In some areas those who were being sought for by the rebels took refuge near military detachments in trading centres. Categories could have included Local Council (LC) officials formerly known as Resistance Council (RCs) who were perceived by the rebels as government agents especially in the early years of the conflict, or people who felt targeted in any way by the rebels, hence increasing their vulnerability. Some civilian population moved into the camp because they feared attacks/ atrocities from the LRA rebels and at times even from some indisciplined section of the Army especially the Mobile Forces.

The intention of clearing the villages to become battlefields for the fighting forces has seemingly failed and instead provided a central target where the rebels could find all they want as well as endanger the civilians lives whenever an attack on the camps is launched. Today it looks like the prime failure of the camp system is that the 'protected camps' offers little protection while providing no livelihood for inhabitants much less self-sufficiency. A secondary concern is that they are vulnerable not only to ongoing attacks and depredations by the LRA, but also to abuse by the Army and individual soldiers. These abuses/ violations against the camp residents are non-discriminate as will be seen in some of the testimonies as documented in this report.

The LRA attacks on the camps still continue but the scales of attacks have reduced over the years. Today they attack in much smaller groups and target foodstuffs and to a smaller extent abduct children. The government Army has been unable to provide adequate protection to the IDPs in the 'protected camps'. This may probably be due to the fact that most of the camps have too few soldiers and in many cases ill-trained homeguards who are also ill equipped with logistics. In addition the response from the Army to LRA attacks often comes too little too late.

In camps that have got Police Posts the Police response to human rights violations and crimes contrasts sharply with the Army response. In some instances the Army may hand over the individual soldiers who have committed crimes or human rights abuse to the Police. In other cases the victims are just informed by the Army that the suspect has been apprehended and imprisoned whereas he could have well been transferred. This conflicts with the role of the Police. Impunity is also a norm where it involves military operations ostensibly aimed at real or imagined threats, as can be seen from some testimonies.

The recruitment of child soldiers into the homeguard unit is an abuse not only to International law but also Ugandan law. Young boys in the IDP 'protected camps' are caught between two fires of either real fear of imminent abduction or poverty coupled with no livelihood or future. The young boys in the homeguard units are mistreated by soldiers from the regular force like their counter parts abducted by the LRA. This, therefore, shows that there is little difference between children in homeguard Unit and children abducted by the LRA.

The International Community had been blinded on the plight of the IDPs in the ‘protected camps’, by the downplay of the northern conflict by the government and the elevation of LRA-Sudan government links. This has resulted in the International Community failing to provide timely intervention on issues related to human rights abuses in the ‘protected camps’.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 Background/ Legal and historical framework

#### 1.1 *The armed conflict in northern Uganda*

The current conflict in northern Uganda began in 1986 and its causes have been inexhaustibly discussed by many people and in many fora. The population in the affected districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader have suffered gravely. The current President of Uganda Lt. Gen. Yoweri Museveni took power in January 1986 after leading a guerrilla army called the National Resistance Army (NRA) that overthrew the military junta headed by Gen. Tito Okello Lutwa on January 26, 1986. The overthrown Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) retreated northwards some deep into villages and others especially those belonging to other tribes crossed the border into the Sudan. The NRA then announced that the former UNLA soldiers had to report to military facilities and hand over their guns. Acholi elders helped the NRA officers, now government Army, to collect the guns. In about May-June 1986 before this exercise was complete, the Army started arresting and harassing former UNLA soldiers in the villages. Many former soldiers ran to join their colleagues in the Sudan and by August 1986 had launched an offensive, which has developed over the years into the current insurgency. This first armed opposition group came to be known as the Uganda Peoples Democratic Army (UPDA). The UPDA armed struggle lasted till June 1988 when they signed a peace accord with the NRM/A government in Pece Stadium, Gulu. Most of the UPDA fighters joined the government to fight the other rebel forces. This Accord is famously known as the '1988 Pece Peace Accord'.

In the earlier days of the rebellion, about 1986 and early 1987, the UPDA seemed to enjoy a relatively high degree of sympathy from the local population. In some instances the local population were asked by the UPDA leadership to give cattle, which would be paid for once the government of the NRA was over thrown. However, not everyone supported the rebellion and some refused to contribute to the UPDA rebels. In about 1987 the NRM government Army began an operation intended to cripple the source of livelihood of the local population so as to disable them from giving support whether willingly or forcibly to the UPDA rebels. The Army and the Karimojong<sup>4</sup> cattle rustlers simultaneously looted almost all the cattle heads from Acholiland. It is alleged that there was co-operation between the Army and the cattle rustlers considering that in history, the Karimojong hardly entered Acholiland beyond the bordering clans, but this time they were daring enough to cross the whole of Kitgum and even reach eastern Gulu district.

Data provided by veterinary officers indicated that the cattle population of Gulu and Kitgum in 1985 was about 285,000. The cattle raids depleted almost the entire herd. In 1997 – ten years

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<sup>4</sup> A tribe neighbouring the Acholi to the east known for cattle rustling and terrorising neighbouring tribes even across the border into northern Kenya.

after the raids – livestock census carried out revealed that the livestock level had fallen to a miserable 5,000, less than 2% the earlier number, was left for both districts of Gulu and Kitgum. Goats and other livestock have been similarly affected. The replacement cost of the plundered cattle herd alone is estimated at close to US \$ 25 million.<sup>5</sup>

A similar looting of cattle was done in Teso<sup>6</sup> sub-region, Eastern Uganda where an armed opposition movement called Uganda People's Army (UPA) operated. The NRA later pledged to compensate the Teso and Acholi populations for loss of their source of livelihood. The full compensation promise is yet to be fulfilled, considering that the Acholi people historically largely depended on cattle for their livelihood.

Several rebel groups had been formed in Northern Uganda over the years 1986 to 1988. These forces included the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) headed by a local Priestess Alice Auma '*Lakwena*<sup>7</sup>', which began in the later quarter of 1996. Alice claimed to have been inspired by a spirit medium and so urged people to adhere to the 10 commandments of God. Her forces were composed of deserting UPDA rebels, some civilian believers and some former UNLA soldiers captured by her. She also captured commanders from the UPDA such as Kilama Part I. Alice's HSM fought the government Army until she was defeated in the southern Ugandan town of Jinja in November 1987. Alice is currently in Kenya where she has been accorded political asylum.

In about January 1988 after the defeat of Alice Lakwena's HSM, her father Severino Lukoya Kiberu, took over the remnants of her forces in the Acholi sub-region to form Holy Spirit Movement II. Lokoya called himself "god the father". Lokoya's forces were poorly organised thus lacked support resulting into most of his fighters joining a new force headed by current LRA rebel leader, Joseph Kony. In about August 1989 Lukoya's forces were defeated and he was captured by the NRA and later released. He is currently living in Gulu town.

In late 1987, about the same time that Lukoya formed his movement, Joseph Kony, a relative of Alice, also began to mobilise his forces against the NRA. Kony like Alice claims to be a spirit medium. Kony's forces targeted fighters from the UPDA to join their ranks, by capturing some of their commanders hence forcing them into negotiations or surrender. Kony's army was first known as the Lord's Salvation Army (LSA), then later the United Christian Democratic Army (UCDA), and in 1992 it changed its name to the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) which name it has kept till today.

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<sup>5</sup> Edited excerpt from, Robert Gersony, *The Anguish of Northern Uganda*, Kampala Uganda, August 1997  
P 27

<sup>6</sup> Iteso is a tribe in eastern Uganda

<sup>7</sup> An Acholi word meaning '*messenger*'

In about late 1988, forced displacement of civilians by NRA took place in and around Gulu. Amnesty International's reports on Uganda '*The human rights record 1986-1989*' and '*Breaking the Circle*' both make mention of this.

Government soldiers were also responsible for gross human rights violations. In one of the most intense phases of the war between October and December 1988, the NRA forcefully cleared approximately 100,000 people from their homes in and around Gulu town. Soldiers committed hundreds of extrajudicial executions as they force people out of their homes burning down homesteads and granaries. People flocked to the towns and nearby trading centres but nothing had been prepared to receive them. For months displaced people had inadequate shelter, sanitation and water, and insufficient supply of food.<sup>8</sup>

After the 1988 Peace Accord some of the UPDA soldiers who were not in support of talks opted to join Joseph Kony's rebels. The period late 1989 to early 1990 saw reduced rebel activity. The NRA urged civilians to join the struggle and fight the rebels using any means they had even bow and arrows. Kony's LRA committed gross human rights violations when they noticed their support from the local population had diminished. They introduced a system of hacking and clubbing people to death as well as abducting both children and adults to join their ranks as soldiers. The major period of mutilation was in 1991 and 1992 when Kony's rebel group was still called the United Christian Democratic Army (UCDA). It appeared to be a war against civilians for joining and supporting the "Arrow Brigade"<sup>9</sup>. It is said that villagers' hands were chopped off to avoid them using the bow and arrows or riding bicycles to report rebels whereabouts. Civilians had their lips cut presumably because they reported the rebels' whereabouts to the NRA and their ears cut for not listening to orders from Kony's rebels. This was the period people began spending nights in what is commonly known '*alup*'<sup>10</sup>.

In early 1991, the NRA launched a 'cordon and search operation' code named "Operation North", led by the then Divisional Commander Major Gen. David Tinyefuza. In this operation northern Uganda was sealed off from the rest of the country, with no information flow out, on what was happening in the war zone. There were alleged gross violations of human rights, like extrajudicial executions, during this operation. Allegedly mass graves were to be found in pit-latrines in disuse scattered around the sub-region, particularly in trading centres or certain Catholic Parishes.

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<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International Breaking the Circle; protecting human rights in the northern war zone, Uganda 17 March 1999 P 11.

<sup>9</sup> "Arrow Brigade" was a group of civilian vigilantes armed with bow and arrows to fight Joseph Kony's rebels. The government through local officials urged the local population to join the struggle to end the conflict as well as provide for themselves some protection against the LRA rebels.

<sup>10</sup> A hiding place in the bushes where one spends the night and neither the rebels nor the NRA mobile unit is able to locate the person.

For example, in April 1991 NRA soldiers are alleged to have extrajudicially executed over 30 villagers at Komyoke in Atanga Sub-County in Kitgum. In the same month, soldiers at Burcoro in Paicho Sub-County in Gulu tortured 34 prisoners by confining them in a pit. Three were reportedly beaten to death and four others suffocated<sup>11</sup>

During this period eighteen political leaders from northern Uganda, including former Minister of State for Defense Daniel Omara Atubo, were arrested, tortured some of them badly, a holding charge of treason which could not be sustained preferred against them. They were eventually released after 6 months from Luzira Upper Prison Maximum Security Jail, when the State dropped the charges.

After the famous cordon and search operation code named “Operation North” there were some changes in the Army northern command. It was followed by a reduced level of military activity between the two fighting forces or against civilians. This also allowed for easy movement in the region allowing the Constituent Assembly Delegates to consult on issues pertaining to the new Constitution then in the making. In this context, some Constituent Assembly Delegates and the Acholi Parliamentary Group also accused the Army of gross human rights violations. One such accusation was the raping of villagers by one of the Army Mobile Units. There are several mobile units and they are all traversing the countryside so it becomes difficult for the ordinary man to know where a particular unit has come from.

About late 1993, the situation eventually developed to the point that a government delegation headed by the then Minister of State for the Pacification of the North resident in Gulu, Mrs Betty Bigombe set out to broker for a peaceful resolution to this conflict and met with the LRA rebel leader Joseph Kony in the bush. During these peace-talks, there was some kind of a cease-fire and the LRA rebels could be seen moving and mixing freely with the local population in some areas. It is alleged that the rebels requested a 6 months period within which to roundup all their fighters to enable them make a conclusive vacation of the bush *enmasse*. But in February 1994 the peace-talks collapsed after the President of Uganda Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni gave the LRA leaders a seven-day ultimatum to lay down their arms and surrender or be flushed out of the bush. The proponents of the ultimatum argued that the rebels were unserious and could be playing tricks by requesting for six months which they could instead use to reorganise and re-launch a fresh offensive. Within two days of the ultimatum, the LRA rebels had retreated and re-launched a new phase of intense rebel activity. In the same year, the Sudan government began to provide the LRA rebels with military and logistical support, presumably in retaliation to the alleged Uganda government’s

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<sup>11</sup>, Amnesty International Breaking the Circle; protecting human rights in the northern war zone UGANDA, 17 March 1999 P 11. Source; *Human rights violations by National Resistance Army* (AFR 59/20/91), published by Amnesty International on 4 December 1991

support to the armed opposition movement Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) headed by John Garang.

In 1995, in what seemed to be a bid to beef up their forces with the support from Sudan government, the LRA embarked on mass abductions of children. In the course of these frequent abductions gross human rights violations like killings, mayhem, rape, defilement and destruction of properties were systematically carried out. There is considerable erosion of culture and the future of the children who are victims of this abduction and subsequent conscription as child-combatants, remains worryingly bleak. In April 1995 over 200 people were massacred by suspected LRA rebels in Attiak trading centre. Over 100 people were rounded up taken to a riverbank 10 kilometres away and shot dead. The LRA intensified the use of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines throughout the Acholi sub-region. The government of Uganda several times displayed in the media ammunition captured from the LRA, including landmines with Arabic inscription on them, as evidence of support LRA gets from Sudan government.

“...The end of 1995, however, was relatively quiet. This proved to be a temporary lull. The LRA was regrouping in Sudan and in February 1996 new units crossed into Uganda...”<sup>12</sup>

After the promulgation of the new constitution, the 1995 Uganda Constitution, the name of the government Army changed from National Resistance Army (NRA) to Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF). In 1996, government set up a Parliamentary Committee to probe the northern conflict. A new unit of LRA rebels crossed back into Uganda from Sudan in February 1996 just before the 1996 Presidential elections. They increased their activity after the elections were won by Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. This made the situation worse hence by mid-1996 some civilians who felt highly sought for by the rebels voluntarily relocated themselves to stay near Army detachments. By August the same year the Army had already started forcibly relocating people to trading centres, as part of their military strategy to deal with areas where the LRA are thought to be operating from. In the same month of August humanitarian agencies in Gulu district began emergency distribution of food relief to the displaced people around Gulu.

The very day of President Museveni's announcement of the creation of 'protected camps' to the Parliamentary Committee on Presidential and Foreign Affairs, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1996, the Army in Gulu district ordered people to relocate to trading centres where Army detachments are located. The villagers were given only seven days, and so on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1996, there was increased artillery and mortar bomb-shelling of the villages, followed by foot soldiers marching villagers to the centres.

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<sup>12</sup> Breaking the Circle; protecting human rights in the northern war zone, By Amnesty International UGANDA, Pg 12

The LRA rebels attacked several of these centres where the civilians had been relocated and in some instances burnt down the grass-thatched structures in what seemed to be a bid to force the civilians back to their villages. They also attacked to abduct children as young as 10 years to join their forces. During the years 1996 to 1998 the LRA rebels continued to attack these created ‘protected camps’ quite regularly, mainly to abduct and also to loot foodstuff distributed by relief agencies.

In the year 1999, the frequency of LRA attacks on these ‘protected camps’ was reduced to the point that some IDPs felt reassured and attempted to move closer to their village areas to be able to farm. These decongestion efforts were noticed in some camps like Opit, which after the LRA attack on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1999 in which many huts were burnt, tried to spread out a bit to cover a 3 miles’ stretch instead of just 2 miles. In Pabo ‘protected camp’ IDPs hailing from Maro-awobi village requested local authorities to allow them to move out to form a smaller camp in Maro-awobi. Over the next year up to today IDPs from other parishes within Pabo like: Pogo, Labala, Olinga, among others, have cautiously attempted to build some huts at parish level in anticipation of resettlement. The issue of resettlement has now become not only a topical issue of discussion at local district level, but also at national level and has even gained visibility at international level.

## ***1.2 Displacement in northern Uganda***

In many parts of the world, persons have been forcibly uprooted from their homes by violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights and other traumatic events, but remain within the borders of their own countries. Nearly always they suffer from severe want, deprivation, hardship and discrimination.

Forced displacement has been a measure used in many war situations around the world. In Burundi the forceful displacement and control of the population was called ‘regroupment’. In a programme dubbed “regroupment”, the armed forces ordered the rural Hutu population in large areas of the country into camps where they could be more effectively monitored and controlled.<sup>13</sup> Similarly in Algeria the French as a counterinsurgency measure used regroupment in the 1950’s. The description of the policy on ‘regroupment’ in Algeria by a historian of Algerian Independence war could describe the current ‘protected camps’ programme in some parts of Uganda.

In specific areas French soldiers systematically destroyed the small villages, forcing the citizens to settle in new villages or regroupment centres. The purpose of the regroupment policy was to remove whole populations from contact with the nationalists. In some instances, it should be noted, the villagers volunteered to enter the regroupment centers after requesting protection from French authorities against the exaction of the rebels. Such

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<sup>13</sup> Proxy Targets; Civilians in the War in Burundi. Human Rights Watch Report on Burundi Pg. 1

protection was often extended on condition that a given community resettle closer to a military establishment. More often than not, however, coercion was used... Once a regroupment had been accomplished, anyone found in the abandoned settlement was presumed guilty of rebel connections and was liable to be shot on sight.<sup>14</sup>

In some countries forced displacement has been used to control or suppress a particular group of people. This can be seen in the conflict the Kurds have had with Iraq and Turkey as described by researchers on displacement in their book *Masses in Flight*.

And the efforts at suppressing Kurdish nationalism in Iraq and Turkey have been at the root of government campaigns and massive forced displacement of the Kurds. The U.S. Committee for Refugees considers “conflict between a government and a minority” to be one of the principle causes of internal displacement.<sup>15</sup>

The major displacement of the civilian population in Gulu started effectively when, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni announced the creation of these camps to the Parliamentary Committee on the Presidential and Foreign Affairs on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1996. In several villages the Army informed local authorities that the local population vacate their villages in a few days and move to the trading centres where Army detachments were. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1996 the Army was deployed to forcibly drive all those still found in their homes into the trading centres. Artillery and mortar bombs were fired into the villages to scare away the people and in some cases people were wounded or even killed by these bombs. This shows that there was involuntary displacement despite the exaction by the LRA rebels. An extract from a three-month research work done in 1997 on the conflict in northern Uganda discussed the considerations of involuntary displacement.

The protective displacement strategy was unwelcome by the civilian population, has been involuntary and perceived as punitive. With no end to the conflict in sight, the rural population could be displaced indefinitely. Most displaced civilians in Gulu seemed to prefer the dangers of rural insecurity to the economic destruction, which such endless displacement entails, i.e., the looting and burning of their homes, the abandonment of their fields, the disappearance of their seed stocks. Since they can no longer fall back on the livestock that used to sustain them in such emergencies, they immediately become dependant on external assistance.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Proxy Targets; Civilians in the War in Burundi. Human Rights Watch Report on Burundi Pg. 26

<sup>15</sup> *Masses in Flight*; The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement; Cohen/ Deng Pg. 20-1

<sup>16</sup> *The Anguish of Northern Uganda*; By Robert Gersony; Pg 52

If the strategy to create these ‘protected camps’ was properly planned, a duration of stay that would minimise the adverse effect on the local population in these ‘protected camps’ should have been specified. Five years of staying in these ‘protected camps’ with no end in sight, threatens to destroy the social, economic, and cultural fibre thus reducing the people to depend largely on handouts.

### ***1.3 International and national legal obligations***

The Ugandan government is held responsible and accountable by International legal obligations on human rights; in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT & CID).<sup>17</sup> The government of Uganda and the LRA, as an armed opposition movement, are also bound by International Humanitarian Law, i.e. the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II on internal armed conflict.

The core documents that seek to protect the rights of people are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the ICCPR. The ICCPR that Uganda ratified on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1995 covers a whole range of rights; Art. 6 rights to life, Art. 7 protection against torture and cruel inhuman and degrading (CID) treatment, Arts 9, 14 & 15 protection against arbitrary arrest, due process of the law, Arts 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 freedom of religion, opinion, assembly, and association.

The war in northern Uganda is an internal conflict hence is governed by the Geneva Convention, which Uganda ratified on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1964. Common Article 3 is one of the most relevant Articles with regards to the protection of civilians, in particular against violence to life, taking hostages, summary executions and cruel treatment. This applies to all fighting forces in the conflict, in this case both government and rebels. Common Article 3 extends protection to the following;

“Persons taking no active part in the hostilities including members of the armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause...”

It prohibits “at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above mentioned persons:

- a) violence to life and person, in particular, murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
- b) taking of hostages;
- c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;
- d) the passing of sentences and carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by regularly constituted court”

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<sup>17</sup> The Ugandan government ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1995 just before the promulgation of the 1995 Uganda Constitution, but with reservation to political pluralism. The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman Degrading Treatment or Punishment was ratified by the Ugandan government in 1987

Article 17 of Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions is about the ‘*Prohibition of forced movement of civilians*’. Where displacement of the civilian population has to take place, all possible measures should be taken in order that the civilian population live under satisfactory conditions. This Article states that;

1. The displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered for reasons related to the conflict unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand. Should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measure shall be taken in order that the civilian population may be received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health safety and nutrition
2. Civilians shall not be compelled to leave their own territory for reasons connected to the conflict.

While responsibility for the protection of IDPs rests first and foremost with national governments and local authorities, it is important that the International Community sees how best it can contribute to the enhancing of the protection of IDPs in conflict and crises situations. This endeavour led to the United Nations Secretary General’s Special Representative on IDP’s issuing the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. These Principles, which are based upon international humanitarian law and human rights instruments, are to serve as an international standard to guide governments as well as international humanitarian and development agencies in providing assistance and protection to IDPs.

These Guiding Principles identify the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of the internally displaced in all phases of displacement; protection from arbitrary displacement, offer a basis for protection and assistance during displacement, and set forth guarantees for safe return, resettlement and reintegration. Although they do not constitute a binding instrument, these Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law and analogous refugee law. They basically address the specific needs of internally displaced persons world-wide.

Principle 21 in the Guiding Principles on internal displacement states that;

1. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of property and possessions.
2. The property and possessions of internally displaced persons shall in all circumstances be protected, in particular, against the following acts:
  - (a) Pillage;
  - (b) Direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence;
  - (c) Being used to shield military operations or objectives;
  - (d) Being made the object of reprisal; and
  - (e) Being destroyed or appropriated as a form of collective punishment.
3. Property and possessions left behind by internally displaced persons should be protected against destruction and arbitrary and illegal appropriation, occupation or use.

Other Principles to note are:

*Principle 3* states the national authorities' duty and responsibility to IDPs, and their right to request and to receive protection and humanitarian assistance;

*Principle 6 sub-section 1* states that 'Every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her place of habitual residence;

*Principle 8* states that, Displacement shall not be carried out in any manner that violates the life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected.';

*Principle 10* talks about protection of IDPs against genocide, murder, summary or arbitrary executions; and enforced disappearances. It prohibits acts of violence against IDP's who no longer participate in hostilities, plus the creation of areas wherein attacks on civilians are permitted. It further prohibits starvation as a method of combat; the use of civilians as military shield; attacks against civilian 's camps or settlements; and the use of anti personnel mines;

*Principle 12* talks about liberty and security of persons;

Part of *Principle 13* states that in no circumstance shall displaced children be recruited nor be required or permitted to take part in hostilities;

*Principle 18* states that IDPs have a right to an adequate standards of living. It further states that at a minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide IDPs with, and ensure safe access to: essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, appropriate clothing and essential medical services and sanitation;

*Principle 28* is about primary duty and responsibility of competent authorities to establish conditions, as well as provide means, which allow IDPs to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. It also guarantees the full participation of IDPs in the planning and management of their return or settlement and reintegration.

Chapter 4 of Uganda's 1995 Constitution is about Protection and Promotion of Fundamental and other Human Rights and Freedoms. In this Chapter, the Constitution recognises that fundamental rights and freedoms are rights of every individual by virtue of being human. These rights must be recognised, upheld, protected and respected by all persons, organs and agencies of government. The Uganda Human rights Commission is established under this Chapter as the main body responsible for promoting and protecting the rights of the people. The rights laid down in this Chapter are also called the Bill of Rights. Some important Articles to note in this Chapter are Art. 22 *Protection of the Right to Life*, Art. 24 *Respect for Human Dignity*, which states that no one shall be subjected to any form of torture, cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Art. 25 *Protection from Slavery, Servitude and Forced Labour*, Art. 26 *Right to Property*, Art. 37 *The Right to Culture* and Art. 45 *Additional Rights* although not specifically mentioned in the constitution and contained in Declarations and Conventions at national regional and international level, but accrue to Ugandans.

International and national legal obligations clearly state that the reason for the displacement should be absolutely required and not be discriminatory or exceptional and in specific circumstances such as a tactic in warfare. Where it takes place the extent should be proportional to the situation and basic physical needs availed by government.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 The creation of the “protected villages”

#### 2.1 *The war against civilians*

Massive displacement of civilians in Gulu district into ‘protected camps’ started in 1996. This appeared to be due to two major reasons. One reason is the intensive military action of the new LRA units from Sudan against civilians after their re-entry into Uganda in February 1996. The second one is the harsh treatment of civilians by the Army, and the third reason is the government policy to put villagers in ‘protected camps’ as a military strategy of clearing the battlefields as well as protect them from abduction.

After the break down of the peace talks in February 1994, the rebels began mass abduction and committed gross violations of human rights. The situation continued and only ceased a bit during the 1996 presidential campaigns period to allow campaigns to go on, but resumed afterwards.

In 1995 the scale of violence and child abduction increased. In August 1995 for example, LRA units active in Kitgum were reported to have been set a figure of 1,200 children to abduct. Church sources report that by the year 730 children had been abducted in Pajule, over 250 in Puranga, 502 in Patongo and over 600 in Atanga... -- Schools are a common target. Between 1993 and July 1996 70 teachers were killed by LRA in Kitgum District. In Gulu District in July and August 1996, 11 teachers and over 100 children were killed, 250 primary school children abducted and 59 primary schools burnt down, leading to the closure of 136 out of 180 primary schools. On 25 July 1996, 23 girls were abducted from St. Mary’s College and on 21 August 39 boys from Sir Samuel Baker School, two secondary schools near Gulu. On 10 October 1996, in an incident that has since galvanised public awareness of child abduction, 139 girls were abducted from St. Mary’s College, at Aboke in Apac District.<sup>18</sup>

With mass abductions and killings taking place some sections of the local population resumed the spending of nights in their ‘*alups*’, while others decided to flee and relocate to centres where Army detachments were located. The children abducted by the LRA were initiated into the forces by forcing them to commit very gruesome and brutal crimes on persons they find breaking their regulations. One of the regulations they still try to enforce today is ‘no working in the fields on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays’. Other regulations during the period 1994 to 1996 included ‘*no riding bicycles*’ because one on a bike can

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<sup>18</sup>, Amnesty International, Breaking God’s commands; destruction of childhood by the Lord’s Resistance Army, Uganda, 18 September 1997 P 5

quickly reach Army detachments to report rebel crossings; ‘no habitation near the roads’ contrary to what the Army urged people to do; ‘no keeping pigs’ because they are unclean, a regulation probably due to influence from the Islamic Sudan Government that began to support them in 1994. Several IDPs interviewed confirmed the violent enforcement of these regulations. A woman from Unyama ‘protected camp’ described how, in September 1996, she found her husband’s body on the road to Burcoro, where the LRA rebels found him riding his bicycle.

“...We found his body being partly eaten by dogs. He had been shot in the tummy, his arm was broken, and he had a cut in the throat. My husband was the third to be killed on that day – two other middle-aged men were killed at the same spot, and they each had a bicycle...”<sup>19</sup>

Due to the high number of people abducted especially children and the level of trauma the former abductees experienced, NGOs noticed a need to have trauma centres to handle the returnees. These NGOs included Gulu Support The Children Organisation (GUSCO) and World Vision, Uganda. After the Army have retrieved these former abductees, they are interrogated in the barracks before being handed over to the NGOs with trauma centres.

There were also allegations that in 1994 an Army Mobile Unit was going around the villages raping people rampantly; from young girls and boys to men and women. It was alleged that the unit was comprised of soldiers who were suspected to be HIV positive. One former hunter from Aswa Ranch area claimed that this unit had a fierce fight with the LRA rebels in Aswa Ranch during the hunting season of 1994, in which fight there were many casualties. In a “Submission to Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs Investigating the Northern rebellion with a View to Bringing it to a Speedy End” the Acholi Parliamentary Group charged that;

People were herded into camps without food, health care, etc... for days at various locations purportedly for screening. Many people died and there were human rights violations all over. Some innocent civilians were buried alive in Burcoro, while others were shot, crops in fields were destroyed by the National Resistance Army. The NRA Mobile Battalion nicknamed ‘GUNGA’ committed homosexual acts even with very old men, raped wives, mothers, and daughters in the presence of their families. This painted a terrible picture of the National Resistance Army. At the same time, Kony had also started abducting, raping and killing of innocent people using pangas<sup>20</sup>

The Army began forcing villagers to the roadside and trading centres in mid-1996, by launching artillery and mortar bombs into the villages to scare the people to the roadside. There were some civilian casualties of these indiscriminately

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<sup>19</sup> HURIFO Interview Unyama ‘protected camp’ March 29, 2000

<sup>20</sup> Human Rights Watch, *The Scars of Death; Children Abducted by the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda*, Uganda. P 70

launched artillery and bombs. They also sent word to the local authorities instructing them to move their people away and clear the ‘battlefields’. A copy of a letter with such instructions can be viewed in Appendix 5 of this document. The LRA on the other hand began attacking these people who had moved, burning down their houses along the roadside. About the 20<sup>th</sup> September in some parts of Gulu district, the LRA rebels stepped up their campaign to force people away from the trading centres or roadsides and back to their villages. At the same time calculated measures were in place to abduct young boys and girls to bolster its forces.

## **2.2 *The Ugandan government response: a policy of forced displacement***

The Uganda Government Army, on September 27 1996 acting on order from above, announced through the commanders in the detachments that everyone should relocate to the trading centres where the Army detachments were located. In some areas in the district, forcible displacement had already taken place as early as August 1996.

The intention of the formation of the ‘protected camps’ was purportedly to separate the civilian population from the LRA rebels in order to deny them (LRA) civilians. This was confirmed by one Army Commander Major Kakooza Mutale, a Senior Presidential Adviser, in 1996.

Towards the end of October the Major told journalists that President Yoweri Museveni’s idea was that the camps would enable the destruction of the “*intelligence centre of insurgency*” (Source The Monitor 30 October – 1 November 1996).<sup>21</sup>

The depopulation of the villages removes the soft targets and logistics for the survival of the rebels. They would lack food, information, and youth to abduct and people to kill. Desperation would drive them to attack the Army in the camps. That will be their end.<sup>22</sup>

Reporting President Museveni’s decision, The New Vision newspaper said that the President indicated that the measure would leave the countryside “*open for UPDF [Army] confrontation with marauding remnants of the rebels now terrorizing innocent people.*”<sup>23</sup>

Even Major General Salim Saleh, formerly overall overseer of the government’s war effort in the north, conceded that the evacuation of villages was done in a “*haphazard and uncoordinated*” manner and the authorities did not “*put in place basic amenities for their (the people’s) livelihood*”<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> The Monitor 30 October – 1 November 1996

<sup>22</sup> The New Vision, 13 November 1996

<sup>23</sup> The New Vision, 29 September 1996

<sup>24</sup> The Monitor, October 21 1997.

Some camp residents like the Local Councillors (LCs) are said to have moved to the camp because they were being sought for by the rebels since they are perceived as government agents. Some civilian population moved into the camp because they feared attacks/ atrocities, such as killings and abductions, from the LRA rebels and at times even from some indisciplined section of the Army especially the Mobile Forces.

By 1996, it had become official government policy to relocate people to these camps, both as a protective measure and a counter-insurgency tactic.<sup>25</sup>

### ***2.3 The implementation: Human rights violations against civilians***

Despite the announcements to relocate the people into trading centres where the Army detachments were, there was no prior arrangement to facilitate the displaced persons. The people were herded into these centres minus the basics for life i.e. shelter, food, safe water, etc... The implementation of the policy of forced displacement probably varied from place to place but certain methods were common in almost all. The Army went rounding up people and marching them to the trading centres not allowing them to carry any luggage and claiming that government would provide for them. In some areas mortar-bombs were looped into the villages while in others the helicopter gunship went round dropping bombs. Due to the hardships the displaced persons found in the camps, many of them risked their lives to return home to get building materials and food, and in the process some were killed and other injured and/ or abducted.

An old man from Omkokitinge village in Idobo Parish, which is 14 km away from Lalogi 'protected camp', explained to HURIFO how he arrived at the camp:

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1996, I saw a UPDF [Army] helicopter land in our village at a site where about 400 UPDF [Army] Mobile Unit soldiers had camped. I learnt that the soldiers gave a letter to a middle-aged man to take to the LC I. The letter, am told, was an order from above informing everybody in the area to relocate to the roadside because in a day or two a helicopter would be sent to bomb all the bushes and houses in that area, and so anyone who stays behind will be killed. The UPDF [Army] was already bombing the villages before this letter of 5<sup>th</sup> August, so this letter was just to inform the people that the villages would be bombed more indiscriminately and all houses and bushes would be burnt down. When the LC official contacted the Army detachment commander at Lalogi one Kazina he said he was aware of this and so the people must move out immediately as had been said in the letter. When I got this information, I did not wait, but moved that very day, 5<sup>th</sup> August 1996 together with the people near my area to the Lalogi Sub-County Headquarters. We stayed in the building belonging to the Local Administration of the Sub-County,

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<sup>25</sup>, African Rights, NORTHERN UGANDA; Justice in Conflict, London [United Kingdom], January 2000. P. 54

because there was no housing or any other facility available. People who came afterwards had to build their own grass-thatched huts. We chose one Anywar Livingstone to be our leader and he reported to district authorities about our horrific conditions in particular the starvation and eventually World Food Programme brought us some food....<sup>26</sup>

IDPs of Olwal camp were moved back and forth before settling finally in Olwal trading centre. It appears from several testimonies that the IDPs were forcibly brought at Olwal trading centre from where they were ordered to move to either Wiyanono camp, Amuru camp or Pabo camp. Their homes were burnt after they had been relocated. Those who had moved to Wiyanono were later ordered to return to the Army detachment in Olwal trading centre to form the current Olwal 'protected camp'.

One camp official described how the situation was when the Olwal camp was being formed:

We were forcibly moved to Wiyanono camp by the Army in November 1996. The reason they gave for herding us together was that the UPDF [Army] were now few and could not protect the population in their villages. We couldn't refuse, since the whole thing was like a military operation. It took about 2 days for the Military to gather everyone to Olwal trading centre, where we later split into 3 groups. Some people went to Pabo camp, others to Amuru camp and the rest of us to Wiyanono camp. Where we stayed for about one month before being relocated to Olwal trading centre to form Olwal camp. We, the camp residents, couldn't go anywhere because we had to wait for orders from the Army. Meanwhile after relocation, our homes were burnt down presumably by the rebels, so we couldn't even return to the burnt homestead. 1996 was a very difficult period because up to 500 families had their homes burnt. We were constantly on the run. We could even spend nights in the bush only coming home in the morning ... Whenever there are gunshots in the camp, everybody runs out to hide in the bushes for their own safety....<sup>27</sup>

A member of Olwal Camp Committee shared his memory with HURIFO about the formation and life in the 'protected camp':

On Sunday October 20, 1996 at 12:00pm, people were ordered to leave Olwal area and go to Wiyanono. Then on Sunday November 4, 1996 at about 17:30 people were released to return to Olwal trading centre. Because it was late in the evening most people returned on Monday November 5, 1996. On Tuesday November 6, 1996 LRA rebels attacked the UPDF [Army] in Olwal and one civilian, an old lady, was shot during the fight. After the fighting we found 2 dead bodies of rebels and 6 guns in the bushes. I do not know how many people were in this camp when it just started because people arrived at different times. The population of

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<sup>26</sup> HURIFO Interview 25<sup>th</sup> September 2001

<sup>27</sup> HURIFO Interview M1-1 OL June 6, 2001

this camp as by 1999 was 16,076. Over the years some IDPs from Olwal camp established two more camps; Gira-Gira and Coo-Rom. In the beginning of the camp we had to make our huts out of grass only. Later, several humanitarian agencies then came to our [the IDPs] aid....<sup>28</sup>

A 40-year-old man from Pamin-Ayere village talked of how they were moved from one place to another at the formation of the Olwal 'protected camp':

I came to the camp when it was being formed. We were first taken to Wiyanono then brought back to Olwal trading centre. On our 2<sup>nd</sup> day of our stay in Olwal 'protected camp', the rebels made an attack on the camp and people scattered. After 3 to 4 days the Army told people to come back to the camp. Those who refused were forcibly brought back by the Army. For example the people from Gira-Gira were brought to the camp and the next day they returned to their homes. The soldiers then went for them and beat them back to the camp....<sup>29</sup>

A 21-year-old man from Gira-Gira village, which is 4miles north-west of the camp testified:

I came to the camp in October 1996. The UPDF [Army] brought us from our homes and herded us to the camp. At the onset we were some distance from the barracks, but the Army then ordered us to move closer to the barracks....<sup>30</sup>

One camp official from Opit 'protected camp' testified:

This camp was started on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1996. People's homes, granaries and even latrines were burnt after the Army ordered them to move to Opit trading centre to form the 'protected camp'. The rebels started burning houses along the road and in the centre as well as killing people on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1996. I remember that on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2 people were killed near my home, which is about 1 Km from Opit trading centre and close to the main road to Opit. The UPDF [Army] Commander at Opit gave an order on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1996 that he is giving 7 days for everybody to be in Opit Centre. He said he was following orders from above. It hurts so much to remember the suffering of the people, if only you had seen. Exactly 7 days later on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1996, the army looped bombs from their Opit detachment into the villages as if addressed 'to whom it may concern'[indiscriminately]. Immediately very many soldiers were deployed into the villages to make a follow-up. When I asked the soldiers why we should move to the trading centre, they just replied the rebels are killing you ... At the start of the camp the population was 14,379 and the number of households was 3,270. The highest population the camp has had is 28,000 people. When people came to the camp there was no accommodation and so Fr. Ponziano the Catholic

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<sup>28</sup> HURIFO Interview M2-1 OL June 6, 2001

<sup>29</sup> HURIFO Interview M3-1 OL June 7, 2001

<sup>30</sup> HURIFO Interview M4-1 OL June 7, 2001

Parish Priest of the Mission provided a store where as many people as possible would sleep. World Food Programme provided food. People who tried to go back to their homes met problems, some were killed and women raped. We couldn't run to take refuge in Lango district because they didn't want any Acholi in their land and would kill you ... A camp leader was elected in June 1997. Once in 1997, the Army was asked to carry out a census on the population of the camp and they came up with a figure of over 58,000 people. The rebels enter the camp at will and attack the barracks while they rob and/or abduct the residents. This camp is composed of people from 6 different parishes. Some people came here because they expected assistance from the Parish Priest of Opit Catholic Mission, Fr. Ponziano or at least from the church. I have known of up to 11 people who have committed suicide in this camp....<sup>31</sup>

One Pabo 'protected camp' resident talked about the congestion and the shelling of the villages

In the beginning, we were 3 miles around Kal Centre and the barracks, but the Army gave an order that everybody should be within ½ mile radius of the centre. There was then a scramble for land within the ½ mile radius. Palwong village was shelled again in January 1997 by helicopter gunship, motars and 'mambas' and 19 people were killed....<sup>32</sup>

A 34-year-old man from Otong village Gaya Parish testified on an incident that happened during time the camps were being formed.

During the formation of the camp the government troops were shelling the villages with bombs and so you could get hurt. The bombs dug large holes in the ground. One landed on a grave and unearthed the body. This bombing scared the people especially the one, which unearth a dead body in Gaya Labiga village 2 km from the camp here. It was only ½ a kilometre from my home....<sup>33</sup>

Amnesty Internationals, in its report '*Breaking the Circle*' talked about the Army using indiscriminate artillery and mortar fire to force people to move. One of their testimonies talked about shelling of Pugwenyi parish in October 1996, because villagers had refused to move to the camps.

We met the elders to talk about going to the camps. It was discussed. We were asked can the government provide food? What about sanitation? What about medical care? Can the government guarantee that we will be safe? And what would happen to our homes? It was decided not to go. A few days latter the villagers were shelled with heavy weapon. Two women were

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<sup>31</sup> HURIFO Interview M1-1 OP July 31, 2001

<sup>32</sup> HURIFO Interview August 23 2001

<sup>33</sup> HURIFO Interview August 23 2000

killed \and a boy was hurt. The people moved. Some went to the division headquarters, others went to Gulu.<sup>34</sup>

Another testimony from Attiak described how they were herded to the ‘protected camps’

They gathered people from their homes. If you were in the field, they gathered you too. We were not allowed to collect things. They told us to move. We were made to move through the bush for a whole day, carrying the soldiers’ packs and food. Near sunset we reached Lagotoywec where they collected people as well.

They set fire on the grass between our homes. This was where we hid our belongings and food so that it was not stolen by the LRA. Everything was burnt. In the homesteads they pushed over the granaries and took food for themselves. They took and killed chickens.

We reached the Atido river. There we stopped. Some soldiers began to beat some men. They struck women on the head with a switch. Four women were raped.<sup>35</sup>

From the testimonies above it can be seen that the implementation of the government policy on formation of the IDP ‘protected camps’ in Gulu was not done in accordance with Article 17 of the Geneva Conventions. However, it must be noted that not all the IDPs were forcibly relocated. Some of them voluntarily relocated themselves to settle near military installations where they believed they would be protected or more safe than when in their original homes.

#### ***2.4 The debate about internal displacement in northern Uganda***

The situation of the IDPs in the ‘protected camps’ has been an issue of protracted debate from the very beginning. Sceptics have called them “concentration camps”, and some politicians have denounced them as a campaign strategy. The government was quick to deny their existence, but turned around and claimed the people came on their own for their own safety. The government finally gave an explanation that the camps were intended to protect the civilian population from attacks by the LRA rebels. Whatever the reason, the impact of these camps has had on the society is unimaginably disastrous, hence it will hauntingly remain a critical issue of both national and global concern.

In 1996 there were two main patterns of displacement; the spontaneous displacement in which local peasants and LCs sought refuge in their local trading centres and the involuntary displacement where the Army ordered the remaining civilian rural population to move to specific trading centres.

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<sup>34</sup> Quoted in *Breaking the Circle: protecting human rights in the northern war zone*; By Amnesty International UGANDA, Pg. 23

<sup>35</sup> Quoted in *Breaking the Circle: protecting human rights in the northern war zone*; By Amnesty International UGANDA, Pg. 23-4

Robert Gersony in his research work done in 1996/7 discussed the views of opponents to the existence of 'protected villages' versus views of advocates for the same.

“Some opponents of the protected villages withheld their assistance. They argued that these villages were established as a military tactic, and were not a spontaneous civilian response to conflict. To assist the protected villages would therefore violate the neutrality of NGOs. They also questioned the military effectiveness of the strategy and whether civilians were better protected in them. A few, including some who had not visited any such places, asserted that they were all similar to the site at Pabo (i.e., they were all co-located with the military detachments), which was inaccurate. Referring to cases like Pabo, they characterised all the centers as “protecting villages” or “protected barracks,” alleging that the civilians were used as the first line of alert against rebel attacks against the military. -

Advocates of the “protected villages” argued that the UPDF [Army] was in the process of an aggressive operation against the LRA. To the degree that the LRA could replenish its losses by abducting more youngsters – which in the highly dispersed rural areas the Army could not effectively prevent – its efforts and sacrifice seemed futile. By eliminating the LRAs ability to loot food and abduct youngster – frequent complaints of the rural population – rebel forces would be weakened. Able to concentrate its stationery units in a limited number of locations, the remainder of the Army would be freer to pursue the rebels. The Geneva Convention, it was argued, permits the government to displace populations for their protection (although it also requires that adequate arrangement for their material well-being be provided).”<sup>36</sup>

The debate about internal displacement has covered many issues, ranging from reasons for the displacement to methods used in effecting it. Among human rights advocates and humanitarian organisations, there is no consensus regarding forced displacement in Gulu. With respect to the modality used to effect the displacement took place, Article 17 of Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions specifies conditions under which displacement can take place plus all possible measures that should be taken, in order that the civilian population live under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition. This implies that even if the forced displacement was not considered a violation of international humanitarian law in Uganda, the way in which it was done constituted a violation.

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<sup>36</sup>; Robert Gersony. *The Anguish Of Northern Uganda*, P. 51

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 The administration of the displaced camps**

#### **3.1 *Location and size of the camps***

*Map of Gulu showing the location of IDP ‘protected camps’.*

There are a total of 33 registered IDP camps in Gulu district. A large percentage of the population in Gulu district is actually Internally displaced. This is probably why the population around Gulu town has swollen over the years. Many small-congested villages have sprung-up in the suburbs of the town due to many internally displaced persons moving to stay near the town.

IDP Camps in Gulu district are of different sizes and congestion levels vary from camp to camp. Their locations are usually in trading centre or at least where an Army detachment is located. The populations vary from less than 1000 like in Kaladima ‘protected camp’ to tens of thousands like Pabo ‘protected camp’ with 46,977(data of 2001). The findings from the different camps HURIFO visited shows some degree of diversity in population size, area size and congestion levels.

Pabo ‘protected camp’ is situated about 38-km Northwest of Gulu, on Gulu-Juba road. The camp like most other camps in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum was created in 1996. The population of the camp at its inception, according to the LC III office Pabo, was just over 33,000. The officials in Pabo ‘protected camp’ informed HURIFO that the camp is exactly One sq. mile. The whole population of 33,000 people then, was ordered to occupy only 1 sq. km. Points were marked beyond which no hut should be erected.

The Pabo ‘protected camp’ is home to people from all Parishes within Pabo Sub-county (division), Pawel parish from Attiak Sub-county, Agwayugi and Parabongo parishes from Lamogi, all from Kilak County, and Pugwenyi parish from Patiko Sub-county, Aswa County. The then (April 2000) camp leader informed the monitors that the camp has been divided into eight zones i.e. Zone A with a population of 6,495, Zone B with 3,305, Zone C with 14,224, Zone D with 10,557, Zone E with 5,330, Zone F/A with 9,628, Zone F/B with 5,506, and Zone G with 4,884 people.

Opit ‘protected camp’ is about 30km eastward of Gulu town along the Gulu-Moroto road. A camp official gave an overview of the camp

The Opit Camp population which is not always constant is currently 25,111. During registration in March 11, 2001 the population was over 27,000 but according to the verification done in May 10 & 11, 2001 the number is 25,111. The number of households is 4,466. As for decongestion of this camp it started after an LRA attack of April 19, 1999, in which 252 huts were burnt ... Distribution of food is done in an orderly manner. People are divided into two groups; A and B, whereby the two groups receive food on different days. The camp is divided into five zones; zone A to E, and is spread over a 3-mile stretch along the road from the centre towards Gulu town to the railway crossing, which is zone E commonly known as Kal Quarters. After the April 19 1999 LRA attack the UPDF [Army] tried to increase the security by increasing the number of soldiers to over 200. Zone D is nearest to the barracks and is on the

other end of the camp. This attack made residents to spread out and zone C extended stretching over 1 km away while zone E reached the railway-line about 3 km away from the Camp centre....<sup>37</sup>

During April 1997, visits to a number of such centers revealed two types of settlement patterns:

- the temporary huts erected in Anaka, Koc-Goma, Opit and Atiak were widely dispersed within a kilometer or two of the village center, not immediately near military detachments; and
- Those erected in Pabo (and reportedly in Aswa County) were closely clustered around military detachments<sup>38</sup>

For more data on ‘protected camps’ including populations for the years 1999 to 2001 where available, refer to Appendix 4.

### **3.2 *The role of the Army and Reserve Forces (“homeguards”)***

In northern Uganda, different sections of the Army have different functions. The Army regular forces are mainly located in 4<sup>th</sup> Division headquarters main barracks and different barracks’s in the region. Each barracks has got several detachments commonly known as detaches. These detachments are occupied by the homeguard units and commanded by officers from the Army regular force. This is reason why the homeguard is referred to as the reserve force and their commanders come from the Army and are called UPDF Reserve Force Commanders. There exist a Sub-county reserve force commander, a district reserve force commander and regional reserve force commander for the whole northern region. The Army Mobile Forces are also regular Army forces but directly under the 4<sup>th</sup> Division headquarters main barracks. They traverse the whole region but do not belong to any of the out-stationed barracks’s or detachments.

An Official in Pabo ‘protected camp’ talked to HURIFO and made these comments about the homeguards (reserve forces):

Last year [2000] Pabo displaced camp was the headquarters of the Gulu District Reserve Force (Homeguard) but this year [2001] the headquarters is in Kilak ‘protected camp’ in Attiak Sub-County. Currently Pabo ‘protected camp’ is protected with mainly the homeguard unit. The Mobile Unit is composed of regular UPDF [Army] soldiers while the soldiers in all detaches belong to the Reserve Force Unit (Homeguard Unit). The homeguards do not move outside their Sub-County. The Mobile Unit, traversing the countryside is usually of about 300 soldiers. Currently Pabo has only about 50 Homeguards to protect the IDPs, compared to last year when Pabo was the District Reserve Force Headquarters with about 250 to 300 soldiers. Usually when the

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<sup>37</sup> HURIFO Interview July 31, 2001

<sup>38</sup>; Robert Gersony. *The Anguish Of Northern Uganda* P. 50

Homeguard Unit is to join UPDF [Army] Mobile Unit in pursuit of the rebels, they select about 10 soldiers from 3 different detachments to form a Reserve Unit of 30 soldiers. The Homeguards are trained for 3 months while the Army is given 9 months training. Despite the inadequacies in training of the homeguards, the nature of their work is the same as that of the Army, except that the homeguards are not supposed to be taken outside their Sub-County. The Commanders of the homeguard unit usually come from the Army ... The Homeguards are paid forty thousand shillings [Ug. Shs. 40,000/=] per month of which ten thousand [Ug. Shs. 10,000/=] is salary. The rest of the 30,000/= is allowance. For the first month 10,000/= is for Gumboots, 10,000/= is for feeding, 10,000/= is for uniform and then the balance of 10,000/= is the salary. The Army's Mobile Unit would only come to an area when they are pursuing rebels or when the situation is said to be bad. This year they have so far come to Pabo twice: in June and in February. Before 1999 their frequency to this camp was higher; almost every month and they would stay for 2-3 days before proceeding ... As regards {individual soldiers} crimes like rape, the suspects/ offenders are taken to the Police Post by LCs or by the Army. The Army is co-operative when a soldier is to be arrested. I think crimes committed by the Army or homeguards are due to the individual's character, especially if that person was an outcast in his community before joining the forces. The indisciplined soldiers are often times sent to the mobile Unit of the Army. The homeguards get pay of Ug. Shs. 40,000/=, while the Army get more than four times as much [Ug. Shs 170,000/=] for the same job....<sup>39</sup>

The homeguard unit probably has its roots in the "Arrow Brigade" formed by local population in the early 1990s to fight the LRA rebels. Government then started the Local Defence Unit (LDU), which was given basic training, uniforms and arms. When the Local Defence Unit was absorbed by the Army into its ranks in the later, half of the 1990s people were reluctant to join the LDU. Government then came up with the homeguard unit, which as the name suggests ideally is to protect ones home area and very similar to the original "Arrow Brigade". Recruitment was done through the LC I, right at the grassroots.

In some 'protected camps' the Army detachment forms part of the camp. In Pabo 'protected camp' the barracks is located at the back of Zone C, with zone D, F/A and F/B to one side and zone E on the other. The front of Zone C is at the main road where the trading centre is, and across the road is Zone A and B. One evening in May 2000, as one monitor was moving in front of the barracks, there was a man informing people that those who want more protection could come and sleep close to the barracks fence. HURIFO later found out that he is the Political Commissar; the linkman between the Army and the civilians.

Comments of a camp official:

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<sup>39</sup> HURIFO Interview June 14 2001

Some homeguards recruited by the UPDF [Army] are still children of about 10 years. In the beginning the recruitment of homeguards was done by coercion and the local population was to look after its own homeguards. They are given 3 months training, while UPDF [regular forces] soldiers get 9 months training, and are paid Ug Shs 40,000/= per month, which pay is irregular and delayed up to 3-4 months, while a Private in the army get Ug Shs 140,000/= [May 2000] plus ration cash allowance. The UPDF [Army] usually mistreat homeguards in several ways; making them do the cooking, washing clothes, etc... At night the Army stays in the barracks while homeguards are deployed around the camps to patrol. In addition the homeguard are made to go to the front-line with Mobile Unit soldiers. The only way people desert the homeguard unit is by leaving the district ... Some of these homeguards are living in very pathetic conditions....<sup>40</sup>

A local official from Olwal ‘protected camp’ told the monitors about the situation when the camp had just started and who the homeguards are.

The camp residents usually take refuge in the nearby bushes whenever they hear gunshots. In this camp we have not had any restriction in case one wants to get out of hut [for a call of nature] at night. Currently the soldiers who move around the camp at night all belong to the Homeguard Unit. We know this because we know our people of the camp who have joined the Unit and see them doing the patrol. The Army usually stays within the barracks....<sup>41</sup>

A middle-aged man from Opit ‘protected camp’ commenting to HURIFO about homeguards recruitment in the camp:

One day in September 1999, we just realized that the whole Army had left the camp. We hear they were taken to the [D.R Congo] and people were now being asked to provide their own security by joining the Homeguard Unit. These Homeguards are recruited from the population and given 3 months training....<sup>42</sup>

Homeguards/ LDUs countrywide have been largely involved in human rights violations against civilians. The atrocities committed by them include but are not limited to rape, defilement and murder. There was a long debate about which institution is accountable for the liability of this paramilitary force. The state denied it was liable, as the said force was not part of its security organs. This created a dilemma when it came to seeking legal redress. The legal riddles and wrangles found solution after a High Court ruling in Mukono; David Kironde Vs Mukono District Administration & Attorney General HCCS 486/93 (10<sup>th</sup> August 1995) Before Berko, J.

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<sup>40</sup> HURIFO Interview M3-2 P August 22, 2000

<sup>41</sup> HURIFO Interview M1-1 OL June 6, 2001

<sup>42</sup> HURIFO Interview August 31, 2001

*Tort– vicarious liability – LDU (Local Defence Forces) – whether Attorney General is liable for their tortious acts – whether LDU were servants of the Attorney General.*

*Tort – Course of duty – LDU shooting plaintiff – whether acted in course of duty or was on own frolic....<sup>43</sup>*

HELD:

1. It is a notorious fact that LDUs are trained and armed by the government. LDUs are an integral part of government machinery for the maintenance of law and order in the country. Therefore even if there is no statute defining the status of LDUs, they are servants of government.
2. An LDU's duty is to maintain law and order and his duty involves stopping and interrogating people. That is why the LDU is armed. Therefore even if the act of hitting the plaintiff was wanton and unjustified, it was nevertheless the wrongful way of doing the authorised act. Therefore the Attorney General was liable for the tortious act of the LDU since the LDU was acting in the course of his employment....<sup>44</sup>

### **3.3 *The local administration***

Every camp has a camp committee headed by a camp leader. The camp leaders usually have subordinate leaders for every zone within the camp and in cases of the larger camps there are also sub-ward leaders for sub-wards within each zone. This structure is just an addition to the already existing sub-county administrative structures of the communities in their original home areas prior to the setting-up of the camps.

Camp leaders came as a result of the displacement of the people from their original homes into new settlements termed 'protected villages. People had come from various villages with their different Local leaders into a new setting. The settlement patterns in the camp differed in that villagers from different places randomly settled around the military detachments. In some cases the local leaders from one village could be in a different camp from some of his people hence his people were without leadership. In many camps visited HURIFO was informed that the IDPs had realised the need for some form of organisation especially as regards getting assistance or voicing their concerns or problems to district authorities. This camp leadership structure seemed to be respected a lot by all because it came from the people themselves rather than from above. The camp officials tend to be very popular hence can easily be elected to other local leadership positions. District authorities and NGOs working in the IDP 'protected camps' too recognised and encouraged the new structures by working with them on mobilisation of the IDPs and also when running projects in the camps. This was mainly because at the onset of the camps the camp leaders became the new

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<sup>43</sup> 1995 Kampala Law Report KALR Volume 5, P 122

<sup>44</sup> 1995 Kampala Law Report KALR Volume 5, P 123

linkages with the people. The people usually elect the camp committee and their role is specifically to voice out the plight of the IDPs. This makes them popular representatives and spokespersons of the IDPs.

The sub-county local government is the lowest level of the local government structures are at sub-county level from the villages. Other structures exist in the camp depending on the composition of the camp population. The Local Council structures start from the villages through Parish level and Sub-county level up to the District level. Each village is headed by an LC I then the next level being the Parish level which has an LC II and then at the sub-county level has the LC III Chairperson. These are exactly parallel structures to what the British set-up in the colonial days. The structure left behind by the British, which is still in place today, has parish chiefs at parish level and sub-county chiefs at sub-county level. It appears the structures the British set up was just to displace the cultural structures of the local population found in pre-colonial period.

In a camp like Pabo, which comprises of people from the whole of Pabo sub-county plus a few others from neighbouring sub-counties, all settled on about one square mile, has got the structures from LC III Committee to LC I Committees. The people from a different sub-county like Attiak, Amuru or Patiko could have their LC III sometimes LC II and even LC I displaced to a different 'protected camp'. There are 6 parishes in Pabo sub-county, hence 6 LC II Committees each with LC I committees below them. The settlement in the camp does not follow parishes of origin hence the need for another structure the camp committee structure by zones and subwards. There is a linkman called the Political Commissar (PC) who is the go-between the military and the civilian camp population.

HURIFO observed that the population seems to be living in a state of fear, noted from the response of the population to their visits and comments from a few people, one of whom said,

The culture of silence has developed and highly prevails in the community of Pabo. The population cannot say anything and neither can the local leaders. The Local leaders usually visit the barracks presumably to receive instructions on what they should do without question. This developed through a process from the beginning of the insurgency. As regards human rights violations, I suggest the UN should send a Special Rapportuer for the Acholi sub-region. In case of people being resettled back to their homes there should be a resettlement package provided. There are several tactics I have noticed being used to silence the population; like instructing the LCs on what to do, hence making them less effective to respond to the constituents' problems, open threats of death to the IDPs if they do not follow the Army orders, giving small form of compensation to some of the victims of human rights violations so that the case dies, isolation of potential leaders as the reason for the unending problems, arrests and detentions outside the due process of the law. The

Army can address the IDPs and threaten them saying anyone caught in the villages will be shot and killed....<sup>45</sup>

There seems to be arguments in roles to be played by the sub-county local government vis-à-vis the camp leadership. It appears that in some sub-counties, there have been power wrangles between the camp leaders and either the sub-county or district local government. This is also revealed by the camp leaders letter, dated 17 November 2001, to the Resident District Commissioner Gulu District signed by 14 different camp leaders. They termed the subject matter as ‘Suppression of Camp leaders by some offices in the district’:

Comparing this with camp leaders meeting held on 22/10/2001, under the agendum roles of the camp leader, we the campleaders were directed that from that time onwards the weigh bill [waybill] will be signed by the LC III Chairpersons and the women councillors. The whole camp work is in the hands of the LCIII chairpersons while the camp leaders are just mere mobilisers. The sudden demotion of camp leaders to mere mobilisers and promotion (extra role) of LCIII chairpersons to camp leaders by top district officials, shocked every camp leader who attended the meeting. Before camp leaders were working harmoniously under the LCIII Chairpersons and we really respect them, but their promotion especially during the time of campaign and election of local councillors is an indication of a fishy deal, which is taking place or is about to take place as decongestion time grows nearer. At the beginning of the camp we were told that the camp activities are under NGOs and that the IDPs were to elect their camp leaders who were neither civil servants nor political wings of the government but to work along side with them. Towards decongestion, the camp leaders are now not elected by the IDPs whose interest they serve, but are appointed by district authorities whose interest are a priority....

Booting camp leaders out of their offices and replacing them by the LCIII chairpersons indicate that the constant confusion which camp leaders experience within and without their camps originate from the district

### **3.4 Administration of justice**

The IDPs moved to the camps with the administrative structures that were already in existence and tried to find ways of making them effective in their new settings when settling disputes in the camp. These structures include the Local Councils (LCs), and the local Sub-county leadership. The camp committees developed from the IDPs need to organise themselves in the new setting.

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<sup>45</sup> HURIFO Interview August 22, 2000

The Local Council (LC) committees, i.e. LC I, LC II and LC III, were in 1988 given powers by the government of Uganda, to solve problems and disputes. They do this in their LC courts. The Local Council courts are courts in which the members of the LC committee of an area act as the judges, when cases are brought to them to be heard and settled. Each committee has 9 members; a Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the General Secretary, Secretary for Defence, Secretary for Women, Secretary for Youth Culture and Sports, Secretary for Health, Secretary for Works and Secretary for Information. Cases are usually handled at LC I level in the village. Only when one party is not satisfied with the judgement that the case is forwarded to LC II at Parish level and can still be forwarded further to LC III who is at Sub-County level. The camp leadership committees are below the LC committees because they have not been given any clear powers by government on issues regarding disputes. They specifically focus on issues dealing with IDP camp programmes, like food distribution and relating to humanitarian organisations or district authorities in charge of camps.

All nine members of the LC committee must be informed about any hearing of a case and at least five of them should be present when a case is being heard. The LC Committee members can choose a chairperson from among themselves when the chairperson and vice chairperson are both absent. In case the committee is less than five people they can choose from the members of the public so as to make the number five.

The Uganda government identified the type of cases or disputes, which the LC committees can deal with. These are:

- Land disputes; where the land has no certificate and is occupied according to customs of the area.
- Marriage disputes; only where the persons are married according to local customs.
- Disputes concerning customary heirs
- Dispute arising from impregnation of a girl below the age of 18; In Ugandan law having sex with a girl below the age of 18 is termed 'defilement' with a maximum sentence of death. The LCs are only allowed to hear the case on claims the girl may have as regards assistance for medical care, clothing and general maintenance during pregnancy. The hearings in this LC court in no way affect any possible action the police might take against the man responsible for making the girl pregnant.
- Disputes stemming from elopement with a girl below the age of 18; just as in the defilement case, the decisions of the LC court in no way affect the any actions the police might take against the man involved.
- Disputes arising from where one leaves property to another for safekeeping; hence resolving settlement.
- Disputes arising from debts issues. However if the value of the claim exceeds Ug 5,000/= it should be taken to the Magistrates court.

- Dispute arising from an Agreement to buy or supply items to someone
- Assault and battery; where people have fought and hurt one another
- Conversion; where persons take another's property and deals it as theirs

The procedure used is that the complainant reports to the chairman the details of the complaint and then the chairman sets a date for the hearing. All persons involved in the case are then summoned and asked to come along with all relevant documents or materials that may assist the court. These courts can come out with declarations that resolve the issues peacefully, compensation for losses, restitution by recovering property or equivalent, apologies, attachments through organising sale of property to recover money, or fines.

Most camps are divided into zones each with a leader. For the larger camps the zones are each divided into subwards. Therefore, when disputes arise, they are first reported to the smallest unit leader usually the subward leader. If he cannot resolve it he forwards it to a higher camp official. The camp leader forwards it to LC I of the area where the camp is set up and it goes on until it reaches the highest level possible – the LC III. Not always do the cases follow such long procedures, but can also be taken directly to the LC III office. The Sub-county offices have sub-county jails and local police. When suspects or tax defaulters are arrested they are temporarily kept in the sub-county jail. Local Council Secretary for Security

In cases where it is an issue not concerning the camps and the persons involved are from different areas, the LC I of the victim's area hears the case while the LC I of the offenders area is invited to sit-in.

Some camps like Pabo, Amuru and Opit do have a police-post with a few staff who can register the cases and temporarily detain suspects. These police-posts usually forward beyond them to CPS Gulu together with the suspects.

The LC III office Pabo and the Police Post Pabo, both told the monitors that the military is co-operative with them even when a soldier is the offender. Despite this many IDPs do not believe justice can be done when soldier has committed a crime.

The war has affected the work of the LC courts. It's difficult to operate in the camps. People from the same village are often spread through different camps, so if someone commits an offence it can be difficult to trace them. Our workload has increased because many people don't respect our courts and we have to try and track them down.

We do not have magistrates' courts, so when we can't solve a matter here we refer it to the magistrate in Gulu. However such cases tend to disappear because the complainant often has no money to transport the offender.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup>, African Rights NORTHERN UGANDA; Justice in Conflict ,P. 55

A 35-year-old man of Zone C who comes from Otorokome, Pogo Parish, was in July 2001 assaulted by a soldier. This happened at about 7:30pm when he found a lady had brought a soldier to ease himself next to his house. An argument broke out between him and the lady and the soldier came and hit him across the face. He reported the matter to the sub-ward leader who took him to the LC III's office. When nothing was done he was told later that he should have given a LC official about Ug shs 5,000/=. He didn't report the case to the police because he claims he was weak.<sup>47</sup>

The monitors noted that the Police are very co-operative as regards follow-up of cases that the monitors were interested in. Unfortunately though, when the victims of human rights violations report cases to HURIFO office but have lost their Police File Case Nos. the Police have difficulty in tracing where the case has reached or how far it has gone. Many times the victims are satisfied with being alive and not interested in following-up their cases lest they are harmed again. The Army 4<sup>th</sup> Division Public Relations Office too, co-operates in trying to assist victims of human rights abuses or locate victims of arbitrary arrest in military installations.

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<sup>47</sup> HURIFO Interview 21<sup>st</sup> August 2000

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 Human rights abuses against displaced persons by the Lord Resistance Army

HURIFO found old and recent cases of human rights violations/ abuses committed by the LRA rebel forces. The human rights violations by the LRA happened both within and outside the camp.

There are seemingly two main reasons why the LRA rebels abduct camp residents; the first is to get young people who can be trained in the Sudan to join their ranks, and the second reason is to get people to carry their loot. HURIFO noted that some abductees are killed after moving a distance from the camp while others are just made to 'disappear'. The LRA rebels systematically loot, abduct and commit various atrocious human rights violations. While in rebel captivity, the abductees are usually severely beaten or made to participate in atrocious crimes as part of their initiation into the rebel ranks.

Typically, the rebels appear to divide into small bands in order to lead raids into Uganda. Group of five to twenty rebels wander through the bush, maintaining radio contact with their fellows. In town, the rebels loot trading posts and steal medicines from small health clinics. In the bush, they loot compounds, beating and often killing adults and abducting many of the children. They burn huts when they leave, steal everything edible or useful. The small rebel bands then reunite, and march together back across the Sudanese border.<sup>48</sup>

From the interviews HURIFO carried out over the one year period in the selected 'protected camps' they found that when the LRA attack these camps, they commit several kinds of gross human rights violations on the IDPs found there, and even worse to the IDPs whom they abducted. During many attacks on the 'protected camps' the LRA violently robbed the IDPs of the little handed-out to them by humanitarian organisations, carry out abductions, torture the abducted, and in many instances killed IDPs.

Excerpts from a few selected testimonies, which have been translated from Acholi (Lwo) to English but leaving the meaning unchanged, are included in this chapter. To protect the persons interviewed their names have been removed. The ages that are used in the testimonies relate to the individuals ages at the time of the incident and/ or the interview.

#### 4.1 *Human rights abuses within the 'protected camps'*

By human rights violations within the camp, we mean violations that have taken place only within the precinct of the camps' location, and only from the time of

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<sup>48</sup> Human Rights Watch, *The Scars of Death*; , P 13

the camps formation. Many witnesses and victims testified that the LRA often times attacked the 'protected camps'. Although camps were supposed to be the Army 'protected area', many attacks by LRA continue to occur, with little or no timely restraint at all from the Army.

According to the findings of HURIFO, LRA rebels usually attack at very odd hours of the night like 1:00am. In such attacks they order doors to be opened failure of which would result into forcing it open. Chances of escape are very slim. Those who could have sensed danger and attempted to flee into the bush run the risk of being intercepted by the rebels who could be sparsely spread all over in the environs. They too face attack and or abduction. Systematic looting of household goods and other properties is carried out with victims either looking on or tied and eventually made to carry the loot in company of other captives, with very stern warnings not ever to attempt to escape. They are usually physically and psychologically tortured causing trauma and sometimes making them violent and suicidal. The LRA rebels also gather information about the camps plus intelligence information about the military from their captives. The abductees usually eat poorer food, the leftovers or nothing. Some rebels are also prohibited by the 'holy spirit' from eating meat.

IDPs in the 'protected camps' usually spend the night in places within the camp that they feel most safe in case of LRA attacks. These places could be within the Catholic Missions facilities such as health Units or in the zones closer to the barracks.

A 45-year-old woman of zone E Pabo 'protected camp was a victim of robbery and abduction. She comes from Barolam village Parubanga Parish. She says they were forcibly rounded-up and brought to the camp in October 1996. Her husband Jack was in 1996 abducted by rebels at about 8:00pm from their home in Barolam, and killed at the main road where Sobetra<sup>49</sup> camp currently is. He left her with 8 children who are all going to Primary school in the camp:

They kept asking why we came to the camp and saying they had come for the food aid distributed in the camp. Some of us were beaten while in captivity. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day all eleven of us were released, but only after making marks on our legs. The rebels cut wounds on our legs to become scars, which shall show people in the camp and the government of Uganda, that this is a punishment for staying in the camp....<sup>50</sup>

She also told HURIFO how LRA rebels killed a man who had tried to escape. He was stabbed to death in front of other abductees.

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<sup>49</sup> Sobetra is a construction company working on a new road from Pabo through the Park to West Nile. Their camp is about 6 miles from Pabo camp towards Attiak. It is currently guarded/protected by UPDF soldiers.

<sup>50</sup> HURIFO Interview M-21-1 May 22, 2000

A 49-year-old man from Pabel village, which is only 2 km from Olwal ‘protected camp’ where he currently lives, told HURIFO how he was in November 2000 abducted and tortured by the LRA rebels:

All together we were 30 abductees; 20 women and 10 males, and the rebels were about 30 in number too. I was first given a load of foodstuff and later a wounded rebel to carry together with other three abductees. We were made to move very fast through the bushes, while some rebels remain behind in the camp to fight the Army. Unfortunately I stumbled and fell on two occasions when carrying the foodstuff and the wounded rebel respectively. On both occasions, I was beaten seriously using the gun butts and kicked several times. I begged for mercy but the commander just concluded that I was stupid. I became very weak as a result of the beatings. One rebel asked me why I drunk alcohol a lot which makes me weak ... At about 11:00pm that first night in the rebel camp 6 people were sent to fetch water. On their return, I noticed that one of them had a big bayonet wound on his head. After a week in captivity we were all released, except seven young boys. We reported to a nearby UPDF [Army] detach and were later taken to Awer ‘protected camp’, where our relatives could come and collect us....<sup>51</sup>

A 30-year-old man of Opit ‘protected camp’ was robbed and abducted by the LRA rebels on Christmas day of 2000:

On 25<sup>th</sup> December 2000, I was woken up in my hut when torchlight was flashed at me. With me in the hut was my wife and my four children. Two LRA rebels entered my hut robbed us of money foodstuffs and clothing. I was then ordered to get out where I found 10 other rebels and 4 captives. About one kilometre outside the camp, we fell into a UPDF ambush. I used that opportunity to escape from the rebels captivity. I learnt later that two rebels and two teenage abductees were killed in that ambush....<sup>52</sup>

He told HURIFO that he was later captured by the UPDF and released the following day on learning that he is a prominent resident, otherwise he could have been kept longer in the barracks.

A 27-year-old man from Opit ‘protected camp testified about he abduction of his 15-year-old brother on the 24 April 2001:

My grandmother told me that the rebels came about 7:30pm and found her and the 8 eight children all in one hut having supper. She added that three (3) rebels entered the house while the others remained outside. They asked for the direction and distance to Iceme and also for some sugar. She said they did not point their guns at any one or threaten them, though everyone was scared. They then held my younger brothers hand, and said he is going with them. That is how he was abducted....<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> HURIFO Interview M OL 9 June 8 2001

<sup>52</sup> HURIFO Interview M14-1 OP 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2001

<sup>53</sup> HURIFO Interview 26 May 2001

Up to August 2001, the 15-year-old boy had neither returned nor heard of.

A 22-year-old man from Agwayugi about 7 miles away from the camp, came to Awer 'protected camp' in 1996. He said it was government's suggestion that people move to the camps. He dropped out of school in senior three because of no gainful economic activity like farming in the 'protected camp to raise his school fees. He was abducted by the LRA on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2000:

I was woken by gunfire and instinctively ran towards the barracks, but the rebels intercepted and abducted me. They asked me to lead them to Labongo-logo village, but as we moved through the camp they kept entering hut randomly and picking young boys only. I guess they wanted the young ones who would not be able to find their way back once in captivity. We walked from 1:00am until 8:00am. The commander noticed that one of the abductees had no shirt, so was feeling cold, then he made a comment to the other LRA rebels, "Eee Lulweny!", which is adapted from the ICRC advert on the radio that asks the combatants to respect civilians. The other rebels then got a shirt, which they gave the captive ... The next day we stopped for lunch break at about 2:00pm, where the rebels gave us mashed biscuit in water to eat. On that day, the youngest abductee tried to escape, but he was caught, slapped and punched. One of the rebels wanted to beat him with the gun butt, but another stopped him. His shorts were burnt and a military trouser given to him ... I once overheard the rebels say they were going to stay until the referendum on political systems in Uganda was held. They added that if the results were not in favour of parties, they would burn the camps. The officers speak Arabic and when speaking Acholi, they code it such that no one else can understand them. At Palaro rebel camp, we found three rebel groups settled, and later five other groups joined us. I noticed there was a lot more ammunition at this site. I made my escape on the second day when the rebels sent two of us for water. We were not escorted so we managed to sneak off. We met one young abductee who had been released by the rebels because his feet had swollen he told us....<sup>54</sup>

It appears different rebel groups treat their captives in different ways, depending on their commanders or the groups attitude towards a particular area.

#### **4.2 Human rights abuses outside the camps**

Human rights violations outside the Camp is meted out on camp residents when they go out of the camp for one reason or another.

According to the findings of HURIFO there are various reasons for going out of the 'protected camp'. At its inception camp residents had to venture back to the villages to look for building materials or food since government did not provide for them on their relocation. In the later years they continued to get out of the camps for reasons such as to till the land so as to supplement the meagre food-

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<sup>54</sup> HURIFO Interview MJ1-3 A 11<sup>th</sup> July 2000

rations from World Food Programme or for the small-scale traders to purchase items from town. Due to the too harsh economic conditions in the camp, the residents are forced to take risks going out of the camp regularly to till the land for income generation purposes. When out of the camp they are prone to LRA attacks and ambushes in which they could be abducted and tortured or killed. Whatever items they have with them are robbed. The captured IDPs are usually used to get intelligence information about the military in the camps they are from.

A 25-year-old man had left Olwal ‘protected camp’ to go and till the land two and half miles away when the rebel got him and abducted him:

As I went round an ant hill, I heard a voice ordering me to sit down, put the machete in my hand down, while they pointed an RPG (Rocket Propelled Gun) to my head. After a short distance in the bush with my 2 captors, we met another 22 LRA rebels. Their commander asked me about the military detach in Olwal ‘protected camp’, how they patrolled at night and if they had armoured vehicles. He also asked me to confirm whether the Olwal detach commander was a woman, which I did. He told me to try to befriend her for him after my release in two to three days from then. The LRA commander had a radio, which he used for communication with the other LRA units ... One young captive captured in P’ngur in Alero sub-county had, at one point, tried to escape and at midnight that day he was called out from where we were sleeping, “*Lapwony*<sup>55</sup> (their commander) wants to see you.” The boy did not return. In the morning the whistle was blown 4 times to signal that everyone must start moving. After a short distance we came across the boy’s body. His head smashed with both hands and legs tied to the back using his shirt. We walked passed the boys body and went towards Amuru sub-county where we met about 70 more rebels who had come from Anaka sub-county ... The rebels did not allow us eat proper food to the point that we collected a few ‘*Ogali*’ (Pilosigma species), normally not eaten and ate it. The rebel commander gave three instructions to the abductees being released; the first was no one should report to the Army, secondly whoever sees a rebel should not run and lastly no-one should stay in the camp. All the captives were then released except I and a lango boy from Minakulu area. They claimed the ‘*holy-spirit*’ had not yet permitted them to set the two of us free....<sup>56</sup>

The young man also talked about an incident of torture and killing that happened in Pabo sub-county, during his captivity. In this incident a tall brown boy was abducted from Pabo ‘protected camp’. An LRA commander made the three abductees (himself and 2 others) seated together, pulled out a pistol, pointed it at their heads one by one then shot the tall brown boy three bullets in the head killing him instantly.

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<sup>55</sup> Lapwony is an Acholi word meaning teacher. It is said that the LRA rebels call their commanders Lapwony.

<sup>56</sup> HURIFO Interview June 7 2001

A young man from Pabo ‘protected camp’ was involved in an LRA ambush on a pick-up truck on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2000, along Gulu-Juba road about 6 miles after the camp. He was travelling along with other traders carrying goods to Attiak on this pick-up truck:

I was at the back of a pick-up truck that was a distance behind several Sudanese relief trucks. As the vehicle reached the top of a hill and was negotiating a curve, I saw two armed young-looking persons ahead, aiming their guns at us. I then heard a gun shot that hit the soldier next to me. I jumped off the back of the pick-up and ran as fast as I could. I noticed later that I had sustained injuries on both feet, the right foot quite severely. Two soldiers were killed and two civilians were injured in the ambush. The rebels then looted what they could or wanted from the abandoned vehicle and disappeared into the bush....<sup>57</sup>

A 22-year-old man of Pabo ‘protected camp’ testified about an incident in 1999, where LRA rebels shot at him and a group of boys:

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1999 I and six other boys, left the camp to go and dig in the village. We then bumped into seven LRA rebels and they told us not to run, but we had already started running and so we did not stop. I then heard gunfire and felt something hit me on the arm. I was the only one hit. After escaping I was taken to hospital. We usually differentiate the rebels from the UPDF Mobile brigade by the look of their hair, which is twisted like that of Rastafarians....<sup>58</sup>

The LRA as an armed opposition movement is bound, like governments, by basic principles of international humanitarian law. In particular all parties to an internal armed conflict are required to observe the principles set out in Article 3, common to all four Geneva Conventions, which establishes minimum humane standards of armed conflict which are not of an international nature.

The LRA exercises power of ownership over abducted children. They are chattels. Girls and women are effectively sexual slaves. Slavery and servitude are prohibited by article four of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

*“No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”*<sup>59</sup>

The IDPs in the ‘protected camps’ have suffered at the hand of the LRA rebels through their attacks on these ‘protected camps’. In these attacks IDPs have been killed, abducted, robbed, and/or experienced cruel inhuman and degrading treatment. This makes them live in constant fear and uncertainty. The LRA rebels have also targeted food items distributed by relief organisations, adding to the already precarious situation of the IDPs. The testimonies above are just

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<sup>57</sup> HURIFO Interview 26 May 2000

<sup>58</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

<sup>59</sup> Amnesty International “Breaking God’s Commandments”. P. 34

models hence not every victim of the above human rights violations experiences them exactly like the ones documented in the testimonies.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 Human rights violations and crimes against IDPs in ‘protected camps’ by Ugandan government forces

HURIFO found that the Army committed human rights violations against IDPs in the ‘protected camp’. These violations of human rights against the IDPs began right from the onset of the ‘protected camps’ establishment and happened either within the camps or when the residents of these camps got out of the camps. The violations, according to HURIFO’s findings include: arbitrary arrest ill treatment and torture, killings and assault, child soldiers, rape and defilement.

This chapter includes excerpts from a few selected testimonies, which have been translated from Acholi (Lwo) into English but having the meaning unchanged. To protect the persons interviewed their names have been omitted. The ages used in the testimonies relate to the individuals ages at the time of the incident and/ or the interview.

#### 5.1 *Arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and torture*

The findings of HURIFO show that IDPs can be arbitrarily arrested from within the ‘protected camp’ or while outside the camp for various reasons. The victims are sometimes arrested in the wee hours of the night, making it seem to others that the LRA rebels are responsible, whereas not. The reasons may include suspicion of having links to rebels, or political reasons. IDPs who are known to have relatives in the LRA rebel ranks are sometimes targeted and/or harassed. They are sometimes detained in un-gazetted areas, incommunicado, beyond the statutory period of 48 hours, thus grossly infringing on their constitutional rights and may be tortured. Other forms of ill treatment included beatings due to failure to follow Army regulations on illegal curfews, or supporting and voting opposition to mainstream movement government candidates in elections. The suspects whom the Army have little or no evidence against, are handed over to Police, with statements from the Army as to their findings. Where there is not enough evidence, the Police release the suspects completely or release them on bond. Some suspects charged with treason are to periodically report to the Police Station as investigations continues. According to the victims who claim innocence, this charge is delay tactic meant to prevent them from seeking legal redress in time.

A 27-year-old man from Opit ‘protected camp’ was arrested by soldiers of Itubara detachment on the 26/4/2001 and released a day later. His crime he says was that he is resident of Opit in Gulu district an area the Army considers to have links with LRA rebels. The Army detachment is in the neighbouring district of Apac:

I was intercepted at a road junction which leads to Itubara Army detach and detained for a day. On reaching the detach, one officer slapped me

across the face and ordered for sticks. A soldier brought three sticks, but the officer instead selected the biggest of the three and canded the soldier rebuking him for only bringing three sticks. A bundle of canes was then brought, distributed to many soldiers who all beat me and not minding which part of my body they hit. I was then tied three-piece<sup>60</sup> style [Kandoya] using sisal ropes and later on tied with rubber belts at several points on the body and hanged up on a tree with my head facing down. More canes were again brought and I was beaten while dangling from the tree for about two hours ... The rubber belt then snapped and I fell onto the ground. I was again tied at the ankles with the rubber belt and blindfolded before being led to swampy ground outside the barracks. I then heard the soldiers cock their guns at my head, prompting me to plead with them not to shoot. On mentioning that I knew someone in the area they took me back and civilians were called to identify me, leading to my in-laws rescuing me the next day. I reported the mater to the police and the case file number is SD06/27/2001 and later got treatment as you can see in my medical form here....<sup>61</sup>

By the time of writing this report no arrests had yet been made.

A 45-year-old man resident in Awer 'protected camp testified about ill-treatment at the hands of the Army

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at about 9:00pm three Army men came into my hut where I stay with 7 other people. They picked me and two others to be taken to the barracks. They claimed we were making noise by talking very loudly yet it is after 8:00pm. There is an unwritten rule that everyone should be indoors and quiet by 8:00pm. On the way to the barracks, about 50 metres away from my home, the soldiers started beating us. The two people arrested with me managed to escape. I remained alone and was kicked and stepped on several times until I was unconscious. I actually lost consciousness several times. One of the soldiers asked his colleagues to stop beating me lest they kill me. They heeded his advice and left me there. I lay on the ground for a while till I gained some strength, which enabled me to crawl back home. On arrival at home, I collapsed. The following day I was still experiencing convulsions to the point that I didn't notice the exhaust pipe of the motorbike burnt me as I was being taken to the hospital....<sup>62</sup>

He was hospitalised for about 3 weeks, during which period the matter was reported in a camp meeting to the local leaders. On return from the hospital that Army unit had been transferred and no action taken.

A middle-aged man from one of the IDP camps:

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<sup>60</sup> Three-piece style or 'Kandoya' (the local name), is where the victim's hands are tied tightly together around the upper arm and to the back, thus painfully protruding the chest.

<sup>61</sup> HURIFO Interview May 7 2001

<sup>62</sup> HURIFO Interview 31<sup>st</sup> March 2000

The attackers came at about 2:00am in the early morning and broke my door using an axe. My family tried to make an alarm hoping that someone could come to our rescue. The attackers had torches and picked only me from the house. Before they entered the house, I thought these were LRA rebels, only to be proved, I was, wrong later. I was taken to the Army detach and detained. I was later together with other prisoners, whisked away and taken to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Barracks in Gulu where soldiers beat us severely on entry, while calling us names like *boo-kec*<sup>63</sup>. At the barracks in Gulu I was not beaten, but I witnessed one of my fellow prisoner coming back from the statement room with a lot of wounds. He told me that he had been tortured seriously....<sup>64</sup>

A 40-year-old peasant resident in an IDP ‘protected camp’ in Gulu district testifies:

I was arrested in the night from the camp and brought to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Army barracks the next morning. On entry into the barracks, soldiers rained sticks on me from all directions calling me *Boo-kec*. I was then pushed into a cell ... I was not beaten again, but for a week kept in a dark cell, together with another man who told me his case was that of a mistaken identity. Staying in this dark room for a week was besides affecting my eyes, also a psychological torture. Upon release from the dark room, I had a blackout and collapsed. There were over 20 civilian detainees in the barracks. They then asked me if I knew any of the other prisoners. I told them that I knew some of them from my area as peasants. The condition in the quarter-guard is appalling. Some of us were made to sleep in the toilet. We would wait for every one to bathe and then clean the toilet at about 1:00am before we could go to sleep on the bare floor. Something must be done to get those prisoners out or get living conditions there improved....<sup>65</sup>

Another middle-aged man, showed HURIFO swellings on his elbow and it looked like he had a dislocation:

I was beaten and tortured seriously. When I was called to the statement room in the Army barracks, I found one person tied upside down and dangling with blood all over the place. I was obvious he had been seriously tortured. I was asked to see what had happened to him and tell the truth about my collaborations with the LRA rebels. I told them I do have a relative who was abducted many years ago. I was sent back to the cell and was again taken back for more questioning a few days later. This time, they asked me about what I had been given by my relative in the LRA, but I told them that I received nothing from him, but instead been harassed several times because of being related to an LRA rebel ... I was

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<sup>63</sup> *Boo-kec* is a Luo term given to the group of armed thugs who are robbing terrorising people all over Gulu district.

<sup>64</sup> HURIFO Interview 19<sup>th</sup> October 2001

<sup>65</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2001

then beaten so many strokes of the cane that I could not count. They then alleged this rebel had given me a car, house and money. They again started beating me. After a couple of weeks I was dumped at the police station by the Army only to be released on Police Bond after charging me with treason. My identification card and other documents remained with the Army. They refused to give it to me upon release....<sup>66</sup>

HURIFO further learnt that there could probably be up to 30 civilian prisoners in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Army Headquarters barracks in Gulu by the date of this interview. Some of the prisoners have been there for 6 to 8 months. HURIFO was further informed that some of the prisoners included; a man from Bungatira, Another from Opit who has been there since about April 2001, one from Pawel who has been held since about June 2001, one from Lakwatomer who has been a week and an old man from Palaro who has been detained since January 2001.

Torture and ill-treatment is prohibited not only by the ICCPR and the African Charter but also under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading treatment or punishment to which Uganda acceded in November 1986. This treaty stipulates that no justification, not even a state of war may be invoked as a justification for torture. It places an obligation on the authorities to investigate all allegations of torture and to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice.

## **5.2 *Killings assault and other forms of violence***

HURIFO recorded a number of killings and assault committed by the Army on IDPs of the 'protected camp'. Some of the killings occurring during armed conflicts constitute human rights violations as well as violations under humanitarian law, which govern the conduct of war. Armed forces are prohibited from killing individuals not taking a direct part in hostilities, including prisoners or those who have put down their arms. According to the findings the killings are mostly meted out at odd hours of the night or when camp residents get out of the 'protected camp'. The impunity appears to be the norm in cases of killings or injury in course of military operations ostensibly aimed at real or imagined threats. In contrast, individual soldiers who commit abuses may be apprehended handed over to the Police and held accountable on criminal charges if the Police carry out investigations.

The first category of human rights abuse involves death or injury through the indiscriminate use of shelling mortars, or the careless and promiscuous use of automatic weapons.

A 31-year-old resident of Olwal 'protected camp' was injured by a bomb in October 1997. This was one year after the camps were formed:

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<sup>66</sup> HURIFO Interview 19<sup>th</sup> October 2001

The incident happened when I had gone back home to collect white ants. We usually begin beating the ground at 10:00am and at about mid-day we smoke the holes where the white ants come from and continue to beat the ground until 4:00pm. When beating the ground we usually sing local songs<sup>67</sup>. These songs we believe speedup the exit by the ants ... At about 4:00pm when I expected the white ants to begin coming out, bomb shells started landing west of my home. I could tell they were being fired from the Army detach in Olwal camp. I decided to run back towards the camp. After about 200 meters, I heard a third bomb and I saw smoke coming in my direction above my head. The bomb then hit me on my upper arm and I collapsed. I later realised that the upper arm bone had been broken and only a small piece of skin and flesh was holding it. I picked my broken hand, put it over my neck, picked the broken bones from the ground, and pocketed it hoping that it may be fitted back in hospital. Unfortunately that was not possible. I spent a whole year at the hospital and a metal was fitted in place of the bone....<sup>68</sup>

A 62-year-old man testified to HURIFO about the killing of his 22-year-old son, by UPDF soldiers at Barolam village where he had gone to cultivate:

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2000, my 22-year-old son left Pabo 'protected camp' for our village to till the land. On his way back, at about midday, he met UPDF soldiers who fired shots at him. He instantly raised his hands above his head while shouting that he was innocent and a civilian. Other civilians tried to stop the soldiers, but they just continued to fire at him until they shot him. He was injured, but he died shortly after reaching the health unit. That same day the Army killed another boy, but I do not have the details....<sup>69</sup>

The second form of human rights abuse involves the deliberate killings or murder. A 34-year-old man testified about the murder of his mentally ill brother by the Army at Palukere barracks near Pabo.:

In the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2001, my mentally ill brother picked a bicycle and rode towards Otong village. He found the body of one Okiya Geoffrey who had been badly mutilated as a result of being brutally cut with a machete, while on his (my mentally ill brother) way. Acting out of trauma, he then threw his bicycle and ran. We then received information that my brother had been arrested and beaten by the Army of Palukere detach ... The next morning I left Pabo 'protected camp' for the Army detach in Palukere. I inquired about my brother from a soldier at the barracks there, but I was told that he had been sent back to Pabo because they had waited for us in vain. He advised me to go back to Pabo and get more information from the LC IIIs office, which I did but was told that

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<sup>67</sup> One of the local songs goes; '*Kitaka mudong cen wii owang ma wii Oveni*' meaning 'the last ant to come out has a burnt head like that of Ventorin'

<sup>68</sup> HURIFO Interview 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001

<sup>69</sup> HURIFO Interview May 25 2000

they knew nothing about the incident. I then went back to Palukere and the soldiers there denied having any knowledge of my brother. When I got out of the detach, women at a nearby borehole told me that my brother had been killed very early in the morning of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2001. I went back to Pabo the next morning fortunately a rally had been organised in Pabo trading center by one Col. Oketta, then Regional Reserve Force Commander, I used that opportunity and told him my story. The Col. ordered for a probe and the LC III Chairman was appointed to take charge. When we went back to Palukere detach, with a letter from Pabo barracks, they then showed us where they had buried my brother. I have not reported to the police, but the Army promised to look into the matter. We are still waiting....<sup>70</sup>

A 36-year-old woman testified about the arbitrary arrest of her brother and his subsequent execution by the government Army on the 10/10/1997:

A day after Independence Day, we were eight people at our home which is about 2 miles from Opit trading centre, dancing and enjoying our selves. We saw an Army Mobile Unit come. Five of them came to us and asked what was taking place. We told them that we were enjoying our selves following the Independence Day celebrations. They then asked my brother as to what the situation was like and he replied that he did not know much. They then arrested him and took him to a primary school nearby, where we are told his shirt was removed and used to tie his hands, before they started beating him. Later that day we learnt that he was bare-chested and his shirt used to tie his arms behind his back. I decided to follow the soldiers and found my brothers graduated tax ticket torn and strewn along the road. The next morning when we heard that there was a dead body along the Opit-Gulu road we went to see and found it was my brothers body lying stark naked. He had been shot in the stomach and stabbed twice below the neck there was another bayonet wound on the chest and another on his buttocks. We could not carry the body home, so we decided to bury him there. We didn't report the case to the authorities since the mobile unit often commit a lot of crimes and nothing is done about it, therefore, we felt it useless and time wasting....<sup>71</sup>

Another such case happened on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000. The Army in Akonyibedo detachment in Paicho sub-county killed a 14-year-old boy from Pabo 'protected camp'. On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2000, when he and his parents had gone back to their home to farm, the rebels appeared suddenly from no where and without talking to anyone else, just ordered the boy to move with them. The parents informed HURIFO that the rebels group later fell into an Army ambush in Paicho on 1<sup>st</sup> April, and the 14-year-old abductee got wounded. The rebels ran off leaving him. After the battle, IDPs from Paicho 'protected camp' found the boy and with the help of their LC I chairman interrogated him as to where he comes from. Then

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<sup>70</sup> HURIFO Interview 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001

<sup>71</sup> HURIFO Interview 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2001

took him to the Army detachment in Paicho, where they thought he could get treatment for his wounds and possibly be aided back to his home in Pabo 'protected camp'. According to a witness, the Army tortured him by burning until his death. They later buried him near their detachment at Akonyibedo. The next morning they claimed that the boy was a rebel and not an abductee. The case was reported to the Police, the Army's PRO office, district Chairman's office and the RDCs office. Despite this, the efforts by the parents to retrieve the body were in vain. In addition, this group of soldiers who killed the boy was transferred and so nobody can tell where exactly the body was buried.

The third category of cases involve common crimes by soldiers who are clearly acting out of personal motives(jealousy/greed) or intoxicated, harm civilians.

On 9 October 1999, Uganda's Independence Day, a soldier shot randomly into a crowd of youth listening and dancing to local music, and killed six IDP residents in Olwal 'protected camp' and injuring several others. A 25-year-old victim in the above shooting incident testified about what he remembers:

One group of the musicians had just finished playing and another group was coming in to take over. That is when I heard gunshots. I tried to run but fell 3 times and knew I had been shot. I tried to crawl but my right hand was unable to move. Everybody ran off and afterwards people came and took me to my brother's house. I only remember my shirt being removed and used to tie the bullet wound on my right shoulder. The morning after, there were 5 dead bodies at the scene of the incident, and I knew only one of them. A sixth person died in the hospital. I heard that the person who shot us was a homeguard. I learnt that the soldier was rivalling over a woman with one civilian and they had just fought at the woman's home. I do not know if the civilian was in our crowd or not. I have not heard anything about the soldiers' arrest. All I heard is after committing this crime he ran to Wiyanono military detach in Pagak and left his gun there. I was hospitalised for 3 months because I had a bullet lodged between the bones in the shoulder. I am not sure if it has been removed yet, but I still have pains in my shoulder....<sup>72</sup>

The soldier, HG 8145 PTE Acaye David ... Accused, was on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001, tried during the High Court Criminal Session Case No. 32/2001 sitting in Gulu and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

A 58-year-old man testified about the murder of his 30-year-old son:

At about midnight of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2000, a soldier, No. GL3303 with the aid of two civilians, entered my son's hut while he was asleep and shot him three bullets in the face killing him instantly. My son's hut is located in Zone F/A of Pabo 'protected camp'. The matter was reported to the Pabo Police Station under the numbers SD<sup>73</sup> 03/15/2000 and CRR<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> HURIFO Interview 8<sup>th</sup> June 2001

<sup>73</sup> SD: Station Diary,

4/2000. The three suspects have been arrested. The case is now with Gulu Central Police Station under case file number CRB<sup>75</sup> 58/2000. The matter is also filed in Court under CMG<sup>76</sup> Case 12/2000...<sup>77</sup>

The three suspects appeared in court on February 1, 2000 and were still on remand by the time of writing this report.

A 60-year-old man from Lacaro village testified that a soldier murdered his daughter in November 2000:

I was told that the soldier came to my home at about 1:00pm and asked for alcohol (local potent gin) from my daughter. She brought the drink, which he drank. He then called her again and told her to stand up. When she did, he just shot her three bullets; two in the chest and one in the thigh breaking her thighbone. I was out elsewhere and only heard the gunshot. I am made to understand that this soldier had once murdered someone in Amuru camp. My wife was just outside the hut. She did not see what happened inside the hut but heard the shot and saw the soldier. We were told the soldier ran to the barracks and the Army arrested him and handed him over to the Police. My daughter had a three months old child. The Police told us that if the child dies the accused soldier will be responsible for the two deaths....<sup>78</sup>

Killings constitute a human right violation when they violate laws of armed conflicts such as the killing of prisoner of war or civilians during armed conflicts.

### **5.3 *Child recruitment***

The recruitment of children into the military is seen when the Army recruits people into the homeguard unit. This unit is also referred to as the Reserve Force. The Reserve Forces are commanded by regular Army with commanders at different levels. There is a Regional Reserve Force Commander, a District Reserve Force Commander and a Sub-County Reserve Force Commander.

Every village at LC I level is supposed to provide young people to be trained by the Army and form the homeguard unit that is to protect their area. The LC I forwards the names of the persons interested in joining the forces to the UPDF commanders in-charge of reserve forces in the detachments. The UPDF then gives these people a 3 months rudimentary military training, before they are to be deployed to start work. These homeguard units are supposed to operate only within their Sub-County.

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<sup>74</sup> CRR: Crime Reported Register

<sup>75</sup> CRB: Crime Reported Book

<sup>76</sup> CMG: Chief Magistrate Gulu

<sup>77</sup> HURIFO Interview May 27 2000

<sup>78</sup> HURIFO Interview 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001

The regulations given to the LC I is that the persons recommended must be in the age group of 18 to 35 years. They are not allowed to recommend anyone below the age of 18. Despite this, young boys of even below 14 can be seen in this unit carrying AK-47s or being trained. HURIFO was informed that some of these under-aged boys go to an LC I from a far away village who does not have an idea of their age and is unable to confirm what they tell him. IDPs complained to HURIFO that some children go direct to the military and get themselves recruited and people only realise when the training has began. Those already undergoing the rudimentary training run by Army Commander are not permitted to leave regardless of their age status.

The biting poverty in the camps due to lack of opportunity for the camp residents to engage in gainful economic activity, coupled with their inability to educate their children beyond primary level has lead to loss of parental control over the children. IDP children in the ‘protected camps’, therefore, begin to fend for themselves at tender ages as low as 10. The young boys fear the risk of being abducted and also see the homeguard unit as a way of earning a living for themselves, while the very young girls elope with men who seem to earn some money.

An LC official talked to HURIFO about the homeguards:

As regards the recruitment of homeguards, the regulations say the person should be in the age group of 18 to 35 years. The persons get recommendations from their LCs. Whenever someone below the age or who looks too young comes to me I send them away. I have seen very young boys recruited as homeguards. Usually LCs at higher levels instruct the LCs at lower levels not to recommend any boy who is or looks to be below the required age. What happens is, these boys go directly to the Army in the barracks or go and join from far away places where nobody knows them so they can lie about their age. There are some Army officers who just accept under-aged boys to join the Unit, but the good ones would chase them away. One problem is if an under-aged boy has already started training he cannot be released by the Military....<sup>79</sup>

These are comments of a concerned parent, resident in one of the ‘protected camps:

Child soldiers recruited as homeguards by the Army are as young as 10 years of age. I remember that the LDU recruitment period was from 1989 to 1992 about the same time as the “Arrow Brigade”. The recruitment of homeguards [which started in 1995] was done in such away that the local population was to provide its own people to protect them ... Many Acholi parents see child recruitment as a form of abuse to them because they are poor. Soldiers from the regular force mistreat the young homeguards. Homeguards are sometimes made to wash clothes and cook for the regular forces. I personally see that there is little or no difference between

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<sup>79</sup> HURIFO Interview June 2001

children in homeguard Unit and children abducted by the LRA, observing that they are in both cases under-aged (child soldiers) and mistreated....<sup>80</sup>

An IDP resident in one of the 'protected camps' was commenting on the economic strain on the IDPs and homeguards:

Some of these homeguards are living in very pathetic conditions. The Army does not allow these homeguards to be registered for camp supplies claiming that government pays them. Last week I found a wife of a homeguard, in my garden stealing cassava. She pleaded that her husband is a homeguard and has not been paid for quite some time. She said she had no food and I could see the child on her back was malnourished. Those who want to desert the homeguard have got to leave the district, as one isn't allowed to desert....<sup>81</sup>

Currently, the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establish fifteen as the minimum age at which states that have ratified these treaties may recruit children into the armed forces. The government of Uganda ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1990 and 1993 respectively.

The 1996 United Nations Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children documented the tragedy of child soldiers throughout the world...-...In the Study, Graca Machel also recommended that the minimum age for recruitment and participation in armed forces be raised from fifteen to eighteen.<sup>82</sup>

#### **5.4 Rape and Other Sexual Abuse**

Sexual violence is a crime under international human rights law and includes many different types of acts, such as; rape, indecent assault, sexual slavery forced marriage, forced impregnation and forced maternity, and sexual mutilation. In Ugandan law, an addition has been made which is termed 'defilement'. Defilement is having sexual intercourse, with a girl who is below the age of eighteen years, whether she consents or not. In the United States this is termed as "statutory rape". Like murder defilement is a capital offence in Ugandan law with a maximum sentence of death.

According to HURIFO's findings, rape and defilement crimes against IDPs in the 'protected camps' have taken place in various situations such as when the victims have moved out of the camp, or gone to the water sources very late in the evenings and early in the mornings, and are waylaid raped or defiled. In some instances, they are attacked when they go to their original homes to till the land. Victims of sexual offences are often faced with the imminent threat of HIV/AIDS infection. In most cases they prefer not to report the matter to authorities for fear

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<sup>80</sup> HURIFO Interview August 22, 2000

<sup>81</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

<sup>82</sup> Human Rights Watch, *The Scars of Death*; , P 52

of shame, being ostracised or reprimanded by spouses. In addition they also fear reprisals from military culprits. Cases that came to the limelight are those where the Police have made arrests. In some other cases the spouses refused the victims to report or testify as to what happened for the fears mentioned above.

At a Police Post in one of the ‘protected camps’, HURIFO learnt about the crime situation in that camp as per their Crime Report Book (CRB):

There are two major situations that can make women and girls become victims of rape and/or defilement. The first situation when this can happen is during the white-ants season because they (the women/girls) go to collect these edible ants in the night when it is dark and the assailants waylay them or follow them into their huts. The second situation is when the women or girls go to the well to fetch water very early in the morning or very late in the evenings. Soldiers, largely, are responsible for all the defilement, rape and robbery cases plus about 70% of the murder cases we have in our CRB record. The Army Commanding Officers here are very co-operative and help arresting the suspects whom we then hand-over to CPS Gulu....<sup>83</sup>

An elderly resident in an IDP ‘protected camp’ talked to HURIFO about the rape of his 12-year-old daughter by two soldiers:

We left the camp in the morning to go to our home area and do some cultivation. As usual, we were not worried because there is an Army detach occupying a primary school nearby, so we felt safe. That evening I was in my compound when two armed men came to my home. They pretended to be rebels and asked me where the government soldiers were. I was beaten and robbed of some of my property, and my 12-year-old daughter plus my daughter-in-law were abducted by the attackers. My daughter-in-law managed to escape, but my young girl couldn’t ... I immediately reported the matter to the Army detachment. The commander was very co-operative and was suspicious of his two missing men, whom he found were in the possession of some of the property robbed. The two attackers defiled my daughter. When my daughter was medically examined, the pubic hair of one of the soldiers was found on her. The two soldiers have been arrested and are now on remand....<sup>84</sup>

A 41-year-old LC official who was involved in the search for a soldier who kidnapped and eventually defiled a 10-year-old girl along the road testifies:

At about midday that day I met a soldier walking with a young girl whom I knew. This 10-year-old girl was walking in front of the soldier. When I asked the girl where she was going, she appeared too scared to answer and the soldier aggressively asked me whether I knew him (soldier). He then told me that the girl is his relative taking him home ... I met the girl's younger brother seated on the ground by the roadside, a short distance

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<sup>83</sup> HURIFO Interview June 2001

<sup>84</sup> HURIFO Interview May 8, 2000

away. He told me a soldier had fired his gun at the girl's feet and ordered her to move with him, while he (the boy) was ordered to sit and wait for his sister. Another person from the opposite direction confirmed to us that the Mobile Unit had just passed that area. This immediately raised my suspicion about this soldier, so I decided to turn round and follow the soldier to the nearest Army detach. The Commanding Officer of the detach gave me some soldiers to go and look for this suspect. The girl was found first and she informed us that the suspect took her into the nearby bush and sexually defiled her. She gave leads on where the suspect could be and he was eventually found and arrested. The suspect was taken to a nearby Police Post and the following morning transferred to Gulu town CPS....<sup>85</sup>

The Police Post confirmed the arrest of the suspect and handing over to CPS Gulu.

Sexual violence can be an element of all major crimes prohibited by international human rights law, international humanitarian law and domestic law. During an armed conflict may be considered as a war crime, a violation of the laws and customs of war or a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions. The victims of acts of sexual violence are always in some sense "detained or restricted", even where they may not formally be prisoners, hence amounting to torture. The victims also face the imminent danger of being infected with HIV the virus that causes AIDS. States can be held responsible for acts of sexual violence committed by private individuals if they fail to prevent them or to protect the victims. The States could also be held responsible where there is failure to provide redress such as adequate compensation underlining official indifference to the plight of the victims and lack of concern for their wellbeing.

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<sup>85</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2001

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6.0 Landmines

#### 6.1 *Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs)*

In many war-affected areas Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) pose a threat to the local population of the area. Unexploded munitions, grenades, and bombs often are even larger problems than the most commonly known landmines. Considering the 16 years of civil war in the Acholi sub region, there is a possibility of UXOs abandoned in the battlefields in addition to the antipersonnel mines placed on roads and footpaths. Press reports show that about 1995, the LRA rebels started using anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines throughout the Acholi sub-region. The issue of landmines in this region began about period 1995 and seemed to intensify about the period of formation of the camps. There were many victims of footpath and vehicle mine incidents during the period 1995 to 1996, in war zone of Gulu and Kitgum districts.

Uganda produced AP mines until at least 1995. The mines were produced by the State-run National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) at Nakasongola. The factory was constructed in 1987 and 1992 with assistance from China's China Wabao Engineering Corporation<sup>86</sup>

The usage of landmines in Uganda dates back to earlier conflicts such as that of 1979 where mines were left behind by the fleeing soldiers of Idi Amin, and those of the early 1980s in Central Uganda. There was an increased use of landmines in the 1990s with the year 1996 having the highest number of mine victims according to the AVSI<sup>87</sup> statistics.

#### Mine Injuries in Uganda, 1991-1998<sup>88</sup>

1991	3
1992	2
1993	16
1994	18
1995	46
1996	118
1997	101

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<sup>86</sup> Human Rights Watch, Landmine Monitor. Report 1999 Toward a Mine- Free World; United States Of America, 1999.

<sup>87</sup> AVSI stands for an International Service Volunteers' Association. It is an Italian non governmental organisation that has played an excellent roll in addressing the plight of landmine and UXO victims. AVSI offers orthopaedic facilities to these victims as well as psycho-social support to help them cope up easily with their disabilities. AVSI started building an Orthopaedic Workshop in Gulu Hospital in 1993, which became fully operational in June 1998. The Workshop currently serves the whole of the Northern region of Uganda, which comprises of 10 districts.

<sup>88</sup> AVSI, Hospital Records

From these statistics it can be seen that the period of highest casualty was the year the camps were being formed and the following one.

Uganda's then Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hon Dr Martin Alier, signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of antipersonnel mines and on their destruction, on the 3 December 1997. The Ban Treaty was ratified on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1998. Article 1 on the General Obligations requires that;

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances:
  - (a) to use anti-personnel mines;
  - (b) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpiling, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines;
  - (c) To assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to encourage in any activity prohibited to the state party under this convention
2. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all antipersonnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this Convention

According to HURIFO's findings, most IDP landmine victims sustained their injuries from outside the camp, especially when the camp were just being created in 1996 and also in 1997 when they (the camp residents) would go out in search of building materials to change their temporary makeshift grass structures into more permanent grass-thatched huts in their new settlements. This period also saw the use of antitank landmines that hit vehicles along highways. The following 2 years, 1998 and 1999, had a reduction in antipersonnel landmine injuries yet the camp residents would go out of the 'protected camp' to cultivate land. This could probably be because when they (the camp residents) were unable to go to till their land a bit far away from the camps. A few IDPs feared that in some areas where Army had set up their detaches the place would probably be mined.

HURIFO findings also revealed that a number of landmine victims expressed their fear and grievances as regards the resettlement at home now that most of them are disabled. They questioned the Government's position on de-mining the villages before people are resettled and special consideration for the victims. Socially, some victims have lost their positions in the family settings; some spouses have been divorced or abandoned, and some of them have become social out-casts. Economically, they are almost unproductive due their disabilities, leaving them with no options, but to leave on hand outs from those who care.

HURIFO was further informed that AVSI Gulu Orthopaedic Workshop had by 2000, served 275 patients, since its opening, but had a total of 855 registered patients. An official added that the number of victims must be far beyond this but they (AVSI) can not reach out to all the victims especially those far from the towns in the war-affected districts of Gulu and Kitgum, because of the security

risk involved in these two districts. The majority of landmine and UXO victims handled by AVSI are from Gulu, Kitgum, and Arua, which 3 districts have or are still experiencing war. The other 7 districts mainly send in accident and diseased victims. In one of HURIFO's visits to AVSI clinic Gulu in February 2001 there were 6 fresh cases, all of whom were soldiers. The soldiers do not give any information or details of "what happened, where". Furthermore they do not reside as inpatients but rather commute from Gulu's 4<sup>th</sup> Division Army barracks:

A 30-year-old father of 5 children testifies about a landmine incident

I had gone to Palwong to cut a tree called '*gacia*' (acacia) for building my hut. This was on the 11/1/1997. I left the camp alone at about 8:00 am to go to a place about 2 miles away from the 'protected camp'. I reached my home area, got the building materials and at about 10:00am on my way back I unknowingly stepped on the antipersonnel landmine. The mine was planted on the footpath about ½ a kilometre from my home. People nearby heard the blast and came and found me dragging myself on the ground. They brought me to the centre on a bicycle. I was then put on a pickup truck (taxi) and taken to Lacor Hospital....<sup>89</sup>

An 80-year-old testifies about the time he was hit by an antipersonnel landmine:

About the time of the formation of the camp in 1996 when there was a lot of confusion and people were running to-and-fro, I unknowingly stepped on a land mine. It happened one morning on my way back to my home. We usually spent the nights in '*alup*'. Every evening we go to our hiding places to sleep and return home very early in the morning. That day I left the children and came home alone to check if everything was okay. At about 100 metres from my home along the footpath is where the mine was placed and I unknowingly stepped on it. My children then came and found me lying on the ground, so they went for help. I was first taken to the trading centre, then to Lacor hospital. On being discharged and returning I found everybody had been displaced and were staying in the formed camp....<sup>90</sup>

During this displacement he claims he virtually lost all his belongings once again. The first time being when all his cows were taken by the NRA Army in 1987

A 35-year-old woman from an IDP 'protected camp' over 15 miles away from Gulu town testified:

At about 5:00pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1996, as I was coming back from the well near the Army detach I stepped on a landmine. I had used the usual foot-path to the well. It was about 5:00pm. I collected my water and had only walked about 30 metres from the well on the same path back home when I heard a blast and I was thrown to the ground. I found myself in a hole made by the mine in the ground. My right leg was off my body. The Army detach was about 50 metres from the well and less than 40 metres

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<sup>89</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

<sup>90</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

from where I lay. Civilians near by heard my cry and so came to my rescue. They carried me to the nearby Health Unit and later that day an Army truck passing by on its way to Gulu town brought me to 4<sup>th</sup> Division barracks. I had an 8 months old child with me. We encountered the LRA rebels on our way to town, which delayed us. I spent the night in the military hospital within the barracks. By morning I was unconscious and my husband hired a vehicle to take me to Lacor Hospital. I stayed in Lacor hospital for 3 months and 2 weeks. My 8 months old child died of measles, after one month of my stay in the hospital....<sup>91</sup>

In March 1997, she was taken to Mulago Hospital, Kampala where an artificial limb was fitted for her.

Several IDP residents of a 'protected camp' in Gulu told HURIFO about victims of antipersonnel landmines that happened in 1996 but with little detail. They say they do not know the origin of these mines, but suspect they are planted by the LRA rebels. Some IDPs claimed that the some of the smaller Army detachments were mined believably by the Army for their protection.

HURIFO further learnt that in some of the new decongested camps that are being set up at parish level in Pabo sub-county, there have been a few incidents of landmines. HURIFO was informed that, one civilian was hit by a mine in one of the new camps in Pabo called Olinga in February 2001, and also a soldier was hit by another mine in the same camp in September 2000. There have been two more cases of landmine victims between late-June and late August in the newly created camps of Olinga and Pogo respectively. The victims are a 40year-old man from Olinga and a middle-aged man from Pogo.

Nobody knows how many mines are out there in the ground. What is important to note is that these mines and UXOs become major issues in resettlement, post-conflict reconstruction and socio-economic rehabilitation. Hence the number of people affected by the mines and UXOs, in this case the Acholi population, is the most important issue for consideration.

There is therefore a need for mine clearing operations as well as UXOs especially now that discussion on dismantling or decongesting the camp have received commitment at very high level of the State. The State could ask for technical assistance from UN and International Community to augment the mine detection and sweeping mechanism in use by the Army at the moment. It is the responsibility of the government of Uganda to abide by the Instruments it is a party to such as the Mine Ban Treaty and in particular Article 4 of this treaty. This Article obligates all States Parties to destroy their stockpile, and all antipersonnel mines under their jurisdiction or control, no later than four years after entry into force of the treaty by the country. This, therefore, gives the government of Uganda a deadline of August 1 2003 to destroy all their antipersonnel mine stockpile.

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<sup>91</sup> HURIFO Interview September 2001

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### 7.0 Economic and social conditions in the camps

The standard of living within the camps is particularly pathetic because of lack of adequate facilities. Article 17(1) of the Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Convention requires that should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measures shall be taken in order that the civilian population may be received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene health, safety and nutrition. Government is, therefore, under obligation to provide necessary and adequate facilities to the displaced persons in their new settlements (the camps). But as a result of re-location, many families are unable to till their land thereby realising too little production to sustain the family. This, therefore, forces the camp residents to live well below the poverty line. The Children are malnourished, there is inadequate sanitation and water, high mortality rate, high school dropout rate, early teenage pregnancies and marriages, and low life expectancy. According to press reports [The New Vision Wednesday October 17 2001; Regional News, Pg 11], the latest Uganda Human Development Report has shown that the Northern region has the lowest life expectancy with up to 41.3% of the population expected not to live beyond the age of 40.

#### 7.1 Health and Nutrition

The health condition in the district is generally poor especially in the areas of infant mortality rate and HIV/AIDS. Gulu has the highest infant mortality and is among the districts with very high levels of the HIV/AIDS scourge.

Preliminary results of an ACF nutritional survey in October 1999 in Gulu IDP camps has found a significant improvement in nutritional situation amongst IDPs. Both severe and global malnutrition has decreased in the population surveyed. It appears that many of the remaining cases of severe malnutrition reflect either lack of adequate food and water for children perhaps due to intense efforts at cultivation away from camps over the past months.<sup>92</sup>

The North, plagued by years of insurgency, was also worst placed in health services with 35% of the population without access to health care compared to 30% in West, 26% in East and 20% in Central region. The North also tops in underweight children, with 31.6% of the infants weighing below normal as opposed to 27.3% in the East, 23.8% in the West and 21.1% in Central region. But accessing health services had risen from 51% in 1997 to 74% at the end of 1999.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> UNHCU 19/November/1999.

<sup>93</sup> The New Vision Wednesday October 17 2001; Regional News, P 11

A camp committee member of Olwal ‘protected camp’ gave an overview of the situation in the camp:

As for the Health Unit the DMOs office gave 22 pieces of timber; 14 x 5Kg of nails; 316 iron sheets; and 50 bags of cement. The community made bricks and brought the sand. The Health Unit was at first for about 1 year operating from one Kamau’s residence before the building was complete. He is now asking for rent. The Lamogi Sub-County office was responsible for paying the Engineers building the Unit. What happened is the Sub-County had difficulty paying up the Engineers and eventually the cement, which had already been bought, dried up. The community therefore decided to collect funds to see to it that the building is completed. The Health Unit was finally opened last month (May 2001). The DMOs office and World Vision gave medicine for the Unit. The common diseases affecting people in this camp are; malaria, dysentery and wounds. Many children have died of malaria. The Health Unit is run by one enrolled nurse and two extra nurses (helpers); a man and a woman....<sup>94</sup>

Comments from an Olwal ‘protected camp’ official testifies:

Health is a problem within the camp. I remember we collected money one time as the peoples contribution to the building of the Health Unit. Government gave iron sheets for the same. The Health Unit was completed in the year 2000. We have only one nurse running the Unit who came in May 2000. The nurse was sent from the DMOs (District Medical Officer) office. The medicine too, comes from the DMOs office, but is not sufficient. Once World Vision supplied some medicine to the Unit. The common diseases affecting people in the camp are malaria, cough, and throat pain where the person is unable to talk. Last year 2000 in about September and October fever killed many children....<sup>95</sup>

Dr. Paul Onek the Gulu district Director of Health Services and John Opwonya the in-charge of TB programmes in Gulu, were quoted in one of Uganda’s Daily Newspapers, The New Vision of October 1, 2001, commenting on the health situation of Gulu district and in particular the TB in the IDP camps as per 2001.

“...Lack of proper housing, poor feeding and general poverty and overcrowding are fertile grounds for TB (Tuberculosis). Our situation is that because of the displaced camps people are overcrowded ... We all have TB somehow, which the body suppresses. It doesn’t come out. But there is less resistance with HIV, which enables the TB to surface ... Onek said camps in Gulu district should be dismantled so that the people can go back to their homes to grow high protein food like pigeon peas, simsim, millet,

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<sup>94</sup> HURIFO Interview May 2001

<sup>95</sup> HURIFO Interview May 2001

groundnuts and greens, which increases the body resistance to TB....<sup>96</sup>

Opwonya observed,

“...The war has contributed to the spread of TB in all aspects; congestion, malnutrition, HIV....<sup>97</sup>

The congestion in the “displaced peoples camps” had for a long time been an area of speculated health disaster should a contagious /communicable disease breaks out. When the deadly Ebola disease broke out in August 2000 in Gulu district, the Acholi sub-region and Uganda at large panicked. The disease affected a total of about 357 persons of which 224 died, the rest survived.

In Pabo camp there are two health centres; one belonging to government and the other to the Catholic Church of Pabo Parish. The facilities at this health centre however hardly addresses the larger part of the needs of the camp population, which is over 46,000 people. Cases of sexually transmitted diseases are quite common within the camp.

At Pabo Lacor Health Unit, HURIFO spoke to the Head of Nurses.

“...The head of the Pabo Health Unit is a Clinical Officer. We are 16 staff members; 1 Clinical Officer, 1 Registered Nurse, 8 Nursing Aides, 1 Registered/ Enrolled Midwife, 1 Vaccinator, 1 Health Educator, 1 Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA), and 2 Gatekeepers/ Watchmen ... A doctor is sent here every fortnight from St. Mary’s Hospital Lacor since this unit is an extension of the hospital. We also co-ordinate when necessary with the Government Health Unit here ... The common diseases among IDPs in this camp are Malaria, Diarrhoea, Malnutrition Respiratory diseases like cough, and also ear problems. Last year in August about ¼ of the children who came had ear problems. HIV/AIDS cases are not very common here, but Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) cases like syphilis and Gonorrhoea are very many. This year we have so far had one HIV case and last year there were 3 cases. We in the Health Unit do offer In-house Health Education. We usually refer the serious cases to St Mary’s Hospital Lacor. During the Ebola outbreak, we got 15 suspected Ebola cases. Out of these 15 people, 10 tested Ebola positive. Of these 10 victims about 4 or 5 of them died. I am not sure of the exact numbers. Those who survived were given Certificates of Recovery. We ought to do vaccination here in this Health Unit everyday, but due to constraints we are able to only carry it out 3 times a week. The vaccines we have are BCJ for TB, DPT and Tetanus, which are combined for; Polio; Measles, Tetanus Toxoid for females between the ages 15 – 49 years. Last year (2000) we also had a fungal infection called ‘*Candidiasis*’ locally known as ‘*Gimiiro*’ that attacked mainly children. Many children died because people would first give them local herbs or misuse drugs especially anti-

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<sup>96</sup> The New Vision newspaper, P. 31 on Health

<sup>97</sup> Ibid

biotic and hence kill useful bacteria in the body. They would then bring the child to the Health Unit when the child is very weak. On average we have about 4 deaths per month. In April we registered six deaths while in May registered no death....<sup>98</sup>

An official in Pabo 'protected camp' claimed that there was a month where the number of children received in the Government health Unit was about 8,000. A nurse in this health unit said that these days (2001) they receive about 250 patients per day.

Awer camp is located at Lamogi Sub-county where a government dispensary exists. This dispensary serves the camp plus other nearby camps such as Pagak, Kaladima, Parabongo and Olwal. The facilities in the dispensary are inadequate for the population of Awer camp plus the nearby 'protected camps'. They also periodically referred serious cases to the main government hospital in Gulu town. The government hospital in Gulu town would periodically send a minibus to pick the patients forwarded. As regards health situation in Awer camp, an official commented that there is rapid spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS, Gonorrhoea and syphilis.

A health official of Gulu district commenting on the situation in the 'protected camps' described them as very poor mainly due to the insecurity and abject poverty. The most common diseases in these camps are tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, measles, meningitis, cholera and malnutrition. In October 2001 the level of dysentery was said to be on the increase, almost reaching an epidemic level. The diseases are brought about due to poor sanitation and congestion. The source added that the malnutrition level has gone down because it is the harvest season of September but was bound to go to very high level round about March, April and May as is the usual case. In a nutshell according to the source the camps must be disbanded on health and other grounds.

## **7.2 Water and Sanitation**

HURIFO's findings showed that from the onset of the 'protected camp' the availability of clean and safe water for the IDPs has been a grave problem. Humanitarian organisations have tried to help the situation by providing the IDPs with more safe-water points. Similarly sanitation is one of the major factors affecting the health situation in the IDP 'protected camps'. In many of these 'protected camps' that are congested, the land to build new or more latrines is almost all used up creating a fear of acute problem. In some camps one has to be careful when walking around lest one steps on a child's faeces. The poor sanitation could explain the high level of diarrhoea and dysentery related illnesses in the camps.

Records in the LC III's office show that, the Pabo 'protected camp' in the year 2000, had at a total of only 733 pit-latrines in use and 380 no longer in use. Of

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<sup>98</sup> HURIFO Interview June 14 2001

the 380 pit-latrines that were out of use, 164 had got destroyed from Zone C in the camp inferno of March 23, 2000. The LCs said there were great fears of an epidemic outbreak especially of communicable diseases like cholera, dysentery and others, considering that over 50 IDPs share one latrine.

Sanitation aside, the safe-water points in Pabo camp are also too few to supply the over 45,000 camp population, making the camp residents spend unusually long hours [4-5hrs] queuing for water. Keeping of personal hygiene becomes extremely difficult while low productivity is evident, because more useful time even up to 6 hours is spent at a water point. According to LC III Pabo office records of the year 2000, the camp had a total of 9 protected springs, 10 boreholes, 1 wind-powered borehole and 2 shallow wells, which shallow wells were still non-functional. The office of the LC III further told HURIFO that the most common diseases are malaria and diarrhoea.

An Opit 'protected camp' committee official informed HURIFO that there are 3 boreholes, 6 protected streams, courtesy of Action Faim and 1 shallow well courtesy of World Vision, Uganda.

According to a camp committee member of Olwal 'protected camp' in the beginning the IDPs lived in makeshift grass-thatched shelters. Some humanitarian agencies came to their aid.

CPAR [an International NGO] provided polythene sheets for the bathroom and toilet structures. They actually provided roofing material for 35 toilets. World Vision provided cement to make the toilet slabs for 100 toilets each with 2 doors. The people then had to dig the pits for the latrines. The DMO's office gave 30 latrine slabs. As for water points, we have 3 boreholes, 5 shallow wells, 2 protected springs. There are also 2 other unprotected springs about 1 km away from the camp. Of these water points Action Faim [another international NGO] made 2 boreholes, 2 shallow wells and 1 spring; CPAR made 2 shallow wells; while the 5<sup>th</sup> shallow well was a combined effort of both CPAR and Action Faim. DDW made 1 borehole; World Vision 1 water-well and 1 spring about a kilometre from the camp; AMREF too made 1 spring also about 1 kilometre away from the camp; while Action Faim made a rain tank at Musaja P.7 School....<sup>99</sup>

When the local population was displaced from their homes they had areas from where they collected safe water and came to share the little or no infrastructure they found in the camps. After several years in the 'protected camp' many of these water points are no longer usable and the land occupied by the camp will have suffered an enormous degradation with an attendant huge amount of losses involuntarily passed onto the landowners.

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<sup>99</sup> HURIFO Interview, June 6 2001

### 7.3 Education

According to HURIFOs findings many schools were displaced along with the local population. They were set up within the camps with the assistance of humanitarian organisations, as part of damage control arrangement, using UNICEF donated tent material. Some shared the donated facilities. In some camps there is a shortage of qualified teachers hence the need to amalgamate and use the few teachers in all the displaced schools. There are hardly any secondary schools in the camps, therefore, for post-primary education the parents must be able to financially facilitate their children to leave the camp and join any post-primary institutions. Humanitarian organisations have also provided the displaced school with food item to be cooked for the pupil's lunch.

According to the camps assessment data of Gulu District Planning Unit of May 2000, a total of 153 displaced schools exist in the district. However the D.E.O figures of October 2001 indicate that the displaced schools have reduced to 78, because of some schools are moving back to their original sites or near their original sites. With a decrease in the number of rebel incidences outside the camps as well as the initiatives by some NGOs, Save the Children Denmark and Norwegian Refugee Council, to rebuild schools in their original sites or near the original sites has probably been the reason for this reduction.

In Pabo displaced camp, the Pabo LC III Chairman told HURIFO during their visit in 2000, that the camp has eleven primary schools, with a total population of 7,843 pupils, and only one secondary school with 151 students. This is still inadequate to cater for the whole of Pabo camp or division/ sub-county of Pabo. A number of school-age going children are still out of school either because of lack of money, accommodation in the school or guidance from the parents. Many parents then find it better to marry off their young girls at the age of 15 or 16, and send off their boys to fend for themselves. Probably the high cost of secondary education could be the cause of the high dropout rates seen from the figures. This could explain why Pabo Secondary School's juxtaposition to the camp couldn't allow it to enrol students to its full capacity. The records for the year 2001 show that there are about 180 students which is about 50% of its capacity. It is also said to have upto 21 teachers but only has 13. Of these 13 teachers only 5 of them are full-time and are qualified with diploma for secondary education.

One primary school teacher of Pawel P7 School in Pabo 'protected camp, commented that,

Children in the camp live just like street-kids, and so the only avenue out for young boys is to join the Army at tender ages of about 12 and girls to get married....<sup>100</sup>

Awer displaced camp has two displaced primary schools i.e. Parabongo P7 school and Jimo P7 school, in the same compound within the camp. The pupil to teacher

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<sup>100</sup> HURIFO Interview May 2000

ratio is quite high hence inadequacy. Although all the pupils attending school under the Universal Primary Education (UPE) scheme, there are many pupils who just go to school at lunchtime for the free food rations provided by Relief Agencies. The Government pays only the school fees, which could be only a quarter, the cost of scholastic materials and other school requirements like uniform which cost the parents are supposed to bear.

A camp committee member of Olwal ‘protected camp’ talked to the monitor about the education situation in the camp.

“...As far as education is concerned we have an amalgamated school with up to 1,800 pupils enrolled. This school has amalgamated Lacaro and Musaja Primary schools. The total number of children in the camp as of the year 2000 is 6,840. After Primary Seven (P.7) some pupils are able to proceed with their education to Attiak Technical School, Gulu or St. Joseph’s Technical School near Gulu Cathedral. I think just over 20 pupils are able to proceed to Secondary Schools...”<sup>101</sup>

With a large number of children not being able to proceed beyond primary level of education has led to high levels of redundancy in the IDP ‘protected camps’. For many IDP children in the ‘protected camps’ the highest level of education attainable is Primary Education.

#### **7.4 Congestion and its effect on culture**

These IDP ‘protected camps’ were formed by gathering people from several villages or parishes and placing them in an area of one, two or three kilometres. In some of the ‘protected camps’ HURIFO visited, the residents said that in 1997 the Army ordered them to come closer together hence their high levels of congestion. This congestion has not only caused quick and easy spread of communicable diseases, such as measles, tuberculosis, influenza and cough, but also poses a great danger when fires breakout. The culture of the people can also hardly be practised when the people are very congested. Morals among the youth and children are greatly eroded, as parents are forced to share the same hut with their children.

In Pabo ‘protected camp’ the makeshift huts closest to the barracks are so congested and identical that at times camp residents and visitors alike find it too difficult to locate their way to a particular hut. In an attempt to address this problem, symbols like tiny flags and other distinctive features are tagged on the rooftop and/ or front of such huts to allow easy identification/access. The overcrowding is a disaster, most especially, when a fire starts the whole zone may be set ablaze. For example the fire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2000 gutted 728 huts in Zone C, leaving the already impoverished residents with nothing but their dear life.

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<sup>101</sup> HURIFO Interview June 7 2001

The girl-child is the worst victim in the camps as regards morals. Many parents have lost control over their children hence cannot stop their daughters from early marriages. The high rate of elopement, marriages and pregnancies by girls in their early teens to people with resources such as businessmen, teachers and the Army plus the LDUs/homeguards remains critical and common sights. The IDPs try anything just to make ends meet. The parents of these girls would not mind as long as they can get some money as dowry. This has led to the increase in the number of unwanted children who lack parental care and guidance, since the Army is constantly reshuffled leaving the would-be wives to the new lot of colleagues.

A Pabo ‘protected camp’ official made mention of some fire outbreaks that have taken place in the congested camp:

I can remember 3 devastating fires that have burnt down many huts, the worst of them being in the congested zone C. The first was on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1998, where a fire in Zone D burnt up to 90 huts. The second was on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2000, in which 32 huts in Zone D got burnt, and the worst happened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2000, where 728 huts in Zone C got burnt and one child died in the fire....<sup>102</sup>

One elder, a 67-year-old man resident in Pabo IDP ‘protected camp’ observed that:

There is a high level of overcrowding which has led to a breakdown of social norms as was per the Acholi culture ... The level of moral decay in Pabo is the worst I have ever seen in my life. Girls and boys chase themselves like chicken and this is worse during the dry season and when the moon is bright. One small hut is shared by the whole family and there is no room for privacy ... The women/ mothers seem to have lost their sense of direction and a number of them have resorted to drunkenness, witchcraft and prostitution as result of redundancy, poverty and frustration...<sup>103</sup>

A camp official of Opit ‘protected camp’ talked about the situation in Opit camp  
The Camp population is 25,111. The figure is not always constant. During registration in March 11, 2001 the population was over 27,000 but according to the verification done on May 10 - 11, 2001 the number is 25,111. The number of households is 4,466. As for decongestion of this camp it started after an LRA attack of April 19, 2001, where 252 huts were burnt. This is when the camps started to spread out and is now over a 3-mile stretch....<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

<sup>103</sup> HURIFO Interview May 2000

<sup>104</sup> HURIFO Interview July 31, 2001

The dangers of the congestion and erosion of culture can slowly but surely destroy a people and deny the enjoyment of their social economic and cultural rights.

### **7.5 *Economic situation***

The level of poverty in the ‘protected camps’ especially at the time of their formation can be compared to the rest of Uganda about the same period through the 1995 World Bank Report on Uganda. The 1995 World Bank Report on Uganda states: “that 80% of Uganda population are rural based and live by subsistence farming. Of these, 56% are confirmed poor i.e. each earns less than US \$ 240 per annum. Of these, the report went on to say, 14% are core poor i.e. each earn less than US \$ 35 per annum. This category comprised of; orphans, beggars, destitutes and street children –the majority of these are found in Northern Uganda” Concludes the report. Considering that this study was done before the ‘protected camps’ were in place and the people were not yet depending solely on relief items, those who don’t live there or have not been there can only imagine what the economic situation of these IDPs is like. It is not an overstatement to say that the IDPs of Northern Uganda are the poorest of the core poor that the World Bank Report talks about.

Economically, Pabo camp residents largely depended on agriculture, but given that they can not cultivate or do it under harsh conditions it can no longer be a good source of income. The only job opportunities in the area are in the Civil Service; Teaching, Police and Army. Civil Service, Teaching and Police as an employment institution require education, which the residents do not have, and so this leaves the Army, as an institution, which offers alternative employment opportunity. One 64-year-old retrenched policeman in one of the ‘protected camps’ has been unable to receive his gratuity or pension since 15<sup>th</sup> October 1986 (his retrenchment date). It is claimed by several offices that they do not have his files and so nothing can be processed, though he served his country and deserved to be paid his retirement dues.

The economic situation in the ‘protected camp’ visited is extremely poor. The camp residents complained about lack of land for farming since they have been displaced from their home areas. The conflict has prevented them from cultivating enough and in some cases if at all, to improve their wellbeing.

The IDP ‘protected camp’ residents who have got access to some land nearby the camps are able to cultivate to produce some crops for subsistence purposes. They are even forced to sell food items the family badly needs so as to be able to purchase some other equally needed necessities of life such as soap and salt. The clientele for this petty trade is small, as they comprise of salary earners such as the soldiers and teachers.

Life still continues to remain extremely difficult for the IDPs in the ‘protected camps’. The IDPs have been reduced to live in abject poverty and depend mostly on relief assistance from humanitarian agencies. The duration of stay in the camps coupled with restrictions based on insecurity prevents them from returning to their homes to settle or cultivate their land for food. Many IDPs are in poor health especially the children due to the inhygienic conditions, which leads to the spread of preventable diseases. The amalgamated primary schools are overcrowded, lack educational materials and teaching staff, hence lowering the standard of education. Lack of secondary schools has prevented IDPs attaining any post primary education. The development of culture or passing down of traditional ways of life to the children is not possible due to the inability to practise culture. Many cultural gatherings and/or ceremonies have often times been disrupted and sent in disarray as a result of attacks, killings and torture by the Army and LRA fighting forces. As a result of the above mentioned conditions in these ‘protected camps’, the IDPs are unable to even enjoy the very basics of their social, economic and cultural rights spelt out in the International Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights which Uganda ratified in 1987.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### 8.0 Option – peaceful resolution to the conflict

#### 8.1 *The prospects for resettlement*

The Uganda government still takes the stand to resolve the internal conflict using the military option but also allows individuals to do what they can to resolve the conflict peacefully. Early in the year, initiatives were taken by some district officials to try to talk to the LRA rebels. In particular HURIFO learnt that there is a level of communication between some district officials like the then RDC, Musa Ecweru and LC V Lt. Col. Walter Ochora, and some LRA rebels. The Press has been highlighting some of the developments. During this period, a communication channel seemed to have been established where the rebels were given several cellular-phones to sustain dialogue. It can be argued that this considerably reduced incidents of attacks on roads and ‘protected camps’.

In 1999 the Parliament of Uganda passed an Amnesty Bill granting all those who rebelled against the government a Blanket Amnesty. There seemed to be overwhelming support that the conflict in Uganda be resolved by peaceful means thus parliament saw it fitting to pass the bill. An Amnesty Commission was set-up and in mid 2001 a regional office was opened in Gulu. The response by the LRA rebels to this amnesty has been seen with some ex-rebels reporting through the Church in Pajule sub-county, Pader district. The Charity arm of the church CARITAS has set up a reception centre in Pajule and in collaboration with the various stakeholders including the Amnesty Commission, the Rwodi-Moo (traditional leaders) and the Army’s 4<sup>th</sup> Division resettled some ex-rebels. One such ceremony took place in Pabo camp on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2001 where 26 ex-rebels were re-united with their families.

The District has a District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) comprising of several sub-committees, whose members include representatives from the NGOs, which look at different issues in case of disasters occurring. One such sub-committee is the Peace, Reconciliation and Resettlement Sub-Committee, as part of its mandate is to look critically at the issue of resettlement and make recommendations through the DDMC to the district on the way forward. The sub-committee has so far recommended to the DDMC that the district in conjunction with it’s partners carry out a survey on issues relating to resettlement in the IDP from their current ‘protected camps’. Through this survey it is hoped that the views of camp residents that will be collected will guide the district and donor agencies when the time comes for the people to return home.

Another issue under critical discussion, concerns the little infrastructure such as schools, safe water points and roads among others that have been put in place by development partners/ agencies. A concern raised during the critical discussion

includes the maintenance of the existing infrastructures vis-à-vis whose responsibility. Some infrastructure has been put in places outside the camps and roads re-opened all seemingly with the hope that the IDPs will soon return home. Some of these structures are already in use as certain camps have already started decongesting.

The high levels of congestion in some camps has been a problem prompting the residents to seek immediate solutions.

One LC official informed HURIFO about the decongestion of Pabo 'protected camp'.

In Pabo displaced camp, the issue of decongestion started as early as April 2000. Some of the new camps are: Pogo – 29 Km away from Pabo; Olinga – 30 Km from Pabo by vehicle but 15 km on foot; Paminalwak – 9 km from Pabo camp by vehicle but 5 km on foot. Other camps are Otorokome; Otong; Jeng Gari; Bitu; and Maro-Awobe. So far the rebels have attacked only one of these new camps, that is Maro-Awobe camp. This was in April 2000. There is supposed to be a permanent military detach of 50 soldiers (homeguards) in each of these new camps. I have personally gone to 3 of these camp together with 50 soldiers who are supposed to form the new detachés there. I think the decongestion of the camp will only work if the soldiers remain in the camps where they have been taken to form new detachés....<sup>105</sup>

Another LC official from the same Pabo 'protected camp' had this to say about decongestion

The programme of decongesting the camp came from Central Government in September 2000. All Parishes are to form camps. In February one person was hit by an antipersonnel landmine in one of the new camps called Olinga. The decongestion of the camp programme is due to certain issues like the fire of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2000 and also the poor sanitation. People are waiting till September when the grass for thatching are ready. Currently the camp is lacking land where they can make new latrines, meaning that when the current ones are full up then there will be a big problem. One latrine is shared by about 10 households, where a household is about 5 to 8 persons. There are going to be 8 camps; 7 new camps and the current one at Kal....<sup>106</sup>

An IDP of Opit 'protected camp' giving his view on issues regarding the peace process

Last year 2000, 22 huts in Kal Quarters, zone E were burnt by the rebels, because some rebels had surrendered in that area handing in their guns and some money. One problem we see is, the Amnesty Commission's advert on Radio Freedom is very negative to the whole reconciliation process,

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<sup>105</sup> HURIFO Interview June 2001

<sup>106</sup> HURIFO Interview June 2001

because of the part, which talks about accepting the responsibility for all atrocities and going to court. Some Radio Freedom Acholi songs also discourage the rebels from surrendering. If there is any way you can help and make them change it will be good....<sup>107</sup>

The efforts of the development agencies to provide infrastructure in areas far outside the camps as well as the districts plans to carry out a survey among the IDPs in these protected camps all in preparation of a possible resettlement is welcomed by HURIFO. To enable the IDPs resettlement programme to run more smoothly more funding is required to rehabilitate the broken down infrastructure and provide better or adequate infrastructure for the resettled populations. The sub-counties capacity to maintain these infrastructure needs to be raised so that the efforts do not go to waste. The resettled population should also be assisted in starting up gainful economic ventures to reduce on their dependency on relief.

## **8.2 *Some human rights violations in new settlements***

HURIFOs findings show that some incidents of human rights violations have taken place in some of the new settlements where IDPs from larger camps have attempted to move closer to their home areas. Settlement is being made where smaller Army detachments comprising of mainly homeguards are being set-up near the new schools built by humanitarian organisations. There have been some robberies and rape incidences in some of these villages, but still people are proceeding to settle there though with very little property and the children tend to remain in the larger camps.

A 56-year-old woman from an IDP ‘protected camp’ describes what happened to her one June night when she had gone to her home area to weed her crops.

I decided to spend the night at home because I knew there was an Army detach in the nearby school. That evening there were whiteants and so other IDPs who had also come to their homes to weed their crops went out to collect the edible ants. At about 8:00pm, I decided to join the rest, and as I passed by my daughter-in-law’s home I saw a man standing near her hut. He asked me who I was and I replied it was I. Instead he struck me hard on the back using a stick. I ran inside my daughter-in-law’s hut and he followed. He pulled me out of the hut by the collar and ordered me to show him where the Army is, within the area. I told him I did not know. Threatened to kill me and I told him to go ahead. I then decided to tell him to go to the nearby Primary School if he really wanted the Army. He then ordered me to take him there and threatened to shoot me again. I again told him to go ahead and shoot me if he wanted. With the grip he had on me, he dragged me to the rice garden nearby and said he wanted to have sex with me. I told him, “You are my son. How can you have sex with me?” He held me using his left hand, held the gun in his right and put his foot on me so as to hold me down. He then raped me. Though he

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<sup>107</sup> HURIFO Interview July 31 2001

placed his gun down, he didn't loosen his grip on me until he had finished. He then said he would give me money, but I refused it. I told him that the LRA rebels do not smoke or drink and since he was stinking of both, he was, therefore, not a rebel. I also told him he has now infected me with a disease. He then said that is why I should take the money he is offering me so as to treat myself. I refused then he said I should not tell anyone he has been there ... The next morning, I reported to the Army Commanding Officer of the detach in the nearby Primary School. He asked me to identify my attacker and I pointed him out from the crowd. There were two other women who complained that the same man beat them, but said they were not raped. The case was reported to the Police Post in the displaced camp and then we were all brought to Gulu CPS (Central Police Station) where I was also given a medical examination. Because I had no money I had to walk to the camp a distance of over 30 kilometres. I started my return journey late in the evening so I had to spend the night at a health unit on the way. The Police told me to go back after 6 months for another medical examination....<sup>108</sup>

The victim was unable to give HURIFO the Police Case File Number so tracing for the file from CPS Gulu Police Station is difficult in the current situation where Police records in the district are not computerised.

A 30-year-old married man with 3 children, living in an IDP 'protected camp' over 30 kilometres from Gulu town testifies about robberies

I was a resident of another IDP 'protected camp' from 1996 till 1999 when I decided to settle near my home area because there was some stability. In December 2000 robbery incidences started happening again. The attackers come to your home they would rob you of money and foodstuffs and beat you, then make you carry the loot to some point. I do not know if these were rebels or armed thugs, we refer to as '*Boo-kec*'. I was attacked twice in the month of April 2001; early April and late April, so I decided to move to this 'protected camp'. In the first attack we were alerted of some group of thugs in the area and so that night we didn't sleep at home but in our alup [hideout]. We also hid all our property in the bushes. The following morning we found our door had been broken but since we had left almost nothing in the house nothing was taken. But they took foodstuffs from other people they attacked ... The second attack was towards the end of the month of April 2001. They came at about 9:00pm and found my wife with my 3 children. They asked for food and money. There were seven attackers. When I came home I noticed the footprints and noted that some of the attackers wore gumboots, others slippers and one had military boots. They took beans, a sack of groundnut, 4 chicken and 250,000/=. My wife tells me the attackers were so composed that the commander could afford to ask for a chair so that he could comfortably sit outside and relax while the rest are doing the robbing..."

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<sup>108</sup> HURIFO Interview June 2001

“...The stories of incidences of this nature are so many that I cannot finish. Most people live without hope and full of worries of what the next day would be like....<sup>109</sup>

Camp leaders in their letter dated November 17, 2001 to the RDCs office Gulu copied to HURIFO had this to say;

For long camp leaders are always rebuked by some district officials, wherever we attend camp leaders meeting that we do not have appointment letters and we do not know which local government act within which we are working implying that the camp leaders belong to a class of people whose voice and qualification are unheard of in the district. This suppression which is in a simple form full of dirty tricks can be very dangerous to the lives of camp leaders. This predetermines that decongestion can be done in an hours time by anyone or two persons in any form and we are likely to leave the camp the way we came to it, that is in a rush for our lives leaving our properties to be destroyed....<sup>110</sup>

Incidents like these above tend to make the IDPs residing in the old ‘protected camps’ skeptical about the resettlement or decongestion. The duration of stay could also have played a part in that many people may have adapted and become familiar and comfortable with their surroundings hence fear change.

### **8.3 *The role of the international community***

The International Community has through Organisations like the Carter Center tried to broker a peace deal between Uganda and Sudan so as to restore good relationships between the two countries with the hope that this would help resolve the Northern Uganda conflict.

UNICEF on the other hand has since spearheaded the well-focused and sustained campaign to secure the release of over 5000 children still unaccounted for following their abduction from Northern Uganda. There are a number of organisations that have been set up to receive formerly abducted children as they return. Some organisations like CPA (Concerned Parents Association and ACORD among others reintegrate and reconcile Formerly Abducted Children (FAC) and their communities.

The formerly abducted children include those returning from the Sudan courtesy of UNICEF and other International NGOs, those who escape from LRA captivity and are handed over to the Army detachments, interrogated and later handed over to these organisations. These organisations include GUSCO (Gulu Support the Children Organisation), CPA (Concerned Parents Association), World Vision Uganda and KICWA (Kitgum Concerned Women’s Association). Some International NGOs such Red Barnet and International Rescue Committee, have

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<sup>109</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2001

<sup>110</sup> Letter from camp leaders to RDC Gulu copied to HURIFO

in addition to their programmes, supported the local NGOs in attaining their goals of rehabilitating Formerly Abducted Children (FAC). Considering that children can be abducted from the IDP ‘protected camps’, the cycle of abduction hence poses a challenge to all the players, International Community inclusive, to find a lasting solution.

An IDP in a ‘protected camp’ bitterly complained about the no end in sight to the conflict

I think enough is enough. The Ugandan Government should accept it's inability to resolve the conflict and seek the United Nations' intervention to make an end to this conflict....<sup>111</sup>

The adolescents in this region determine the future and destination of the society, economically, socially and culturally. Support, guidance and peaceful environment is what can help them achieve their full potential in whatever area of interest, considering the disparities in education level and quality with the rest of the country. In this area, the adolescents of this war-affected sub-region have been promoted directly by Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an International Organisation based in the USA, thus giving them hope and a future to look forward to.

The 2001 Consultative Group (CG) meeting between Uganda and its donors resulted in a pledge of US\$2.5 billion from donors for the Ugandan Budget over the next three years. Donor resources provide nearly half of Uganda's total operating budget and are focused on infrastructure and private sector development, social service provision, decentralization and agriculture, as well as policy and institutional reform. - Despite this level of support, little assistance is invested in the war-torn districts of northern Uganda from 1996 – 2000 is estimated to be approximately US\$100 million. A demonstration of the inadequacy of this amount is the fact that the WFP's 2000 appeal for just one year of food assistance in Uganda targeted toward the displaced and refugee population in northern and western Uganda is over US\$36 million. Currently, almost 60 of this project remain unfunded. - According to UNOCHA, northern Uganda has suffered from the split assistance strategy by donors in Uganda, under which funds are disbursed to more stable regions leaving humanitarian activities in the north “chronically unfunded.”<sup>112</sup>

The northern war has usually been down played as a low intensity conflict by the government, a position seemed to be accepted by Western governments, but the attendant destruction, devastation, moral degeneration and land degradation being

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<sup>111</sup> HURIFO Interview August 2000

<sup>112</sup> Women's Commission for refugee women & children, *Against All Odds: Surviving the War On Adolescents; Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Ugandan and Sudanese Adolescents in Northern Uganda*, United States of America, May-July 2001 P 73

experienced by the population can no longer be ignored. The International Community through humanitarian agencies has tried to help by providing relief assistance, as part of damage control arrangement, which falls short of providing lasting solutions. Diplomats from European Union visited the northern Uganda districts in the year 2001 and pledged support to the region.

An Amnesty International Report in the earlier years of the northern conflict commenting on the International Community observed:

However, it appears that the scale of LRA violence has muted foreign government concern about the acute failures that exist in the government's protection of human rights in the war zone. Indeed, to those outside the areas of these failures have remained largely hidden. There does not appear to have been significant engagement with the Uganda Government about the priority the government is giving to the search for solutions to the continuing violation of human rights.<sup>113</sup>

The International community, therefore have an important role to play as regards the ending of the turmoil, and suffering the people of Northern Uganda, in particular the IDPs in 'protected camps, have experienced due to gross violations of human rights committed in the last 16 year while internal conflict, now in its stalemate stage, lasts.

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<sup>113</sup> Amnesty International, *Breaking the Circle* Pg.73

## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

### *To the Government of Uganda.*

The state has the main responsibility to ensure the protection of human rights under international law. While the LRA may be responsible for wide spread human rights violations in northern Uganda, violations by the government forces have been and continue to be recorded.

The government must undertake:

- Full responsibility to discipline and sensitise on human rights, more especially, rights and principles dealing with Internally Displaced Persons.
- To prevent human rights violation against the Internally Displaced Persons by the Army, Police, LDUs/ homeguards, and in addition ensure adequate protection to both camp residents and other stakeholders.
- To sensitise it's Army on the best way of handling the traumatised civilians in a way that protects them rather than endangers their lives especially at the time of counter insurgency operations.
- To bring the perpetrators of human rights abuse to account for their actions before open and competent courts of law, as a confidence building approach.
- To set up an independent Judicial Commission of Inquiry similar to the Oder Commission (1962–1985), to investigate fully the incidences of human rights violations from all parties in the northern conflict from 1986 to-date – thus opening up to scrutiny, the bleak period [1986-2002], deliberately left out of the Oder Commission and yet heinous human rights violations had taken place in Northern Uganda.
- To disband forthwith the so-called 'protected camps' which has since failed in its objective, which was, to stop attacks and abductions on the population by the LRA.
- To ensure that under no circumstances it condones the recruitment of child-soldiers for whatever purpose and all the under-aged persons in any section of the security organisations be discharged, and facilitated to resettle in the community or returned/taken to school.

- To make a deliberate effort to expeditiously pursue restoration of peace and stability through dialogue, to give chance to the local community to pick up the pieces of their lives to allow them engage fully in gainful economic activities as a larger part of their rehabilitation process.
- To abandon the carrot and stick approach it is bent on using to end the conflict and instead get into meaningful direct peace negotiations with the rebels. In case of the existence of mutual mistrust, involvement of a third party acceptable to both parties to the conflict is of necessity.
- To be sensitive and responsive to the plight of the over 600,000 IDPs in northern and other parts of Uganda and make concrete plans to facilitate the resettlement of the IDPs to their homes, with special attention paid to infrastructure such as schools, health centres, water and sanitation, spaced housing, etc...
- To ensure that the imminent resettlement of the Internally Displaced Persons be handled from a human rights perspective, taking into account the fact that the affected people, during their stay in ‘protected camps’, were largely unproductive, poverty stricken and basically dependant on handouts from government, other agencies and organisations. They have lost a livelihood for which government must put in place a resettlement scheme to deal with the whole issue of resettlement and integration of the affected community. In view of this, therefore, HURIFO strongly recommends that a minimum resettlement package be made available to the returnees. In view of the fact that the government may have resource constraint to address this issue, we urge it to make appeals to International Community to augment the governments effort in facilitating resettlement and re-integration.
- To ensure that the camp residents’ resettlement areas including homes, roads, footpaths among others are mine and UXO free to reduce risk of harm to the returning population. In case constraints, particularly constraints of a technical nature, the government is urged to seek for technical assistance from the UN, to augment the current effort of the military.

#### *To The LRA rebels*

As an armed opposition movement, it is obligatory for the LRA under international law to observe the four Geneva Conventions.

The LRA should:

- End all deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians as well as Prisoners of War.
- Cease all cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
- Stop taking of hostages/ forceful recruitment of people (especially children) into their ranks.
- Stop all forms of sexual abuse and other ill treatments against the civilian population and their captives
- Cease forthwith the targeting of civilians, who are not involved in armed conflicts.
- Get into peace negotiations with the government of Uganda to end the 16-year-old war, so that the wanton abuse of human rights through the senseless war is stopped.

In addition, the LRA should:

- Make a public commitment to observing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to places where children and other abducted persons are being held.

*To The International Community*

The International Community undertakes;

- To suspend and stop Arms supply to Uganda and to the LRA respectively.
- To exert pressure on both the Ugandan government and the LRA to accept a dialogue as a cost effective and civilised means of resolving armed conflict as opposed to the military option.
- To put pressure on the governments of Uganda and Sudan to normalise relations and further, to pressure the two governments to stop harbouring and aiding rebel groups such as LRA and SPLA from acts aimed at destabilising each others country.
- To exert pressure on the Sudan government to secure the unconditional release of all the abducted children including the Aboke girls together

with other captives, and in addition, facilitate the freed abductees expeditious repatriation to Uganda.

- To pressure Uganda government to improve human rights situations in the ‘protected camps’. And also to make known when the camps will be dismantled, and the attendant programme to this effect to enable camp residents go back to their natural habitat with adequate facilitation to help them resume normal life in the rehabilitation process.
- To support various initiatives aimed at Conflict resolution and Peace Building, and make substantial and significant contribution towards the resettlement of the IDPs and former abductees.

#### *To The IDPs in “Protected Camp”*

The Internally Displaced Persons To Realise:

- That they are under obligation to work in concert with other stakeholders for the restoration of peace and in addition, be aware, and learn to respect and observe human rights of other individuals and especially, the rights of the children and women in the ‘protected camps’.
- As stakeholders in the peace building process, they have an obligation to use reconciliation [mato oput] as an important tool in the Peace building crusade.
- The need to re-orient themselves in the direction of self-reliance and independence aimed at the full realisation of the right to self-determination, in all aspects (social, economic, cultural and political), lies in self actualisation through hardwork. This is linked realising a speedy rehabilitation process with ultimate culmination to self-sufficiency.

#### *To The Authorities in the “Protected Camp”*

The Authorities in the ‘protected camp should:

- Realise the dire need for networking among themselves (with similar structure in other camps), and with all human rights organisations and other stakeholders, to check human rights situation in the ‘protected camps’ and also with humanitarian agencies for a co-ordinated service delivery provision.

- Realise that it is their cardinal duty and responsibility to help victims of human rights violations get easy access to justice.
- Organise programmes, which will allow them work in concert with human rights organisations and other stakeholders to sensitise the community on topical issues of concern, as well as those other issues which have direct effect on the camp residents.

## Appendix

### APPENDIX 1

No.	SCHOOL IN PABO 'PROTECTED CAMP'	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
1.	PABO P. 7 SCHOOL	1028	525	1580
2.	AGOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL	893	560	1453
3.	PALWONG PRIMARY SCHOOL	395	251	646
4.	LABALA PRIMARY SCHOOL	270	174	444
5.	OTONG PRIMARY SCHOOL	449	271	713
6.	ABERA PRIMARY SCHOOL	421	246	666
7.	POGO PRIMARY SCHOOL	155	168	323
8.	OLINGA PRIMARY SCHOOL	177	162	339
9.	PA MIN LA PRIMARY SCHOOL	374	301	675
10.	PAWEL LA- LEM PRIMARY SCHOOL	270	168	438
11.	PAWEL LA-NGETA PRIMARY SCHOOL	382	184	566
	<b>TOTAL</b>			
12.	PABO SECONDARY SCHOOL	127	24	151
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4934</b>	<b>3060</b>	<b>7994</b>

*Source Pabo LC III office August 2000*

## APPENDIX 2

No.	PARISH	SUB-COUNTY	COUNTY	No. OF CHILDREN
1.	PARUBANGA	PABO	KILAK	1129
2.	POGO	PABO	KILAK	507
3.	LAMOGI	LAMOGI	KILAK	407
4.	PATIKO	PATIKO	ASWA	277
5.	KAL	PABO	KILAK	1049
6.	GAYA	PABO	KILAK	1200
7.	LABALA	PABO	KILAK	822
8.	PAWEL	PABO	KILAK	1027
9.	PALWONG	PABO	KILAK	1135
				<b>22,000</b>

*Source Pabo LC III office August 2000*

### APPENDIX 3

Excerpts from Gulu Districts Camps Assessment Data, of May 2000

	Awer Camp	Pagak Camp	Olwal Camp	Opit Camp	Pabbo Camp
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Displaced Schools	1	0		5	10
Boreholes Functional	1	1		4	11
Boreholes non-functional	1	1		1	1
Shallow Wells functional	1	2		0	0
Shallow Wells non-functional	2	1		1	2
Protected springs functional	5	2		5	7
Protected springs non-functional	3	2		2	0
Unprotected springs functional	1	0		11	20
Unprotected springs non-functional	4			0	0

#### APPENDIX 4

COUNTY	CAMP	Camp Location Sub-County	Popn '01	Health Fac.
<b>KILAK</b>				
1	BIBIA	Attiak	4,557	available
2	ATTIAK	Attiak	20,151	available
3	Pawel	Pabo/ Attiak	<i>Pabo</i>	
4	PABO	Pabo	46,977	available
5	Abera	Pabo	<i>Pabo</i>	
6	Pogo	Pabo	<i>Pabo</i>	
7	Olinga	Pabo	<i>Pabo</i>	
8	Labala	Pabo	<i>Pabo</i>	
9	Maro-Awobe	Pabo/Lamogi	<i>Pabo</i>	
10	PARABONGO	Lamogi	12,922	not available
11	AWER	Lamogi	12,917	available
12	PAGAK	Lamogi	11,495	available
13	Kaladima	lamogi	800	not available
14	OLWAL	Lamogi	15,497	available
15	Guru-Guru	Lamogi		not available
16	LABONGOGALI	Amuru	6,670	not available
17	AMURU	Amuru	35,104	available
18	Okungedi	Amuru	2,321	not available
<b>NWOYA</b>				
19	ALERO	Alero	10,791	available
20	ANAKA	Anaka	25,064	available
21	APARANGA	Anaka	2,793	not available
22	PURONGO	Anaka	5,441	available
23	AGUNG	Anaka	1,585	not available
24	OLWIYO	Purongo	1,905	not available
25	Wii Anaka	Anaka	2,385	not available
26	Wii Lawora	Anaka		
27	KOCH GOMA	Kock Goma	11,324	available
<b>ASWA</b>				
28	UNYAMA	Paicho		available
29	PAICHO	Paicho	11,122	not available
30	CWERO	Paicho	5,815	available
31	Teya-Padhola	Paicho		
32	AWACH	Awach	15,550	Available
33	COO-PE	Bungatira		not available
34	AJULU/ PATIKO	Patiko	9,058	Available
35	PALARO	Palaro	14,331	Available
36	Lugore	Palaro	<i>Palaro</i>	
37	Labworomor	Palaro	<i>Palaro</i>	
38	Apyeta	Palaro	<i>Palaro</i>	
39	Oroko	Palaro	<i>palaro</i>	
<b>OMORO</b>				
40	ONGAKO	Ongako	2,112	available
41	PALENGA	Bobo	7,292	not available
42	BOBI	Bobo	2,306	available
43	OPIT	Lakwana	28,831	available
44	LALOGI	Lalogi	1,639	Available
45	ACET	Odek	25,390	available

## **APPENDIX 5**

Letter from Military to civilians ordering them to move