

Justice and Peace News

A monthly Newsletter of the Justice and Peace Commission of Gulu Archdiocese
September/October 2002 – Vol. 2 – No. 6

In this issue:

- **Editorial**
- **A Day to Celebrate Peace**
- **Peace Week in the Rwenzori Region**
- **Make Peace Come**
- **Peace**
- **Peace Builds – War Destroys**
- **Voices of Peace in History**
- **Information from Kitgum and Pader Districts**
- **Chronology - Events from September 1 – October 6, 2002**

Editorial

A new issue of Justice and Peace News, the monthly newsletter of the Justice and Peace Commission of Gulu Archdiocese. But not an ordinary issue. This month's newsletter will focus on one special topic: The International Peace Day as well as contributions to this event from within the Acholi civil society. Due to the war in our region, the majority of articles in our publications tend to concentrate on atrocities, violence and the suffering of the people in our area. Our attempts to find a way forward towards peace in Uganda include to report about the hardships of daily life in Acholiland. In these times of war and insecurity, we have to tell the story of the abused, of the mistreated and of the murdered ones. We try to be a voice of the voiceless. And the voiceless are getting more and more. It seems as if there is no end to their suffering, no end to their stories about lost friends, lost families, lost hope.

Our situation often overwhelms us. The suffering in our area is a constant partner in our daily life, in our daily work. The situation tries to turn us into helpless victims. And often we accept this role without further questions. So we tend to forget about the potentials all of us have to make a difference. We all can contribute to turn the current situation to the better. All of us can work towards an end of the war. There are many ways to contribute. It is up to us and our fantasy. May it be by simply writing a poem or a song and giving comfort to the troubled ones, by being a good example to our children, by participating in peace marches and prayers or by forgiving the ones who committed acts of violence and brutality against us and our communities. Some of these contributions might be bigger, some might be minor. But all of them are necessary. Even – or especially - if they are very demanding. And sometimes they are very demanding. Working for a peaceful settlement is not an easy task. It is a constant challenge for all of us. For the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army as much as for the ordinary citizens between Anaka, Atiak and Adiland. But there is no alternative to it.

We publish this special issue in order to encourage people not to lose hope but to think of ways to contribute to peace instead. It came to live through the participation of many people from Acholiland as well as from other parts of Uganda. And it will continue to live as long as people use it as a ray of hope and a motivation to contribute their share to peace in Uganda and other troubled areas of the globe.

A Day to Celebrate Peace

At the end of September the west of Uganda witnessed the celebration of peace. In order to give meaning to the International Day of Peace – as declared by the United Nations – the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice, a network of local, national and international organizations, scheduled a number of peace related activities which took place in various locations all over the five districts at the foot of the Rwenzori mountains. People had the chance to take part in workshops and learn how to agree to disagree in a peaceful manner, exchange working concepts with others and get to know more about some of the hotspots in the country. Some shared their experiences with traditional reconciliation methods. Others produced a video and presented a photo exhibition. All – participants as well as the honorable guests like the German Ambassador, the RDC from Kasese and LC Vs from the region - joint hands in a march through the town of Ft. Portal. Paralegals from Gulu presented their work during a one-hour call-in radio show and the Bakhita Women Empowerment Group contributed to the festival's success through their cultural performances.

While the improvement concerning the security situation in the west obviously justified the celebration of the International Day for Peace in and around Ft. Portal, questions come to one's mind when thinking about such an event in Acholiland. Would it make sense to celebrate it here in the north? Let's say in Gulu, Kitgum or Pader?. Or even in Anaka, Palebek and Pabbo? In the west it was an occasion to mark the recent end of the war. But in our region the war rages on. Consequently an event like the celebration of the International Day of Peace would be of a different character and would have to have a different meaning. But still - it would make sense after all. Even in our situation. Or more precisely: Especially in our situation. It would be a united cry for peace, for freedom, for dignity. It would remind us that war and suffering is not to be accepted. It is not the normal situation. And it needs to be ended so that our region can heal.

A festival of that sort could turn into a celebration of what is possible. It might be a good step in breaking our isolation. People from other parts of Uganda – and beyond - could come and show their solidarity. People could support and comfort one another, learn from each other, get to know each other. The national and international press could get first hand information about Acholiland and the efforts of the people to survive in an environment of war. But they could also see the innumerable local initiatives which keep up the hope for the people in the darkest hours. The day might become a significant and well-recognized demonstration that people in Acholiland are sick of the war and are longing for peace.

Next year the International Day for Peace is coming up again. And it could be celebrated here in the north. Either as a statement of courage and a banner of hope during these hard times of insecurity, or as a victory for humanity and the beginning of a new era once the war has ended.

Peace Week in the Rwenzori Region

On September 7, 2001, the United Nations (UN) set up 21st September every year as an international day for peace. This is a day for global cease-fire and non-violence, an invitation to honour the cessation of hostilities and conflict through out the world. In recognition of this day, the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) set 14th-21st September as the peace week, in commemoration for this very day. The theme was 'TOGETHER FOR PEACE'. The forum is a joint platform composed of over 25 member local civil society organisations and individuals from the Rwenzori region, namely the districts of Kasese, Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kibaale, Kamwenge and Kyenjojo. The purpose of the organisation is to address conflicts in the region before they escalate into violence.

For the wider public a wide range of activities were offered. There was a radio programme on the role of the youth in peaceful conflict resolution. In addition to that, a youth seminar on conflict resolution was organised by the Students Peace Association (SPA) in Fort Portal. It attracted over 200 participants. In Kasese, a symposium under the theme 'Learn how to agree to disagree' was organised by the Forum for Integrity in Democracy, and funded by the Friedrich- Ebert Foundation. To crown it up all, several other activities like drama and puppet theatre were carried out in Bundibugyo and Kyenjojo districts. The puppet theatre in Bundibugyo was the base of the mass sensitisation in the camps for internally displaced persons (IDP), on the theme "Peace in our hands".

The celebrations to commemorate the world peace day took place at Boma grounds in Fort Portal on the 21st of September. A bicycle race was meant to grace the occasion. Before the race caught the attention of the people, a band march led by the boys brigade from Kasese was led through Fort-Portal town. Around 1000 people witnessed the occasion. The function was presided over by the German Ambassador to Uganda Mr. Klaus Holderbaum.

Many guests contributed to the day by stressing the need for peace in the region as well as all over Uganda. The Chairman of the Amnesty Commission Mr. Justice Peter Onega gave a speech in which he said that a "peace day is a great opportunity to call up on Ugandans who are in rebellions, to utilise the governments amnesty". Others – like the RDCs of Kabarole and Kasese Mr. Canon Rulonga and Mr. Musa Ecweru as well as the LC5 Chairman of Kabarole, Mr. Augustine Kayonga - addressing the public put their voice together and called for peace as a precondition to development. The Kasese RDC stated that "rebels everywhere leave a trail of death and destruction. In the Rwenzori's there is some peace now but people are still traumatised. We want this peace to last".

A collection of photos from the IDP camps for in Gulu and Bundibugyo were displayed. The photographs depicted the situation in the camps and the hardships and the trauma people are going through. The pictures showed the often inhumane living conditions and people's ways of coping with them. They

also displayed the effects of the current war on the civilian population. Many guests were moved by the sight of a girl whose limbs had been shattered by land mines.

Participants from the north of the country contributed their share to the International Peace Day. Paralegals from Acholi - who have been trained by the Justice and Peace Commission Gulu - participated in a radio programme at Voice of Toro radio, in which they shared their experiences in coping mechanisms in conflict situations. In addition, there were women from the Bakhita Women's Group, Gulu. They met the Kasese women's desk and presented a cultural dance from the north during the celebrations.

A puppet performance was organised at the end of the function which received a lot of applause. The purpose was to show the role of puppets in community sensitisation as important crowd pullers, which indeed was well demonstrated. At the end of the day the signing of the lounge banner took place. It will serve as a souvenir for the RFPJ.

In order to make this event a thing to remember for people of all age, Olympic games were organised for the children in order to involve them in the event. These games enabled them to understand the issue of peace and what the whole occasion was about. This particular activity signified the fact that peace starts with children and that socialisation among them can significantly contribute to peace building in the civil society.

The activities to mark the peace week were conducted in all the five districts and were funded by DFID and German organizations like the AGEH, the DED and Bread for the World. The aim was achieved, people from different tribes came together. For example one could observe that the LC5 from Kabarole was dancing together with Bakonzo Cultural Dancers. This is an example how convinced people are to work for a sustainable peace in the region. In many ways the Peace Day was successful and in this regard the German Ambassador wished that the next Peace Day in 2003 could be celebrated in a peaceful Gulu.

Make Peace Come (A poem by the Bakhita Women Empowerment Group of Gulu, presented during the celebration of the International Peace Day in Ft. Portal, September 21st, 2002)

Peace, Peace, Peace!
Where are you dear?
Oh tranquil
Why don't you come?
To give us you
The mental calm
That we long forever.

Peace, Peace, Peace!
You detest, detest
Civil disorder
You detest, detest

Disturbance
You detest, detest
Blindness
You detest, detest
Coexistence with evil.

Peace, Peace, Peace!
You are meak
The cessation of war
You are serene
Clearmindedness
You are open
To peace talks
You are humane
Compassionate
To reconcile, yeah!

Peace, Peace, Peace!
Inevitable, of course
So true to nature
A quiet coexistence
Why not make it?
Only to re-establish
Friendly relations now
Burry the hatchets now.

Peace, Peace, Peace
Is everything
About our existence
Come peace, oh love
I am burning up my love
Do I say a thanksgiving now
To God for a peace pipe
Oh my love!
Come, come, come.
Come now!

Peace (A song by the Bakhita Women Empowerment Group of Gulu, presented during the celebration of the International Peace Day in Ft. Portal, September 21st, 2002)

Where is the peace I gave you?
Where is the peace I gave you?
That peace you gave me I lost it.
It is in the bush.
It is with the witch.
It is married to money.

It is sleeping in the brothel.
It is snatched by greed.

Have you got the treasure you lost?
Have you got the treasure you lost?
Yes, oh! Yes, oh yes I got it.
It is here now.
It is in my heart.
It is in your heart.
It is in our hearts.
Yes, peace is here now.

Peace Builds – War Destroys (Thoughts by the Bakhita Women Empowerment Group of Gulu, prepared for the International Peace Day in Ft. Portal, September 21st, 2002)

Uganda is a country endowed with many natural resources: mountains, waters, forests, hills and valleys that create a beautiful scenery all over the country alas it is a country that has known peace. Wars and all forces of violence have engulfed the country since independence due to differences in political views and interests. The political upheaval has created rift among tribes, districts and regions. Where as some parts may be enjoying peace and economic prosperity, the other parts live in sad experience of wars and violence.

The worst form of armed conflict that has ever been fought in the country is that in northern Uganda, Acholi sub-region in particular where the immediate victims are unsuspecting innocent civilians especially the women and children. The war has destroyed everything, most economic activities have stalled, many social infrastructures – the newly build schools under the UPE (Universal Primary Education) program are standing alone in the ruined villages. For 16 years now, people have lived a life a close second to animals; the moral code of conduct has degenerated to the highest degree. People live under stressful and traumatic conditions. There is no single family up there which has not lost one or more of its members due to this war.

It is from the standpoint that we, in no uncertain terms, condemn all those who use guns to achieve their selfish motives. We earnestly implore both the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army to consider the amount of atrocities meted on our people. We therefore call for peaceful resolution of this ugly armed conflict. It is only through sincere dialogue, reciprocal forgiveness and reconciliation for the present and past errors that true and genuine peace can be attained.

Many countries in Africa have seen the uselessness of war and have resolved to settle their differences through dialogue. The case in Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa under apartheid. They realized that violence creates violence, war breeds hatred and inflicts untold suffering on the innocent people.

Peace is not just the absence of war but love, natural respect for one another and a fraternal coexistence. Peace begins right from the heart of an individual

before spreading to a larger community. We must therefore aim at creating a peaceful society where there is no discrimination against one another on the basis of tribe, language, colour, politics or region. A society where there are no boundaries between districts, a society where there is no distinction between Baganda, Bunyoro, Butoro, Acholi, Nyankole, Iteso or Karamojong but only one people speaking a common language and singing the same melody of peace

In the book of Genesis, chapter 1:3 we read that God created man and put him in the garden of Eden where he lived peacefully and moved freely among the animals and other creatures naming them until the enemy of peace, the Serpent, crept in and upset the apple cart. We should also create a friendly environment where a lion can lie side by side with a calf and a cat can eat from the same dish with a rat.

The United Nations have realised the need for a peaceful and friendly world and have set aside a day – 21st of September each year in commemoration of peace. Of course the United Nations organization is a child of peace loving people, who, despite their great racial, political and religious differences have come together to form one big body that acts as a watch dog of peace to ensure that the whole universe is free from violence and terror of any sort. With the United Nations come various units that work to create a sustainable peace the world over.

We acknowledge the effort of the Holy Father Pope John Paul II for his gospel of peace to the entire world. May God reward him with abundant health and grace. The Government of Uganda deserves a thumb up for recognising this day of world peace. How we wish this should be translated into practical peace! We also cherish the effort of the Uganda Catholic Episcopal Conference for setting up Justice and Peace Committees in all dioceses of Uganda. Justice and Peace Committees are the strength of the desperate, the voice of the voiceless and a pillar on which people whose backs have been broken by violence and armed conflict can lean and rest.

The Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice has gone a step ahead by planting the seed of peace in the Rwenzori region. The seed has now germinated into a seedling. The seedling must be carefully nurtured and tamed so that it can grow up to a big tree where every one will come to enjoy its juicy fruits while resting under its cool and refreshing shade.

In the same way, the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative is trying to plant the same seed in northern Uganda though in a rocky soil and among the thorns. It is our hope that no serpent will come to destroy this seed; it should germinate and grow into a big tree where our children will learn and play under and the elders will work, sit and rest in its cool shade.

We therefore urge all Ugandans, men and women of good will to join hands together and work round the closest to build a peaceful Uganda, so that our beautiful motto and national anthem which invoke God in all our undertakings lip-service but should be lived practically by all citizens.

Voices of Peace in History

Martin Luther King

January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King was a black Baptist minister whose vision was to get equal rights to people of all race within the United States of America. He came to lead the Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success and contributed immensely to end the legal segregation of blacks in the South and other portions of the United States of America. Martin Luther King rose to national prominence through the organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, promoting non-violent tactics such as the massive marches to achieve civil rights for minorities in the country. One of these marches led tens of thousands to the capital in 1963. While his non-violent approaches brought him the criticism from more radical fractions within the liberation movement, it gained him wide national and international support for his case. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. In his honour the United States of America hold a national holiday in January each year.

Information from Kitgum and Pader Districts

For the last two months we have been presenting an individual chronology about the events in the districts of Kitgum and Pader. Our partners on the eastern side of Acholi collect this information, check it and pass it on to our office in Gulu. This process often takes some time. Many of the areas are remote and hard to access – even without the war. And in the current situation it often takes days or weeks to gather the information and send it out of the area. The roads are not safe, there is no reliable postal system and no telephone network. That's why some of the information reaches us after the deadline for a month's issue of Justice and peace News. That's why we separated the chronology into different parts. But since we are convinced that it is important to portray an accurate picture from the situation in northern Uganda we will publish the data nevertheless. Sometimes this will happen with a month of delay. Incidents which have already been reported will not be mentioned again (or just if we get new details). We hope for your understanding.

August 2002

03.08. - At 9:00am, LRA attacked Tumangu ward, Akwang sub-county and abducted two children. LCI instructed people to kill all the pigs in their area as per instruction from the LRA.

- LRA moved towards Palabek, and then attacked Abam, Palabek Gem sub county and abducted 10 people (9 men and 1 girl).

04.08. - At 7:00pm, about 40 LRA attacked Labworomwor in Akwang sub-county, looting many household properties and abducting two boys.

05.08. - LRA looted within Patongo sub-county at 9:00am taking household items, clothing, goats, and a bicycle.

06.08. - LRA attacked within Pacwa Parish, Paimol sub-county, killing two men, looting household property including bicycles, goats and chickens, and abducting people.

- In Amato-Olel, Patongo sub-county, LRA attacked at 7:00am and killed 7 men and 1 woman, burned 30 huts and looted many household properties and domestic animals.
- 07.08. - LRA killed one teacher on his way to prayers in Kitgum Matidi sub-county.
- In the evening, LRA attacked within Patongo sub-county and looted household property, five goats and chickens.
- 08.08. - At 9:00am, LRA within Patongo sub-county abducted 12 people, looted property, burned 9 huts, and then moved into Lira District.
- UPDF soldiers raped two teenage school-girls half a mile from Pajule trading centre at 8:00pm.
- Meanwhile, a large group of LRA (women and children numbering about 100) moved from Pader to Pajule through Lapul sub-county.
- 10.08. - In the middle of the morning, LRA attacked Opido-Lobo in Patongo sub county and killed four school children (2 girls, 2 boys), abducted ten people, looted shops and households, and burned 50 huts.
- By afternoon, LRA had attacked nearby Ogong and killed 8 men by burning them in a hut.
- In a separate incident, LRA passed through eastern Pajule sub-county abducting many people, but then later releasing them.
- 11.08. - In the morning, LRA released 120 women and children to Rwort Oywak Joseph, who took the returnees to Caritas at the Pajule Mission.
- At midday, LRA ambushed a vehicle on the Lira road, seven miles from Pajule trading center. The driver was killed, the vehicle bombed and many people were injured. UPDF rescued those remaining.
- 12.08. - In the middle of the night, LRA attacked three areas of Lapono sub-county, abducting 25 people: 12 men, 10 women, one schoolboy and two schoolgirls, of which 17 have now returned. They also looted household items, chickens, goats, and money from a total of 123 compounds.
- At 5:00pm, LRA attacked Tumangu, Akwang again and abducted four men and looted household property from the people there.
- In another attack that night, LRA attacked Lira Kato Parish, looting over 20 shops, burning one homestead completely, killing one man and one woman, and abducting a large number of people, 21 of which have not returned.
- 16.08. - One man was killed in the evening by a stray bullet, authorities are not sure of the bullet's origin.
- 17.08. - At 2:00am about 13 LRA attacked Puranga trading centre and looted 8 shops.
- 150 LRA moved from Kitgum Matidi towards Sudan, but were repelled by UPDF in Kilak.
- 20.08. - Lamola parish was attacked by LRA, with some huts burned and at least two boys abducted.
- Thieves in Paimol were caught by UPDF, leading to the break-up of a major robbery ring. Two guns and some loot were confiscated.
- LRA in Puranga sub-county abducted a teacher from John Pope Primary School and then moved towards Lagile.
- 21.08. - At 1:00am UPDF arrested two thieves from West Ward, Kitgum Town

after beating them and revealing their guns. Later, a local government police was also arrested when it was found he had supplied them a gun.

22.08. - At 8:00am, unknown gunmen attacked Abam, Palabek Gem sub-county and abducted three boys aged 12-13 years.

- In a separate attack, a group of LRA attacked Pajimo in Akwang sub-county looting and burning five shops and abducting people. All people were released later, except one boy and one girl.

23.08. At 2:30am, UPDF killed one man in Ayul (Kitgum Town) when he was attempting robbery. Reports say that he was abducted recently from Lamola and looting under LRA orders.

- The Kitgum/Lira bus was ambushed and burned by LRA just south of Pajule. One woman was killed and remaining passengers were abducted. Among the abducted passengers were former abductees who were on their way from KICWA to reunite with their families.

25.08. - Mucwini was attacked in the night by LRA, and two LCIs were killed. A primary school in Lapole was attacked by about 100 rebels and 20 children were abducted. One 15-year old girl was raped and is now recovering in the hospital, and three others escaped.

26.08. - LRA in Mucwini sub-county looted and burned in the village and abducted children on their way to school. Thirty children were taken, and later 9 were released and one escaped.

27.08. - A UPDF soldier who accused him of being a rebel arrested ARLPI peace animator of Pajule. He was beaten and injured, held in the barracks for two hours before being released.

- That day, a large group of LRA were seen crossing the Lira/Kitgum road from Lapul towards the east.

28.08. - In the morning, LRA attacked Akuna village in Lagoro sub-county, looting houses, burning six huts, collecting goats and chickens and abducting six children who have not yet returned.

29.08. - Akado Primary School in Akwang sub-county was attacked at night by LRA. The headmaster was seriously beaten and three children were abducted who have not returned.

- A separate attack in Puranga sub-county resulted in LRA firing on local police, but no one was killed.

30.08. - Several primary schools in Akwang were attacked by LRA in the evening and looted for food and other items such as school uniforms, used for spy infiltration. Textbooks and other items were burned. Eight people were abducted, and only six have returned.

31.08. - A soldier who was beating his wife ended up shooting a neighbour man that she ran to for rescue in Ayul (Kitgum Town) at about 10:00pm.

- That afternoon, an armed uniformed soldier in Omogi East, Lapul sub-county robbed a civilian man of his money.

- A different soldier beat three men with his gun in Koyo Parish, Pajule sub-county, and captured one 14 year old boy instructing him to beat people.

September 2002

01.09. - LRA attacked 50 km from Palabek Gem abducting 30 people, killing two people and seriously injuring one boy. Thirteen people have returned.

04.09. LRA captured 11 children from Osile East, within Pajule sub-county, later releasing six girls after they had walked a far distance.

05.09. - The Aswa Bridge, connecting Gulu and Kitgum Districts was partially dismantled by LRA and further damaged by a UPDF Buffalo attempting to cross. All transport between Gulu and Kitgum stopped for four days until repairs completed.

- LRA ambushed a bus just outside of Kitgum Town, killing two passengers and injuring several people.

- A Reverend and his wife were captured when they were returning from their garden at 1pm by LRA, Pajule sub-county, they are now returned.

06.09. - LRA ambushed a World Food Programme lorry that was bringing food from Lira on the Lira/Kitgum road in Lapul sub-county.

- A group of LRA then camped at a home in Pajule sub-county, forcing women out of their gardens to prepare a large meal using goats, chickens, beans and other stolen food stuffs. LRA continue to move through Pader District, closing the road to the Pader Headquarters.

- One Karamojong in Omiya Pacwa, Paimol sub-county attempted to steal some goats and was shooting wildly with his gun, but no injury was inflicted and he ran eastward.

07.09. - Some children were taking refuge in Kitgum Town Hall, and a couple small children went out in the early morning hours to relieve themselves. One soldier talked to them and told them to complete their business and then return. But then as the children were coming back to their shelter, another soldier shot the oldest one in the head (15 yr old boy), killing him.

09.09. - In the early morning hours, LRA attacked a suburb of Kitgum Town, looting one shop and six homesteads, abducting 3 people, including 2 schoolboys. They have not yet returned.

- Just outside Pajule on the road to Pader Headquarters, LRA starting at 10:00am set up a roadblock and looted travellers, taking shoes and money and abducting one boda-boda.

10.09. - Empty WFP trailers heading back to Lira were attacked and burned by LRA on the Lira/Kitgum road.

14.09. - A major delivery from Lira of WFP food in full convoy was ambushed by LRA, between Puranga and Rackoko. One of the seven trailers was disabled, a driver killed, and one soldier injured. WFP suspends all food delivery in the north outside of Kitgum Town for a minimum of one week.

Chronology

Events from September 1 – October 6, 2002

September

1st – Two UPDF majors and their three escorts died in an ambush laid by the LRA at Latany Amida in Kitgum District.

2nd – LRA raided Kweyo village and looted food stuff and abducted people to carry the loot.

3rd – LRA abducted 15 children from Koch Goma Lamina and looted food stuff.

- 4th – ARLPI, the traditional chiefs and Kacoke Madit worked on a document for a comprehensive peace plan in Acholi.
- The New Vision reported that the Presidential negotiating team was due to have its first meeting in Kampala. The meeting did not take place.
 - LRA ambushed a vehicle along Gulu - Kitgum road which was carrying relief supply of ACORD to Kitgum. The vehicle and the relief aid was burnt.
 - LRA robbed OTADA bus along Lira – Kitgum road.
 - LRA removed slabs on Aswa bridge. Transport between Kitgum and Gulu was blocked.
- 5th – LRA looted Atapara hospital. People were abducted to carry the looted drugs and food stuff.
- LRA ambushed a UPDF vehicle at Palenga. A UPDF officer sustained serious injuries and a Mamba was destroyed.
 - LRA ambushed a pick-up between Karuma and Corner Kamdini and set it ablaze.
- 6th – LRA ambushed ARUA-bound convoy near Karuma. One vehicle was burnt.
- LRA burnt motorcycle on the road to Awach.
 - Violence escalates with repeated ambushes all over the northern districts. Traffic is severely slowed down.
- 7th – Kalangala Action Plan was launched in Gulu at Koro Sub-county by the RDC of Gulu.
- LRA ambushed the bus which was going to Arua near Karuma. Things were looted.
- 8th – LRA stormed Adjumani. Huts were burnt and people were abducted to carry the loot.
- UPDF arrested two home guards suspected to be rebels with two guns at Gulu High School. The suspects were beaten.
 - LRA stormed Kuregwe in Adjumani and burnt 19 huts. People were abducted to carry the loot.
 - An unknown number of UPDF soldiers died in an ambush laid by the LRA at Rac Koko where the lorry which was ferrying them was shot and set ablaze.
 - LRA stormed Olim-lim Otuke County in Lira District and abducted about 30 people and looted the community.
 - 24 people were abducted by the LRA at Ongako, 14 were later released.
- 9th – One UPDF soldier was killed by civilians when he tried to rob them. His gun was taken to the barracks.
- 10th – ARLPI and the traditional chiefs published an open letter to inform the public about their contacts during the previous two months and asking for support to the peace process in this difficult situation in order to find ways forward.
- Heavy troop movement including tanks and armoured vehicles along Juba road, Lacor.
 - One boda-boda man was abducted by the LRA near Palenga. His motorcycle was set ablaze. He was released later in the day.
 - One person dies in an LRA ambush at Koboko road near Karuma, seven others were wounded.

11th - LRA attacked Pajule Trading Centre. Two civilians and one UPDF soldier were killed.

12th – During the week traditional chiefs establish contact with LRA junior officers.

- LRA attacked Otwal Ward in Lalogi Sub county and abducted 14 children and 4 men. 9 people were later on released.

13th LRA attacked Minakulu Trading Centre. Some people were killed and others abducted.

- LRA attacked Purongo and burnt 50 bicycles of the census trainees, two civilians were killed.
- LRA attacked Apworocero Centre where they killed 12 people and looted commodities.

14th – ARLPI and traditional chiefs held workshop to reflect on the peace process and develop proposals for the parties involved.

- 17 UPDF were wounded in an ambush of LRA when they guarding a World Food Program convey transporting relief supply in Pader District.
- LRA overran Opit detach and abducted an unknown number of people including two priests. Two UPDF soldiers were killed. The catholic mission in Opit was attacked, a vehicle was burnt, property damaged and communication equipment looted.

15th – Planned meeting with the LRA could not take place because peace team failed to meet with rebel commanders in Langol.

- LRA attacked Wiya-Nono Camp and abducted an unknown number of people and looting the centre.
- LRA stormed Pabbo Camp around 10 pm and looted shops. Six girls were abducted.
- LRA attacked Koch Goma. Three civilians die in the crossfire between the LRA and the UPDF.
- A former LC III Councillor and a GISO were abducted by the LRA in Pader District.

16th - LRA ambushed a vehicle from the Gulu Government Hospital going to Awach Health Centre. The vehicle was burnt, the drugs looted and the people abducted.

- LRA stormed Labongo-Ogali Camp where they looted commodities.
- 3 people were wounded in an LRA ambush between Cwero and Paicho along Gulu – Kitgum road.
- UPDF stormed Gulu prison during the night in order to transfer 21 people associated with the LRA. One man charged with treason was shot in the event. It is said that the remaining 20 were brought to Gulu barracks.
- LRA stormed Custom Corner about 2 km west of Gulu Town. Shops have been looted and three people have been abducted.
- LRA stormed Go Down and Pabbo Quarters as well as parts of Kirombe all in Gulu Municipality where they abducted an unknown number of people.
- 5 people were killed by the LRA at Labora Trading Centre in Omoro County.

17th – Archbishop Odama received reports by the military that the LRA wanted to kill him together with other religious leaders.

18th – The whole week is marked by the escalation of violence with more ambushes and many people being killed.

- LRA burnt a vehicle at Pagoro. Several people were abducted.
- 19th – Plans to receive a group of 30 LRA who had asked to lay down their weapons were aborted after the UPDF had raided Gulu prison sending a signal of mistrust to the rebels.
- 14 people were hacked to death at Pece Acoyo. 10 of them were killed in the middle of the road.
- 20th – 10 LRA did and others were wounded when the UPDF Helicopter gunships attacked them at Patira Forest in Anaka.
- 21st – LRA surrounded Wii Agweng market and abducted people to carry their loot.
- People from Gulu participate in the International Peace Day celebrated in Ft. Portal.
- 22nd – Peace team of religious leaders meets with President Museveni to deliver peace plan proposal. President Museveni repeated reports of alleged death threats by the LRA against Archbishop Odama.
- LRA killed five people at Apala Sub-County in Lira District.
- 23rd – A contact person between the religious leaders and the LRA was arrested by the UPDF under the charges of being rebel collaborator.
- LRA attacked Akuru-Kwee Trading Centre at Lacor west of Gulu Town but were repulsed by the UPDF.
- LRA ambushed a vehicle of Sobetra construction company near Parabongo Trading Centre. One man was shot in the face and sustained injuries of the jaw.
- 24th – President Museveni held a rally at Customs Corner where LRA looted the previous week (September 17).
- RDC of Lira reports that Lira Town is surrounded by the LRA.
- 25th – LRA storms Layibi Centre but are repulsed by the UPDF.
- 2 people were killed by the LRA in Angagura in Pader District.
- 5 UPDF soldiers rape a pregnant woman in Bungatira Parish.
- 16th – ARLPI Core Team resolved to organise peace campaign during October.
- 27th – LRA burnt down Radio Wa of the catholic mission in Lira.
- LRA stormed Opit Trading Centre, killed two people, abducted others and looted shops.
- LRA stormed Custome Corner again, loots shops and a clinic and abducts two students from Koch Goma Senior Secondary School.
- 28th – Two civilians were wounded in Pabbo during a fire exchange between UPDF and LRA.
- 29th – ARLPI lead over one thousand people in a peace march to Pece Acoyo, where religious leaders led peace prayers at the site of LRA massacre of September 19.
- Alleged death threats against the religious leaders were made public by the media.
- UPDF ordered all people living in rural areas of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader to move to the IDP-camps within 24 hours.
- LRA abducted an unknown number of people at Tochi Alero. One UPDF soldier was killed.
- 30th – LRA stormed Adel in Lira Municipality. One woman was killed and 107 huts burnt.

- President Museveni stated that the war against Kony would be finished before March 2003.

October

October

1st – New Vision head line: "Museveni asks bishop not to see LRA again".

- ARLPI and traditional chief Achana paid solidarity visit to Lira, where they met with religious leaders and visited sites of LRA raids.
- LRA shot a pick-up near Patalira, Patiko Sub-County. One person died, two were abducted.

2nd – New Vision published headline: "Bishops vow to continue Kony talks".

- LRA raided Lugore Trading Centre and abducted 15 people.

3rd - LRA abduct an unknown number of people in Ngai Sub-County in Apac District.

4th LRA stormed Ajumani, killed six soldiers and abducted an unknown number of people.

LRA attacked Laliya Trading Centre in order to loot commodities and food. One rebel was killed.

5th – Abductions in Lalogi Camp.

Three UPDF soldiers and two LRA fighters die in a clash at Laguti.

6th – Three people were killed by the LRA at Olinga in Pabbo Sub-County.

- Two LRA die in a fire exchange with the UPDF in Atiak.
- A group of LRA raided Awor Nyim where they destroyed five bicycles and warned the population not to ride bicycles.
- A group of Kaladuska beats people in Pabbo. One women was taken to the barracks for a day.

9th – A women was shot by a UPDF soldier in Pabbo. She later died in Lacor hospital.

10th – After reporting a controversial story about an alleged loss of a helicopter gunship by the UPDF in Pader District, the Monitor newspaper was closed down and its offices searched by the police. The reporter of the story has been arrested.

12th – 52 people were massacred by the LRA in Abilo Nino, Lapono in Pader District. They were forced into huts which were set ablaze.

15th – LRA killed a reverent of the Church of Uganda and four others in Lalogi Sub-county.

16th – Bishop Nelson Onono Onweng form the Church of Uganda, Gulu, narrowly escapes an ambush by the LRA.

- Near Lalogi a car was ambushed and three people were injured.
- Gunmen suspected to be LRA robbed people in Pabbo's E Zone

17th – LRA storm Obiya west of Lacor and move towards Patiko, where they abducted some women and children at Paminonoo P7 School. Others were beaten and had to be taken to hospital.

- The Monitor Newspaper appears for the first time after having been closed in connection with a controversial report about the war in Acholiland.

19th – A group of thieves suspected to be LRA was shot dead at Laliya and a UPDF soldier lost its life.

- A similar incident occurred in Agonga Parish in Bungatira.

Contact us under:

Justice and Peace Commission

Gulu Archdiocese

P.O. Box 200

Gulu – UGANDA

Phone: ++256 – (0)77 – 766644

E-mail: jpcgulu@infocom.co.ug