

PEACE BUILDING & CONFLICT RESOLUTION



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&

CONFLICT RESOLUTION



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Introduction

A LIVING EXPERIENCE IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND COMMUNITIES IN ARUA DISTRICT



Joseph Kony the leader of LRA.

Northern Uganda as it is known suffered a very long period of insecurity under Lord's Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony. This civil war caused a lot of untold suffering in the districts of Gulu, Pader, Lira, Soroti, Kumi, Nebbi, Arua, Adjumani, Moyo and the neighboring South Sudan.

Effects of conflicts



- **Many people lost lives**
- **People lost properties**

- **Thousands were displaced**
- **Women were raped**

- **Many children were abducted and forced to fight**
- **Hundreds of people are traumatized**

MEDIATION ON THE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES



Archbishop John Baptist Odama, the Mediator between the LRA and the government of Uganda.

This insurgency in northern Uganda raised serious concerns in the area and a much-needed solution was sought from different angles.





Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (ARLPI) An umbrella organization of the major religious denominations in Northern Uganda with the goal of pursuing peaceful conflict resolution with the Lord's Resistance Army



ARLPI also mediated peace talks between the government of Uganda and the rebel group of Lord's Resistance Army in 2006 in Juba South Sudan



Annual Peace Week initiated and spearheaded by Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. John Baptist Odama in the Ecclesiastical Province of Gulu is contributing immensely in reconciling communities and re-building peace in Northern Uganda. The past regimes of Former President Milton Obote of Lango Sub region and Idi Amin Dada from West Nile left a lot of deep conflicts. The Annual Peace Week is helping to reconcile the people



Peace mediation & Reconciliation processes



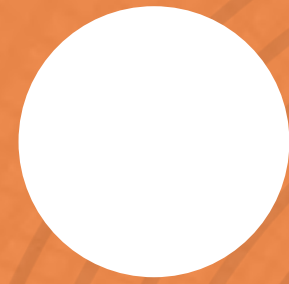
Government on her part is also doing a lot to offer amnesty to ex-combatants who can freely and willingly denounce violence and start new life. Some of the ex-combatants are incorporated in to the regular forces



Justice Peace and human Rights Commission also set up at the different catholic Dioceses of Uganda to address issues of social, economic, political and religious justices as well as respect for human rights



Peace mediation & Reconciliation processes



Causes of Conflicts

Land shortage

Many communities today have conflicts. There are many causes of these conflicts. The main cause of conflicts today is land shortage due to the ever-increasing population usually erupts in to violence in the communities. Members of the one clan attack the other.

Eviction by the rich

Eviction by the rich class. Some super rich people will buy land in the community. He will order the residents within his location to vacate. This has several times sparked violence.

Issues over animals

Communities that keep animals like cattle, goats, sheep and pigs in most cases end up in violence when their animals destroy crops like maize, beans, cassava, millet etc which many depend largely depend on.

Causes of Conflicts

Religious practices

Religious practices like using Public Address Systems to preach with very loud sounds, slaughtering of animals during public celebrations which Moslems believe must be done only by a Moslem, and marriage between Christians and Moslems have also caused conflicts in the communities



Bishops of Gulu Archdiocese marching for peace during the Provincial Peace week at Lira Diocese.

Peace Initiatives

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Reconciliation processes

It is a tough job to bring together communities who have been in conflict. Getting into bring peace requires the following approaches:

- ***Sacrifice and dedicate time to listen to both parties separately***
- ***Neutrality of the mediator. When you take sides, you are spoiling the soup***
- ***Pay attention to the demands from both communities***
- ***Observe sincerity, prudence, transparency and accountability***
- ***Be conscious of time. That is, respect the time schedules***

Peace Initiatives

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Reconciliation processes

It is a tough job to bring together communities who have been in conflict. Getting into bring peace requires the following approaches:

- ***Read early warning signs of violence and take cautions***
- ***Pay attention to the venue. It should be neutral and accepted by both parties***
- ***Always give timely feedback***



This is the time when representatives of both parties come together to talk peace. This is very crucial time when variety of emotions are expressed. The role of the Mediator are

Be neutral

Give each party enough time to present their issues. Here they express their demands to be met. This requires very keen attention.

Avoid prejudices and do not judge

Osoko clan leader asks for forgiveness on behalf of her clansmen during a reconciliation meeting.

Joint meetings



This is the time when representatives of both parties come together to talk peace. This is very crucial time when variety of emotions are expressed. The role of the Mediator are

Several emotions of anger, fear, sadness etc will be expressed. Here is the tough time!

Make appropriate suggestions after all parties have presented their issues and after carefully reading between the lines

**Joint
meetings**

Joint meetings cont...

There is a possibility that this joint meeting or face to face meeting is repeated until a win – win solution is reached. After the win-win solution is reached, then the reconciliation process continues through deliberately planned activities through:

1. *Joint projects that bring the two communities together. This can be farming, tree planting, joint prayer meetings.*
2. *Games and sports. This is a very good activity that brings people together*
3. *Undertaking a project that stands to be remembered for a long period of time e.g tree planting, building a school, building a bridge etc.*



Joint project of farming. Osoko and Aliba clans growing Groundnuts together.

**COMMUNITIES
WE HAVE
SUCCESSFULLY
RECONCILED**

- 1. Onzivu and Erevu Clans
conflict over land**
- 2. Vurra and Arivu Sub
Counties conflict over land**
- 3. Osoko and Aliba Clans
conflict over land**
- 4. Omoo and Ombachi Clans
conflict over land**

Conclusion

We all need each other in one way or another. Staying in together in peace is what God demonstrates to us in His Trinitarian formular of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You can only smile or laugh when your friend tickles you. We also need peace with our environment. Working together means joy for us all



Come together photo with the two clans after a successful reconciliation meeting.

Red Parrot FC,
A club formed to
bring peace and
unity between
Erevu and Onzivu
clans under
Nyirivu Parish.

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Thank You.



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