

**LIRA DECLARATION ON AGENDA ITEM 3 OF THE JUBA PEACE TALKS  
(ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECONCILIATION) BY CULTURAL AND  
RELIGIOUS LEADERS, WOMEN AND YOUTH FROM MADI, TESO, LANGO  
AND ACHOLI SUB-REGIONS**

ST. AUGUSTINE HALL-LIRA AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> 2007

**Preamble:**

**Recognizing** the first anniversary of the Juba Peace Talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army mediated by the Vice President of Southern Sudan Dr. Riek Machar,

**Aware** of the progress made towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict under this process to date,

**Commending** both parties for the successful agreement reached on agenda item 3 on accountability and reconciliation on the **29<sup>th</sup> of June 2007** and efforts by both parties to conduct consultations with war affected persons on the way forward,

**Emphasizing** that war affected persons deserve peace, justice and reconciliation, and that this entails the realization of truth and acknowledgement of wrong doings; reparations to victims; and, symbolic closure through reconciliation with the living and dead,

**Supportive** of the desire of the parties at the negotiation to prevent impunity in accordance with the Ugandan legislation and in particular working within the provisions of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court on the principle of complementarity to bring alleged perpetrators to justice,

**Realizing** the need for a regional and national reconciliation mechanism to promote unity among war affected communities,

**Aware** that traditional justice mechanisms are a necessary and desired complement to formal judicial processes and a national truth mechanisms and that, with specific modifications, can effectively involve war affected populations in a process of social healing and reconciliation of communities,

**Affirming** that traditionally based mechanisms can form a complementary approach to the formal justice processes and community level justice and reconciliation.

**We the Cultural and Religious Leaders, Elders, Women, Youth and concerned individuals from Madi, Teso, Lango and Acholi sub-regions do hereby resolve and declare as follows:**

1. That traditional approaches to justice and reconciliation in northern and eastern Uganda [*mato oput of Acholi, kayo cuk of lango, ailuc of Teso and tolu koka of Madi, among others*] share similar principles including truth-telling, confession, mediation, and reparation and resulting in reconciliation and the restoration of relations, and that such traditional mechanisms are therefore locally and culturally relevant to meeting the justice needs of victims of the conflict.

2. We commit to develop a common strategy based on shared principles of justice and reconciliation to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups and regions of Uganda;
3. We support the creation of an independent and neutral national Truth Commission that would provide a comprehensive, independent and impartial analysis of human rights violations and crimes committed during the conflict.
4. We urge the Government of Uganda and the international community to support a community level justice strategy that would include, but not limited to the following:
  - a. The creation of independent informal Courts of justice for alleged crimes committed during the conflict.
  - b. To create a community level truth seeking and truth telling process to feed into a national Truth Commission;
  - c. To promote community and regional level reconciliation by drawing upon the diverse traditions of local justice practices and ceremonies.
5. We commit to establish a special task force of experts to draw upon the particular circumstances of Uganda in order to determine the jurisdiction of traditional Courts and urgently call upon the government of Uganda and the international community to support the initiative.
6. We undertake to provide victims and perpetrators a forum for reconciliation by among others holding communal traditional and religious ceremonies for community level truth telling processes.
7. We commit to reconciliation that includes the reconciliation of the living with the dead by carrying out traditional and religious ceremonies to lay the spirits of those killed unjustly to rest, including cleansing of areas where mass killings, ambushes and atrocities took place.
8. We support the construction of memorials and commemoration of events in areas where massacres and gross human rights abuses have occurred during the conflict.
9. We call on the Government of Uganda, international organizations, donor countries to act now and to contribute the required resources needed for the realization of sustainable peace and justice for our people.

1. H.H Rwot David Onen Acana II: Lawirwodi of Acholi
2. H.H. Yolam Odur Won Nyaci: Lango Cultural Foundation.
3. Source Opak Peter: Teso Cultural Institution
4. Ronald Iya: Adjumani Cul
5. Charles Owani Clan Leader Apac
6. Bishop Benjamin Ojwang : Kitgum Diocese
7. Olwittingol Faustin : Lango Cultural Institution
8. Naptali Kali Ocero : Lango Cultural Institution
9. Remmy Otim Cikanyen : Lango Cultural Institution
10. Fr. James Obol : Catholic Diocese Lira
11. Rev. Fr. David Andama: Religious Leader West Nile
12. Rev. Canon Alfred Acur C.O.U Lango
13. Rev. Willy Olango: Ker Kwaro Acholi
14. Margaret Acayo : Ker Kwaro Acholi
15. Rwot Francis Oryang Lagony: Ker Kwaro Acholi
16. Okello Wakili : Lango Cultural Institution
17. Saulo Ayile: Lango Cultural Institution
18. Owinya John: Lango Cultural Institution
19. Pauline Ojok : Lango Cultural Institution
20. Jenti Opiyo : Lango Cultural Institution
21. Obonyo Wilbert : Lango Cultural Institution:
22. Ben Olwit : Lango Cultural Institution
23. John Charles Oloka: Lango
24. Rtd. Major Ben Olila: Apac
25. John Michael Odong: Lira
26. Mzee Nicholas Owani: Lira
27. Charles Odong Owor: Apac
28. Oroma Valentine: Kitgum
29. M.P Emor: Oyam
30. Ocan Fedrick: Lira
31. Alfred Adeka: Oyam

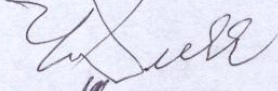
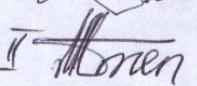


32. Silvano Ojok: Adjumani
33. Dorcas Ojunga: Lira
34. Opio Martin: Lira
35. Ogwang – Eteku Edi: Lira
36. Anjelo Okello: Lira
37. Bagoole Martin: Lira
38. Kenneth Oketta: Gulu
39. Eriku Ezekiel: Adjumani
40. Latim Geresome: Gulu
41. Letiru Sally: Adjumani
42. Arop Poppy Paul: Kitgum
43. Maikli William. D: Adjumani
44. Opelli Stephen: Adjumani
45. YK Okello Ebic: Lango
46. Kilama Geoffrey: Adjumani
47. Amoso Christine: Soroti
48. Abisag Epaja: Soroti
49. Akello Frances: Soroti/katakwi
50. Edeket Venansio: Katakwi
51. Okiror G.W: Kumi/Gora
52. John Levi Ekanyu: Kaberamaido
53. Edwaro Clement: Amuria
54. Ariong Moses: Amuria
55. Vanice Omome: Amuria
56. C.A Ogwang: Lira
57. George W. Opio: Lira
58. DR Olwit George: Lira
59. Magdaline Okidi: Otuke
60. Ociti Nelson: Lira
61. Akullu Agness: Lira
62. Anna Acurobwe: Lira

63. Grace Ojok: Lira
64. Sheik Musa .K: Gulu
65. Egwang Etem: Lira
66. Kawinya Padia: Lira
67. Ekwang P.M: Lira
68. Fred Angole: Oyam
69. Abwango Jeremia: Lira
70. E. Boyi: Lira
71. Olabo Nick: Erute
72. Elok Birobson: Oyam
73. Yeko Odiero: Lira
74. Koncey Ogwang: Omoro
75. Otim Michael
76. Henry Kilama Komakech (Facilitator)
77. Ojok Boniface

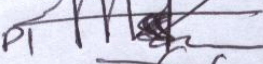
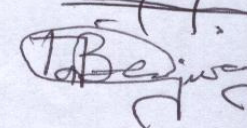

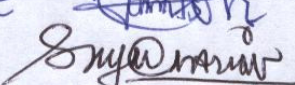
Declaration signed on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007 at St. Augustine Hall, Lira by:

Signed:

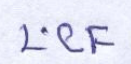
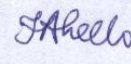

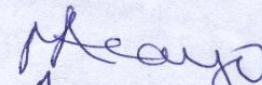
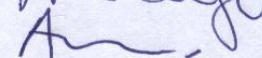
Cultural leaders

1. YOSAM ODULL WON NYACI LANGO 
2. LAWIENIOBI ACHOLI, DAVID ONENI ACANA I 
3. RONALD IYA BANAOCEAI ADJUMANI 
4. SOURCE OPAK REP. OF ENORIMOR 

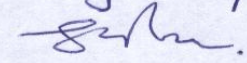
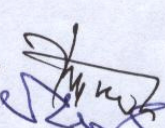
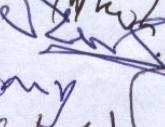
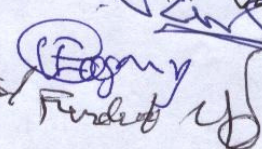
Religious leaders

1. SHEIK MUSA KHALIL UMSC/ARLP 
2. RT. REV. BENJAMIN OJWANG UALPI 
3. Rev. Fr. James Obot 
4. FR ANDAMA DAVID 

Women representatives

1. Magdalene Okodi - Lango LRF. 
2. ANELO FRANCOS - TESO SAHELLO 
3. Letitia Sally - Adjumani 
4. Margaret Acango Acholi 
5. Anna Acurobide - Lango 

Elders' representatives

1. OPENLI STEPHEN 
2. M<sup>rs</sup>. Edwan Odul Omenh. TESO 
3. B. Obit. - Advisor. WINGA 
4. RUST ORYANG LAGONY   
- NS Orellitic Speckhaz Cultural Fundat