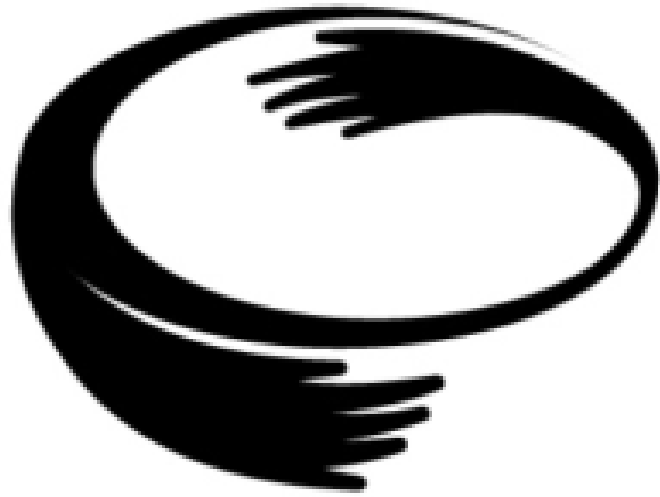


2  
0  
0  
9  
A  
N  
N  
U  
A  
L  
R  
E  
P  
O  
R  
T  
J  
U  
S  
T  
I  
C  
E  
A  
N  
D  
R  
E  
C  
O  
N  
C  
I  
L  
I  
A  
T  
O  
N  
P  
R  
O  
J  
E  
C  
T





Justice and Reconciliation Project  
Gulu NGO Forum  
Annual Report 2009

## Contents

Introduction	3
Research and Documentation	4
Kill Every Living Thing	
As Long as You Live You Will Survive	
Community Peace Building and Reconciliation	
Victims' Voices: JRP Community Dialogues	6
Grassroots Perspectives on Return and Reconciliation	
Advocacy and Policy Change	7
The Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group	
Advocacy Workshops	
Policy Impact	
Community Outreach	11

## Introduction:

Since 2005, the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) has worked to understand and explain the interests, needs, concerns and views of communities affected by the LRA war in northern Uganda. By actively involving affected communities in our research and advocacy, we have sought to give a voice to this long-suffering population. Through this work, affected communities and victims have been empowered to influence local, national and international policy relating to local justice initiatives, the Juba Peace Process and current transitional justice initiatives. Key areas of work include: taking a leading role in documenting and imparting understanding of traditional justice practices; exploring issues and difficulties in reintegrating former combatants; documenting the experiences of communities that have suffered through major atrocities; and investigating the moral and judicial complexities of abductees who are both victim and perpetrator.

2009 was marked by a significant improvement in the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda as the region embarked on the long road to recovery from conflict. In the wake of a failed attempt to sign the Final Peace Agreement in November 2008, and the resumption of hostilities between the UPDF and the LRA marked by the launch of operation Lightning Thunder, the future of northern Uganda hung in the balance. While many across northern Uganda predicted the worst, the security situation improved substantially, allowing thousands of IDPs to return to their original homesteads while many of the displacement camps were demolished as proof of the finality of the return process. The determination to return to former

homesteads and rebuild lives and villages stands as a testament to the capacity of those affected by the conflict to persevere amidst challenges such as lacking educational, health and other social services.

On the transitional justice front, the government of Uganda began to implement elements of the Juba peace protocols still considered valid despite the failure to reach a final agreement. Funds for the peace, recovery and development plan (PRDP) were availed and massive reconstruction works were launched. The government, through the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) working group, also began drafting policies and a framework for the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. Huge strides were made in setting up the War Crimes Division of the High Court, and countrywide consultations were carried out to solicit views on the domestication of the Rome Statute.

Driven by the desire to pursue justice and reconciliation in Uganda, JRP continued to monitor developments in transitional justice and contribute to policy debates through action oriented research and advocacy in 2009. JRP's advocacy strategy was dual in nature; at the national level targeting policy makers, donors, and other government organs including the Judiciary, the Amnesty Commission and the Parliament of Uganda; while engaging with grassroots communities at the local level to improve documentation among war affected communities and empower communities to advocate for appropriate justice and reconciliation mechanisms. JRP has done this using community based approaches, such as community dialogues, dissemination of research reports at the grassroots level, research and documentation of local level transitional initiatives and various other efforts to ensure that the views of grassroots people are included in transitional justice debates.

This annual report presents a summary of all activities implemented by JRP in the year 2009. Special thanks go to our donors: the Norwegian Embassy, who made all of these achievements possible.

## Research and Documentation:

In line with its mandate, JRP has continued to work to ensure an adequate supply of relevant information to help in the formulation of future transitional policies for northern Uganda. This has been pursued through the systematic documentation of the experiences and views of grassroots communities and by ensuring that this information reaches relevant stakeholders. 4 research reports were produced in 2009;

### *Kill Every Living Thing: The Barlonyo Massacre*

In an effort to ensure that local appeals for justice and reconciliation would be upheld, JRP researchers analyzed eye-witness testimonies collected during two research phases carried out in November 2007 and June 2008. Individual, semi-structured



The smouldering remains of Barlonyo on the morning of February 22, 2004 Photo by Ali Mao

interviews and focus group discussions held in Barlonyo and Lira town revealed an exclusive story told by victims who continue to live with the scars of atrocities committed by the LRA under the 'watchful' eye of government. Lying inconspicuously next to the River Moroto, 26 kilometres north of Lira town, the Barlonyo displaced person's camp bears the horrible distinction of being the location of one of the largest single massacres committed by the Lord's Resistance Army during its 23-year insurgency. In the space of less than three hours in the late afternoon of 21 February 2004, over 300 people were brutally murdered by LRA rebels and an unknown number abducted. Camp residents were burned alive inside their huts, hacked to death with machetes, stabbed with bayonets, clubbed with sticks and shot as they fled. The bellies of pregnant women were slit open, their not-yet formed babies thrown into the fires. This Field Note documents the results of LRA Commander Okot Odhiambo's order to "kill every living thing." The victims of Barlonyo beg for justice; not only for the unimaginable acts of the LRA, but also for the government's failure to protect the civilian population that day, and for the absence of any acknowledgment of their suffering. The Government of Uganda must pursue a comprehensive justice strategy that addresses wrongdoing and heals the wounds that continue to divide the country. Central Recommendations include:

- a) Accountability for the leadership of the LRA, particularly the alleged commander in charge of the Barlonyo massacre, Okot Odhiambo;
- b) Full investigation into the role of the Ugandan People's Defence Force and accountability of persons responsible for failing to protect the civilian population;
- c) Reparations in the form of memorial schools, hospital and a bridge over the River Moroto;
- d) A trust fund to support orphans of the massacre, particularly child and youth heads of households.

### *As Long As You Live You Will Survive: The Omot Massacre of 2002*

The Omot Massacre is arguably one of the most gruesome massacres ever committed by the LRA. This research report narrates an account of senseless killing and grim brutality carried out in the Omot Sub-county of Pader District. Opota Trading Centre, located in Pader district, was once an active center for meeting and the exchange of locally-farmed goods. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002, however, the LRA came to seek their revenge on a boy who had run away with their gun. That night, the trading centre was encompassed by terror, death and brutality. 28 people lost their lives and many more lost fathers, husbands, children, mothers and brothers. As a testament to their unbridled brutality and terror, the LRA rebels are reported to have chopped up the corpses of some of their victims, cooked them, and forced those abducted during the attack to eat them. Among other recommendations, the report calls for;

- a) The development of policies and strategies to promote grassroots reconciliation. While the government of Uganda continues to pursue the development and implementation of a national level transitional justice framework for Uganda, there is also a need to develop and implement local, grassroots level strategies to assist victims and perpetrators in learning to live alongside one another.
- b) Acknowledgement; the Omot massacre is one of many that remain unacknowledged. Many people in northern Uganda feel strongly that the government failed in its obligation to protect them. The government of Uganda must acknowledge the suffering of those affected by the conflict, explain its failure to prevent these crimes, and hold perpetrators accountable.
- c) Reparations; the government of Uganda should consider a wide range of measures to provide reparations to the many victims and survivors of massacres in northern Uganda who continue to live with the painful memories of their unimaginable suffering.

## *Community Peace Building and Reconciliation: A Case Study of Peer Support in Pajule*

Simon Watmon, then the young father of two small children, was abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in 1996. After 5 years and at the rank of a junior commander, he risked everything to return home via Sudan. Settled back in Pajule, he encountered many of the challenges commonly faced by those who escaped: poverty, stigma and rejection by his family. Rather than accepting defeat, Simon emerged as an informal leader amongst his peers and is today recognized as a community-level peace builder. In documenting Simon's experience, this Field Note serves as a case study of how former Lord's Resistance Army captives are not just victims, but can also be agents of social change and reconciliation, illustrating the conclusions of previous JRP reports: *With or Without Peace: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in northern Uganda* and *Sharing the Burden of the Past: Peer support and self help among former Lord's Resistance Army youth*. These reports offered insights into the challenges faced by returning combatants, how a peaceful and successful disarmament demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process could take place, and how individuals and communities cope with the devastating impact of twenty years of conflict.

Echoing this past research, this case study calls on the government to consult formerly abducted persons in planning for ex-combatant return and to draw on their insights and skills to promote successful reintegration and community level peace building, while ensuring that their concerns, interests and needs are recognized in planning DDR processes. The report also calls upon humanitarian agencies to develop a system of managing the post conflict situation that involves all members of the community, reframing the current focus on technical expertise to one that explores community potentials and involves formerly abducted persons as proactive partners. If reintegration and reconciliation is to be sustainable, affected communities must be responsible for it. They must be empowered.

## Victim's Voices: JRP Community Dialogues:

This report presents the diverging opinions that exist among the war affected in northern Uganda concerning post conflict issues of justice and reconciliation. Conducted by JRP camp focal persons in the Kitgum and Amuru districts in 2008, the four dialogues highlighted in this report present participants' opinions about how reconciliation and healing can be promoted among war affected communities. They indicate that while many people in northern Uganda are of the view that perpetrators of atrocities should be forgiven, a significant majority would like to see some form of accountability meted out. The views of war affected persons on the role of local mechanisms in post conflict reconciliation and healing in northern Uganda also feature in the dialogues.



The LCV Chairman for Pader districts participates in a dialogue at Pajule

Given widespread assumptions that war affected communities whole-heartedly support the use of local mechanisms such as Mato Oput, it is interesting to note that a significant minority have reservations about their effectiveness and relevance. Equally interesting and controversial is the diversity of opinion among respondents about who bears responsibility for the conflict in northern Uganda. Because of the lack of consensus illustrated by the participants' views on the issues discussed, the report simply presents a summary of what was discussed in the four dialogues, followed by transcripts of each. The report deliberately declines to attempt to analyze these responses leaving it to readers to form their own conclusions from this presentation of the voices of victims 'as they said it'.

## Grass-roots Perspectives on Return and Reconciliation: Dialogue Reports from Kitgum Matidi Displaced Persons' Camp, 13th August 2009 and Padibe Displaced Persons' Camp, 30th July 2009

In these two community dialogues, respondents from Kitgum Matidi and Padibe camps discuss some of the many problems facing those living in areas affected by the conflict in northern Uganda. The issues mentioned include the reintegration of formerly abducted youth, disputes over land amongst those returning from captivity and from displaced persons camps and the collapse of traditional family structures through family breakdown, child-headed households and a loss of respect for parents and elders. Other issues discussed include the dangers posed by unexploded ordinances (UXOs) scattered throughout the region, the negative effects of humanitarian aid and the issues that arise as former LRA attempt to return to civilian society. The comments of many of the respondents reveal a deep distrust of the Ugandan government as well as a strong faith in traditional spiritual beliefs, particularly those related to the burial of people killed in conflict, which are often used as a means of making sense of and developing solutions to the problems faced by war affected communities. Both dialogues were attended by approximately 50 participants each, including women, men, and youth. They were facilitated by Odong Geoffrey and Arach Dolly in Padibe, and Achan Jackie in Kitgum Matidi.

## Advocacy and Policy Change:

### *The Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group: An Advocacy Platform for Northern Uganda*

During the period under review, JRP along with other actors in northern Uganda helped to establish a core working group on transitional justice issues in northern Uganda. The Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group (NUTJWG) grew out of JRP's continuous engagement with JLOS and its interaction with local and internationally based civil society organisations in the northern region, notably, the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). Founded in Gulu town as a loose coalition of civil society organisations<sup>1</sup> in July 2008, the NUTJWG works to ensure coherent momentum and pressure for a more

---

<sup>1</sup> The founding organisations included Gulu NGO Forum/ Justice and Reconciliation Project, Refugee Law Project, the Amnesty Commission, International Center for Transitional Justice, The Trust Fund for War Affected Children and

comprehensive and inclusive transitional justice process, not just for northern Uganda but for Uganda as a whole. It is crucial that policy-making on transitional justice be a broad and inclusive process from the early stages. Civil society and community-based organisations become crucial interlocutors by encouraging and mobilising grassroots communities to participate in the process, monitoring the process when official or political will may diminish; and lobbying government and donors to allocate funding where it will have the greatest impact from the point of view of affected communities. Even in the case of formal justice mechanisms, civil society organisations can play a vital role, including through the stimulation of critical discussion through outreach and public awareness. It is with this view that NUTJWG was formed to work proactively and positively in partnership with other Transitional Justice actors including the Government of Uganda (GoU), the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), traditional and religious institutions and grassroots community initiatives. The process of forming the NUTJWG went through the following stages;

- a) Periodic meetings held in Gulu: Starting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009, JRP hosted six meetings with civil society to chart ways forward for transitional justice. The purpose of these meetings was to rally civil society to actively think of the best way to mobilise a coalition on transitional justice.
- b) Emerging out of these meetings was the need to invite civil society leaders from all over northern Uganda for a conference in order to sell ideas. A proposal for a grand conference to be held at Gulu Peace centre on 19-21 February 2009 was agreed on.
- c) During the final day of the conference (21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009), it was unanimously agreed that there is need for a civil society led approach to transitional justice in northern Uganda. The Transitional Justice Working group was then established, its purpose to coordinate and advocate for Transitional Justice (TJ) strategies and interventions responsive to the needs of communities affected by the conflict.
- d) An interim steering committee composed of representatives from conflict affected areas of northern Uganda was elected at this meeting as a network organ to develop a roadmap on Transitional Justice (TJ) for civil society in northern Uganda. Two representatives were elected to represent each of the sub regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile. JRP holds a secretariat position in this committee.
- e) With support from JRP, the steering committee met on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to agree on a draft proposal and budget to set up a secretariat for NUTJWG.
- f) At a workshop organised by JRP from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June at Lillian Towers Hotel in Lira, the constitution of the working group was presented and adopted by over 50 CSO (Civil Society Organization) representatives from Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and West Nile sub regions present at the workshop.

The working group is now independently funded by Uganda Fund with offices in Gulu Town. JRP remains a member of the steering committee. There is no doubt that the working group will be an essential platform for enhancing networking and cooperation among CSOs working in the transitional justice field.

---

Youth, Gulu University Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, UN-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Justice and Peace Commission, Northern Uganda Transition Initiative, CARE Uganda, War Child Holland, Norwegian Refugee Council, SPRING Project, Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, Ker Kwaro Acholi, Center for Reparations and Rehabilitation, ACCORD, Human Rights Focus, Save the Children in Uganda and CARITAS.



## *Advocacy Workshops: Building Momentum for Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda*

### *Workshop on Transitional Justice in Uganda, Gulu, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009*

As briefly mentioned above, JRP, in collaboration with ICTJ, organised a workshop on transitional justice between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009. This workshop, held at GUSCO Peace Center in Gulu, was one of the first initiatives of the Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group. The workshop was organised with the objectives of;

- a) Introducing the concept of transitional justice to workshop participants;
- b) Building consensus among civil society in northern Uganda to promote collective and collaborative engagement on issues of transitional justice;
- c) Electing a steering committee to run the affairs of the NUTJWG.

In line with the above objectives, the workshop established that;

1. While the concept of transitional justice was new to many of the workshop participants, there was consensus that the time is right for the implementation of transitional justice initiatives in northern Uganda and Uganda as a whole, despite the botched signing of the final peace agreement in Juba.
2. The workshop also resolved that CSOs in northern Uganda should find ways of engaging with JLOS on issues of transitional justice. However there is need to decide whether the committee will take on national issues or concentrate on issues at a regional level.
3. Participants endorsed formalizing NUTJWG as a coalition to coordinate CSOs on issues of transitional justice. Five participants from the Sub Regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile were elected to form the steering committee that would begin running the working group's affairs.

The workshop was attended by 86 participants representing 62 CSOs from the sub regions of West Nile, Lango, Teso and Acholi Sub region. It was organised by Gulu District NGO Forum: JRP, and the ICTJ.

### *Workshop on truth telling, Lira, 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009*

JRP was also instrumental in organising a regional workshop in Lira town, taking place between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June at the Lillian Towers Hotel under the theme: “Confronting the Truth” and attended by over 50 CSO representatives from Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and West Nile sub regions. The topic was chosen to facilitate civil society engagement with the issue of truth-seeking and national reconciliation. A number of studies, in particular the 2007 reports, found that discovering the truth about the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) conflict is one of the prime concerns of those affected by the war. Truth-seeking, including the possibility of initiating a formal Truth Commission, was a commitment accepted by the Ugandan Government in the Annex to Agenda Item Three of the Juba Peace Process, which refers to setting up “a Body of Inquiry into the Past and Related Events”. Government policy in this area is currently being developed by the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) but civil society's input into this process has been limited. NUTJWG believes that the drive for national reconciliation is central to the attainment of sustainable peace in Uganda and that truth telling is integral to this process. It is important that northern civil society, representing those directly affected by the conflict, become involved in this discussion while it is still in its early stages. The workshop was planned to build the capacity of the Working Group members around truth seeking by providing information on the history of Truth Commissions and processes in other countries, and

the lessons learned from these experiences; on Uganda's own experience with Truth Commissions; on alternatives to formal processes; and on relevant current developments and research in Uganda and elsewhere. It invited three international experts on truth seeking, as well as Ugandan speakers who have worked in the area. The second day of the workshop was devoted to discussion between members regarding their positions on the appropriate form and timing of a formal truth process, as well as on the potential role of informal processes. Speakers from the previous day helped to inform this discussion. The final day of the workshop was used to consolidate the Working Group itself by holding an inaugural general meeting to approve a constitution / terms of reference, and elect a steering committee for the year ahead. Among several other recommendations arising from this workshop, there was a general consensus that there is an overwhelming need for truth seeking in Uganda. Members suggested that truth telling can help to clarify and acknowledge the truth, respond to the needs and interests of victims through reparations and other measures and contribute to justice, reconciliation and accountability. Truth telling can also generate recommendations for reform at all levels and outline institutional responsibility and the path to lasting peace.

### *Policy Impact:*

One of JRP's advocacy strategies for 2009 was to engage relevant policy makers by visiting and holding meetings with units, departments or heads of government missions, donors and CSOs to advocate for the inclusion of local voices in policy decisions. The following meetings were organized by JRP in 2009;

- a) *Traditional justice meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009:* JRP assisted and facilitated a session organised by cultural leaders aimed at locating the proper role of traditional justice in promoting peace and reconciliation. Also discussed were the integration of traditional justice into the Ugandan legal system and the identification of the types of crimes that can be handled by traditional justice courts. The facilitation of this meeting was made possible with the contribution of Mr. Barney Afako, the Legal Advisor to the Juba peace talk mediation team. Some of the recommendations reached were that traditional justice is crucial in the accountability process and that traditional leaders should begin to respond to calls for answers and directives on how traditional justice can contribute to community healing at various levels.
- a) *Roundtable Meeting on Traditional Justice, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009:* JRP participated in a roundtable meeting on traditional justice with the Government of Uganda, Justice, Law and Order Sector Transitional Justice Working Group, in cooperation with Canada's Stabilization and Reconstruction Taskforce (START) and the Canadian Departments of Justice and Public Safety. In this meeting, where JRP presented a paper, the insight into the role of traditional justice in community healing offered by Canada's experience was welcomed.
- b) *Targeted engagements with civil society, 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009:* JRP in collaboration with ICTJ visited 15 civil society organisations in conflict affected areas of Teso, Lango and Acholi with the intention of gauging local, civil society perspectives on ongoing debates on accountability and reconciliation in Uganda. The organizations visited included networks such as SODANN in Teso, Lira and Apac NGO Forums in Lango, Kitgum and Pader NGO forums in Acholi. Findings suggested that civil society was still not fully engaged in these discussions. All of these organisations later participated in the transitional justice conference which identified the need for NUTJWG.

- c) *Strategic meetings with policy makers and stakeholders in Kampala 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009*, as a follow up to the roundtable discussion held with JLOS in the first quarter of this year, JRP, in collaboration with the Northern Uganda Transitional Justice Working Group (NUTJWG), held a series of meetings with key stakeholders including JLOS and the Irish Embassy, in Kampala from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September. The meetings involved visiting units, departments or heads of government missions or policy forums to discuss the inclusion of local voices in policy decisions. For JRP, the purpose was to encourage policy making circles to listen to the voices of grassroots communities to ensure that policies are culturally sensitive and relevant to local circumstances and the justice and reconciliation needs of victims in northern Uganda. The major point of discussion was how to move forward with transitional justice in the wake of the failed Juba peace talks. The overall outcome of the meetings was a general consensus that there is need for collective and collaborative action by both civil society and government in order to promote recovery in Uganda.

## Community Outreach: Community Dialogues, Meetings and Trainings



Women participate in a mapping exercise

JRP's approach to community based advocacy and research requires innovation and flexibility to elicit maximum participation from members of grassroots communities. The methods used to engage communities include community dialogues, community meetings and community trainings. Adapted from the Acholi cultural practice of 'wang oo'<sup>2</sup>, community dialogues are conducted in open spaces in IDP camps or areas of return and attendance is open to any member of the community. Two of the dialogues conducted in 2009 involved the participation of district leaders who answered questions posed to them on the spot by community members. JRP partnered with Mega FM to ensure maximum exposure of the dialogues which were recorded and aired on the radio station in the weeks following the dialogues. Community meetings are conducted with the aim of mapping transitional justice issues and current events taking place in communities. This information is used to advocate to key stakeholders. Through camp trainings, JRP seeks to

train youth and women in mapping, documenting, and investigating traditional justice practices. The trainings are conducted with the aim of creating sustainable local structures that facilitate information flow from communities to the JRP office in Gulu. Through this training, local people are empowered to participate in documenting post conflict reconciliation challenges, information that can be useful in advocacy efforts. The trainings also ensure the sustainability of JRP activities among community members. The following dialogues, meetings and trainings were conducted in 2009;

<sup>2</sup> *Wang oo* was a fireplace around which all members of a homestead would come together in the evenings after dusk. Elders often used this moment to tell folk stories and/or impart knowledge to the youth.

- Amuru Camp, 6<sup>th</sup> February: Community Dialogue on the impact of the ongoing return process on reconciliation.
- Amuru Sub County headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> January: Community meeting to discuss and create momentum on community justice needs,
- Gulu Town, January 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2009: Capacity building meeting in Gulu for community volunteers from Anaka, Amuru, Kitgum Matidi, Pajule and Padibe.
- Padibe Camp, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009: Advocacy training meeting aimed at; sensitizing participants about JRP activities; b) basic training on research and documentation; creation of a sustainable community information management system.
- Pajule Camp, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009: Community Dialogue on “Challenges of Return and Reconciliation”
- Kitgum Matidi Camp, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009: Community Dialogue on “Challenges of Return and Reconciliation”
- Pajule Camp, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009: Community meeting to map key emerging post conflict issues
- Padibe Camp, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009: Community Dialogue on “Challenges of Return and Reconciliation”
- Kitgum Matidi, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Community Dialogue aimed at exploring the challenges of return from the IDP camps to the communities.
- Amuru District Headquarters, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009: Community Dialogue on how to resolve the land issues rampant in the district
- Pajule Camp, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009: Northern Uganda and the Peace Recovery and Development Plan
- Kitgum Matidi, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009: Camp training/ community meeting with local leaders in Kitgum Matidi Sub County to discuss the impact of the Juba peace talk and how to document return and reconciliation issues.
- Advocacy Meetings, 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2009: the JRP research team held a series of meetings with local leaders in Amuru, Anaka, Padibe, Kitgum Matidi and Pajule. The main objective of the meetings was to map transitional justice issues in Acholi region for use by JRP in future advocacy activities. A secondary objective was to gauge the community’s understanding of JRP’s activities.
- Dissemination, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009: To maintain the information flow between communities and relevant stakeholders, JRP embarked on a massive effort to disseminate research reports that had been produced in the past. These included reports on the Barlonyo and Mucwini massacres.



JRP researchers disseminating report to victims and survivors in a focus group discussion in Mucwini sub-county

## Media Outreach

The media is a significant avenue for advocacy and dissemination of JRP research findings. JRP has always used radio programs and newspaper articles to advocate for the needs of victims and affected communities and reach out to wider audiences. In 2009, the following media outreach was conducted by JRP;



- 16 February 2009, 102 Mega FM, Gulu Town: Radio talk show disseminating JRP research reports, with emphasis on a new report on Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009, 102 Mega FM, Gulu Town: Radio talk show discussing the important role played by civil society, the public and primary victims of conflict in transitional justice
- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 102 Mega FM, Gulu Town: Radio talk show airing views expressed by participants in a JRP dialogue held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at Amuru Sub County Headquarters. The topic for the show was 'how to resolve land disputes in Amuru district'
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, 102 Mega FM, Gulu Town: Radio talk show airing views expressed at a JRP dialogue held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at Pajule Camp. The topic was 'northern Uganda and the PRDP'
- August 15<sup>th</sup> 2009: Newspaper article featuring JRP's research report on the Mucwini Massacre entitled "LRA Massacres Divide Otunnu's Village", by Ali Mao, Daily Monitor Newspaper

#### Meetings and Workshops

- Workshop on Victim Participation in Uganda: strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations and raising the awareness of victim participation among relevant stakeholders (including government, representatives of international community and the International Criminal Court). Attended by JRP research officer Emon Komakec, 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July, Luweero District
- Roundtable meeting with UNOHCHR on Human Rights Protection; A discussion on human rights issues in northern Uganda and whether they are improving or deteriorating. The participants in this discussion included CSO representatives from northern Ugandan and donors to the UNOHCHR. Attended by JRP Research Officer Lino Ogora, 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July, Gulu Town
- Workshop on Reparations for Victims of Conflict in Uganda; A roundtable meeting held with the objective of kick-starting a discussion within civil society on understanding reparations and exploring the opportunities and challenges presented, with respect to the needs of victims, by the national legal and judicial framework. Attended by JRP Research Officer Lino Ogora, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, GUSCO Peace Center, Gulu
- JLOS Consultation on the ICC Bill; the Justice and Law Order Sector (JLOS) in collaboration with the Public International Law Policy Group (PILPG) held consultations in Mbale (27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July), Gulu (30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July), Mbarara (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> August) and Entebbe (6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August) aimed at gathering views on the proposed ICC bill, expected to be passed when Parliament resumes in 2010. Attended by JRP Research Officer Lino Ogora, 27<sup>th</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009

## Learning Visits and International Exchanges:

- *Rwanda:* Under the auspices of Trocaire Uganda Socio-Economic programme a sharing and learning visit to Rwanda was organized from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Among the participants from Northern and Eastern parts of Uganda was JRP research officer Komakec Emon.
- *Capetown:* The International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC) in conjunction with the European Commission, the International Human Rights Law Institute of Chicago (IHRLI), the Association Internationale de Droit Pénal (AIDP) and the Irish Centre of Human Rights (ICHR) hosted a multiday Africa Regional Conference in Cape Town, South Africa which was attended by JRP officer Ojok Boniface.
- *Johannesburg:* Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2009, The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) hosted a three-day seminar for its partner organisations in Johannesburg, South Africa on the role of African civil society in helping to build fair and inclusive societies after conflict. The purpose of the workshop was to compare local strategies designed to make transitional justice a reality for societies emerging from oppression and war on the continent.
- *Canada:* Training on gender by the Liu Institute for global issues. The training was attended by two members of the JRP team in Vancouver, Canada and ran from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The training was useful to JRP because it will facilitate gender streamlining into JRP's research work.



Participants at a JRP Dialogue in Pajule