

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Enhancing grassroots involvement in transitional justice debates

SOROTI— From **February 9-10, 2011**, the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP), in partnership with the South Africa-based Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), will hold a two-day grassroots consultation in Soroti to explore local perspectives on transitional justice.

As the third in a series of three consultations, the Teso consultation will be held at the Landmark Hotel in Soroti Town, and will engage local-level, grassroots persons directly affected by conflict to ensure that their opinions are not left out of the wider discussions. Thirty participants, comprising primarily of victims and victims' groups and religious and cultural leaders from across the sub-region, will convene to share views on truth-seeking, traditional justice, community reparations and gender justice.

Previous consultations were held in West Nile from November 24-25, 2010, and Acholi/Lango from December 1-2, 2010. The findings from the three consultations will be presented at a regional meeting later this year and will work to influence policy recommendations for the implementation of key transitional justice mechanisms in the region.

These consultations are part of a larger JRP/IJR joint project, titled "**Enhancing Grassroots Participation in Transitional Justice Debates**," which aims to intensify local advocacy and consultation of victims in northern Uganda around issues of transitional justice in light of the 2011 presidential and parliamentary elections. Since last year, JRP/IJR has held extensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including grassroots communities, JLOS (Justice, Law and Order Sector), CSOs and local government leaders to gain a clearer sense of how justice needs can be met.

Media are invited to attend the opening and closing sessions of each of the regional consultations.

For more information, email info@justiceandreconciliation.com or call Lindsay McClain, JRP Communications Officer, at +256 (0)471433008 or +256 (0)783300103. Or, visit us on the web at www.justiceandreconciliation.com or www.ijr.org.za.

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About JRP

The Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) promotes locally sensitive and sustainable peace in Africa's Great Lakes region by focusing on the active involvement of grassroots communities in local-level transitional justice. They are based in Gulu, northern Uganda.

About IJR

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) promotes for reconciliation and socio-economic justice in Africa through strategic partnerships and carefully constructed interventions. They are based in Cape Town, South Africa.