



Updates from JRP

AUGUST 2010



A Monthly Newsletter from the Justice and Reconciliation Project

Special Points of Interest:

- JRP became an independent organization in January 2010 with funding from the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.
- You can visit us online and sign up to receive our newsletters at www.justiceandreconciliation.com.

Welcome to the August Edition of the JRP Newsletter

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. Since 2005, the **Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP)** has promoted locally sensitive and sustainable peace in northern

Uganda by focusing on the active involvement of grassroots communities in local-level transitional justice.

Thank you for taking the

time to read our latest updates. For more information on our work, we invite you to follow us on Twitter via [@JRP_Uganda](https://twitter.com/JRP_Uganda) or to visit our website by clicking [here](#).

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Latest Statement: Remembering the Mucwini Massacre

JRP, in conjunction with the Mucwini Massacre Memorial Committee, has co-authored a statement on justice for victims and survivors of the Mucwini massacre which claimed the lives of 56 innocent men, women, and children in 2002.

The statement, read during the *8th Annual Mucwini Massacre Memorial Ser-*

vice held on August 14 at Lagot Cogu Primary School in Kitgum district, remembers the lives lost and offers recommendations for the way forward in terms of accountability, justice, and reconciliation.

The statement is based on recollections of stories of victims of the Mucwini massacre, as a result of research done by JRP, in-

cluding long-term interaction with the victims.

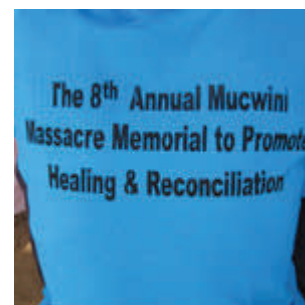
For more information on the activities that led-up to the memorial service, please see "Facilitating Community-led Advocacy in Mucwini" also in this volume of our newsletter.

Below: An attendee wears a JRP T-shirt commemorating the memorial (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia)

Putting TJ on the Election Agenda

In order to ensure that victims concerns are prioritized during the upcoming elections process, JRP's

community mobilization and communications departments are pursuing a special campaign titled,



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The campaign, aimed at mobilising war-affected communities to demand their concerns be addressed and acknowledged by candidates and parties contesting for seats in the 2011 elections in Uganda, hopes to kick-off in the coming weeks, pending successful fundraising.



(continued) Putting TJ on the Election Agenda

"Casting the Ballot to Address Victimhood: A Call to Put Transitional Justice (TJ) on the Election Agenda."

The campaign, aimed at mobilizing war-affected communities to demand their concerns be addressed and acknowledged by candidates and parties

contesting for seats in the 2011 elections in Uganda, hopes to kick-off in the coming weeks, pending successful fundraising.

JRP presented an outline of the campaign at the Gulu District Human Rights Promotion and Protection (DHRPP) sub-committee meeting on September 3,

where it was well received. Progress has also been made on developing pledge cards containing six TJ action points that will guide the campaign.

For more information and to learn how to get involved, please e-mail info@justiceandreconciliation.com.

Facilitating Community-led Advocacy in Mucwini

Following a capacity-building workshop on advocacy conducted with the Mucwini Massacre Memorial Committee in July, JRP and the Committee later developed a statement (see above) on issues that concern the victims in Mucwini during a follow-up meeting in early August.

This statement called various stakeholders to action and was read by the Committee during the *8th Annual Mucwini Massacre Memorial Service* on August 14 in Mucwini sub-county, Kitgum district. It was also widely disseminated by JRP, and excerpts appeared in the me-

dia, including on NTV and in *New Vision* and *Monitor* newspapers.

JRP also facilitated the Committee in the planning and organizing of the memorial service. In addition to printing 100 T-shirts, we sponsored radio adverts for the service on both Radio Pol in Kitgum and Mega FM in Gulu, printed and distributed invitation letters and the budget, and provided other logistical support. The service was attended by community members, JRP staff, and many dignitaries, including Rtd. Bishop McLeod Baker Ochola II, Hon. Livingstone Okello Okello (MP Chua

County), the L.C. V chairman and vice-chairman for Kitgum district, L.C.V councilors from Mucwini and other sub-counties, the L.C. III chairman of Mucwini sub-county, and others.

Next steps by the Memorial Committee and JRP will focus on how to take the issues identified in the statement further and to build on the ongoing reconciliation initiatives in the community.

Above: Local religious leaders lead a prayer during the 8th Annual Mucwini Massacre Memorial Service on August 14 (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia)

Discussing Gender Justice in Atiak

JRP's community mobilization team organized one community dialogue this month in collaboration with radio station Mega FM. The event, held on August 22 in Atiak sub-county, Amuru district, engaged

community members on issues of gender justice. Clips from the dialogue will air on Mega FM's 'Te-Yat' programme on Saturday, September 18, from 10am to midday.

Over 200 community members attended the dialogue. In addition, panel participants included the L.C. V Councilor Gilbert Oulanya, renowned Gulu lawyer Komakech Henry Kilama, civil society representative

(continued) Discussing Gender Justice in Atiak

Rosalba Oywa, and JRP representative Ketty Anyeko.

organized by JRP this year.

The major issue that emerged focused on the demand for compensation for the victims of the conflict, with specific reference to the survivors of the 1994 Atiak massacre. This demand for compensation has emerged as one of the major concerns for victims during all of the community dialogues that have been

Specific to gender-related challenges, community members mentioned that many formerly-abducted young females who have remarried are still widely stigmatized, especially by the relatives-in-law. Issues related to victims of male rape (*tek-gung*) that occurred in Agung were also raised at the dialogue.

Note: Summarized transcriptions of all JRP community dialogues are in progress and will be posted on the JRP website when finished. While some of the recorded dialogues will be aired in their entirety on Mega FM, others will be edited and played in clips during interactive in-studio panel discussions on Mega FM's 'Te-Yat' programme.

Above: Community members listen as JRP Representative Ketty Anyeko discusses gender justice at the Atiak community dialogue on August 22 (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia)



On-going Efforts for Reconciliation in Lukodi

From August 30 to September 4, JRP documented the Lukodi massacre that took place on May 19, 2004, in Lukodi, Bungatira sub-county, Gulu district. During this time, our documentation team interviewed more than 20 community members living in Lukodi who either had knowledge of or were survivors of the massacre.

ues to suffer the long-term effects of the conflict, with victims in dire need of psychosocial support and peace-building interventions.

The data gathered during this period is currently in the write-up stage and will be released in the form of a JRP field note by the end of the year.

Preliminary findings indicate that Lukodi, like many other massacre sites in northern Uganda, contin-

In addition to these efforts by our documentation team, JRP has continued to work with the reconcilia-

tion core team in Lukodi to explore how the core team derives legitimacy and ensures community participation and ownership, and victim protection. This is part of larger, ongoing efforts by JRP and Child Voice International to develop a community reconciliation model in Lukodi.

Above: Names of 45 victims of the Lukodi massacre as they appear on the memorial stone. This is a contested number within the community, as many believe it is higher. (Photo Credit: Lino Owor Ogora)

“Preliminary findings indicate that Lukodi, like many other massacre sites in northern Uganda, continues to suffer the long-term effects of the conflict...”



Community Engagement in Ayuu Alali and Palabek

As you may recall from our last newsletter, since May our documentation team has been collecting and processing accounts of conflict and post-conflict experiences of communities in Ayuu Alali and Palabek in Lamwo district.

Data collection was successfully completed during the month of August. This second phase of data collection was a follow-up meant to shed light on the gray areas that continued to shadow the preliminary data.

Stay tuned for a JRP field note based off of these findings in the coming months.



Monthly Newsletter from the Justice and Reconciliation Project

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The Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) in Gulu, northern Uganda, has played a key role in transitional justice (TJ) in Uganda since 2005 through seeking to understand and explain the interests, needs, concerns and views of communities affected by conflict. We aim to promote sustainable peace through the active involvement of war-affected communities in research and advocacy. In addition, our work seeks to provide tools to empower other victims and survivors of conflict in Africa's Great Lakes region also in situations of conflict.

Working for justice and reconciliation with war-affected communities

Visit us on the web!

www.justiceandreconciliation.com