Welcome to the July Edition of the JRP Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of our e-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.

July was a busy month for us, from numerous trips to the field, to the official kick-off celebration for JRP. In honor of our sisters and brother from Colombia who recently visited us, 'muchas gracias' -- thank you very much -- for taking the time to read our latest updates.

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Special Points of Interest:
- JRP became an independent organization in January 2010 with funding from the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.
- This is the second edition of our new newsletter, originally available through email.
- You can visit us online and sign up to receive our newsletters at www.justiceandreconciliation.com.

Latest Statement: Pursuing Justice for Women and Children

Initiatives to end violence often focus on 'silencing the gun' and bringing home largely male combatants. As a result, girls and women who were captured, raped, and forced into marriage and childbearing by armed groups remain largely unacknowledged and ignored.

In this statement, written in close consultation and collaboration with formerly-abducted women, we focus on the unique justice and reconciliation issues facing young mothers and their children in northern Uganda who have returned from captivity. We offer specific recommendations to ensure their holistic well-being and successful reintegration into society.

In the News: In Memory of Mukura Victims

On July 11, Uganda's Sunday Monitor newspaper ran an op-ed article titled, "In memory of Mukura victims," by JRP's Research and Advocacy Team Leader, Lino Owor Ogora. The article, a result of last month's field visit to Mukura to explore the impact of the government's repara-

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tions pledge (see JRP’s June e-newsletter), explores sentiments on the ground regarding the recently revealed reparations policy for victims of the 1989 Mukura massacre in Kumi district and possible implications for future reparations policies.

Above: Inside the dilapidated memorial and mass grave for victims of the 1989 Mukura massacre (Photo Credit: Chris Tenove)
Choco, Delis and Leyner Palacios, are both survivors of massacres in their Afro-Colombian communities and represent groups of survivors who have banded together to demand justice and accountability. During their time with JRP, they met with several survivor groups across northern Uganda and shared experiences and ways of empowerment.

Our two visitors from the Liu Institute, Drs. Erin Baines and Pilar Riano, also visited with survivor groups in northern Uganda and conducted a workshop with the JRP staff on documentation methodologies.

This exchange was just the beginning of what we hope is long-lasting relationship between northern Uganda and Choco. In the coming months, a delegation from JRP will travel to Colombia to witness the documentation efforts there and to share experiences with Colombian survivors of violence.

Note: 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, some will be edited and played in clips during interactive in-studio panel discussions on Mega Fm's 'Te-Yat' programme.
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.

**Developing a Reconciliation Model in Lukodi**

The JRP community mobilisation and documentation teams are engaging in a joint initiative with Child Voice International (CVI) to develop a community reconciliation model in Lukodi, Bungatira sub-county, Gulu district.

Over the past two months, we have been engaged in numerous meetings and discussions with CVI and community members to assess the needs and wishes of Lukodi residents regarding justice, reconciliation, and reintegration. Following a community meeting in June to brainstorm how to take forward the model, a useful brainstorming meeting was also organized between JRP and CVI to further discuss the strategies and issues to be taken into consideration while designing the intervention, including how the core team derives legitimacy, community participation and ownership, and victim protection.

A follow-up meeting is expected to discuss the way forward. In addition, our documentation team is exploring the community’s interest in JRP documenting the Lukodi massacre that took place in 2004.

**On-going Documentation in Palabek**

Since May, JRP has been undertaking documentation activities in Palabek, Lamwo district, to learn more about the area’s unique experiences during the conflict and to engage communities in new documentation methods.

The first phase of data collection took place in May. The team will return for the second phase of documentation in early August. Please stay tuned for our forthcoming report.