



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.

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 in-

volvement 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.

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 This Issue

Welcome	1
Latest Statement	1
In the News	1
JRP Launch Ceremony and Reception	2
Sharing Stories of Survival	2
Community Dialogues in Abia and Lukodi	3
Developing a Community Reconciliation Model	4
On-going Documentation	4

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 vic-

tims," 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-



(continued) In the News: In Memory of Mukura Victims

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.

sacre (Photo Credit: Chris Tenove)

Above: Inside the dilapidated memorial and mass grave for victims of the 1989 Mukura mas-

JRP Launch Ceremony and Reception

To celebrate JRP becoming an independent NGO and to officially launch the new organisation, we hosted a ceremony and reception on July 23 at our offices in Gulu's Senior Quarters. The event -- which was attended by the Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Bjørg S. Leite, Hon. Norbert Mao, members of the community, civil society and government representatives, cultural leaders, and many more -- was lively and eventful.

Bwola dancers from Ker Kwaro Acholi kicked off the event by performing Acholi traditional dances. Brief remarks were made by:

- Mr. Lino Ogora, *Master of Ceremonies*
- Mr. Boniface Ojok, *Programme Coordinator*
- Mr. Michael Otim, *Board Chairman*
- H.E. Bjørg S. Leite, *Ambassador of Norway, Guest of Honor*

- Mr. Geoffrey Okello, *Gulu District NGO Forum*
- Dr. Erin Baines, *Liu Institute for Global Issues*
- Delis and Leyner Palacios, *Visitors from Quibdo, Chuco, Colombia*
- Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule, *Resident Judge, High Court of Gulu*
- Hon. Santa Oketta, *Gulu District Secretary for Community Development, Labor, Gender and Children*
- Hon. Norbert Mao, *Gulu District LC V Chairman, Guest of Honor*

Further enriching the evening, a poem to remember our sisters who died in captivity and a statement on women's justice (see above) was read by women from our partner

project with the Liu Institute for Global Issues, *Ododo wa*. After reading the statement, the women's group *Rwot Lakica* performed a drama on women's justice. The evening concluded with dinner and a reception and performances by northern artistes Jeff Korondo and Jahria Okwera from the initiative [Music for Peace](#).

The event allowed us to celebrate our past accomplishments, whilst marking the start of this new era for the Project. We would like to thank everyone who attended for sharing the special day with us.

Above: H.E. Bjørg S. Leite, Ambassador of Norway, cutting the ribbon to officially open the JRP office at the launch on July 23 (Photo Credit: Lindsay McClain)

“The event allowed us to celebrate our past accomplishments, whilst marking the start of this new era for the Project.



Sharing Stories of Survival: An Exchange with Choco, Colombia

From July 19-28, JRP hosted visitors from Choco, Colombia, and the Liu Institute for Global Issues

(University of British Columbia, Canada) in an exchange on documentation and mobilisation strategies

for survivors of armed conflict.

Our two visitors from

(continued) Sharing Stories of Survival: An Exchange with Choco, Colombia

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 empower-

ment.

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.



Above: Delis and Leyner (center) visit survivors of the Atiak massacre (Photo Credit: Ketty Anyeko)

Community Dialogues in Abia and Lukodi

The JRP Community Mobilisation team, in conjunction with radio station Mega Fm, carried out two community dialogues in July to engage communities on issues of justice and reconciliation.

The first dialogue was held at Abia Primary School in Abia sub-county, Alebtong district, on July 11. Nearly 300 people attended the dialogue, including community members, the Local Council V vice-chairperson, the woman councillor, and representatives from civil society.

The Abia dialogue focused on truth-seeking and truth-telling, and community members stressed the importance of knowing the truth to allow for healing and reconciliation. They also recommended the establishment of a national framework that allows for truth-telling at all levels and is linked to other pro-

grammes for victims, such as compensation programmes. During the dialogue, pupils from Abia Primary School presented a debate on whether or not the LRA deserve forgiveness.



The second community dialogue was held in Lukodi, Bungatira sub-county, Gulu district, on July 23 in conjunction with the official JRP launch. The theme for this dialogue was 'traditional justice: progressive or conservative,' and focused on the relevance of traditional justice today and how it interrelates with other justice mechanisms.

More than 100 people attended this community dialogue, including representatives from the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), the visiting Colombians, other guests from the JRP launch, and the

media. Footage from the dialogue was aired on NTV, Uganda's national television network, and the event was highlighted in Uganda's *New Vision* newspaper.

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.

Above: Community members participate in the Abia community dialogue on July 11 (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia)

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Monthly Newsletter from the Justice and Reconciliation Project

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Working for justice and reconciliation with war-affected communities

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 participa-

tion 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.

Above: Lino from JRP speaking at the community dialogue in Lukodi on July 23 (Photo Credit: Erin Baines)

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.

Visit us on the web!

www.justiceandreconciliation.com