



Updates from JRP

JUNE 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.
- This is the first edition of our new newsletter, originally available online.
- You can visit us online at www.justiceandreconciliation.com.

Welcome to the June Edition of the New JRP Newsletter

Welcome to our new 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. In January, we became an independent NGO, and the last six months have been an exciting period of transition and growth for us.

Thank you for your past support of our work. We look forward to staying in touch with you more regularly in the future.

Latest Statement: Day of the African Child

As we reflect on this year's celebrations for the *Day of the African Child* on June 16, we wish to emphasize the unique peace, justice and reconciliation issues hindering the well-being of children affected by conflict.

In line with this year's theme, JRP's latest state-

ment, "Planning and Budgeting for the Well-Being of the Child: Considerations for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation," offers specific recommendations for planning and budgeting for the well-being of children affected by conflict, with critical reflections on the situation of children in northern Uganda and les-



sons for other contexts.

Above: JRP partnered with Child Voice International to transport a delegation of young mothers to Gulu District's DAC celebrations (Photo Credit: Lindsay McClain)

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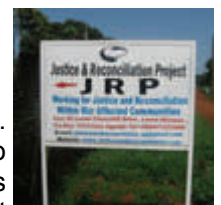
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New Developments at JRP

Founded in 2005 as a partnership between the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British

Columbia, Canada, and the Gulu District NGO Forum, JRP became an independent organization in January

2010. Thanks to generous support



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(continued) New Developments at JRP

from the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala, we have been able to significantly expand our operations over the last six months.

In February, we shifted our offices to a new location in Gulu's Senior Quarters. We are now located at Plot 50 Lower Churchill Drive. In March and April, we hired several new staff members. To learn more about the new additions to the JRP team, visit our website under the About -> Team

section.

Our work is now guided by three principle work-streams: research and advocacy, community mobilization, and documentation. As we look to the future, we intend over the next five years to pioneer new understandings of how transitional justice can be designed and implemented at a local level to maximize its impact in terms of reconciliation, peace-building and accountability. We aim

to seek closure after conflict in Uganda and to develop tools for, and provide support to, local transitional justice exercises in other parts of the Great Lakes region, including southern Sudan and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Above: Signpost outside JRP's new office at Plot 50 Lower Churchill Drive, Gulu (Photo Credit: Lindsay McClain)

“According to Uganda's recently released 2010/2011 National Budget, 200 million Ugandan shillings have been allocated for the families of the Mukura massacre.”

Internship Applications Now Available

JRP is pleased to announce the launch of its new Internship Programme. We are currently accepting applications from qualified national and international candidates to serve in voluntary, unpaid, semester-long internships where they will assist staff in a wide variety of pro-

jects, including research and advocacy, community mobilization, documentation, communications, technical support, the arts, and grassroots NGO administration.

Applications can be downloaded on the JRP website, or picked up from

our office at Plot 50 Lower Churchill Drive, Laroo Division, Gulu. The deadline for internships during Semester 1 (August-December) is July 15, so hurry and apply today!

Government Reparations for Mukura

From June 21-22, JRP visited Mukura in Kumi District to meet with leaders of the Kumi Network for Development Organizations (KUNEDO) and learn more about the recent government reparations pledge for victims of the 1989 Mukura massacre.

According to Uganda's recently released 2010/2011 National Budget, 200 million Ugandan shillings have been allocated for the fami-

lies of the Mukura massacre. However, upon speaking with survivors and local leaders, we were unable to obtain any information on how the 200 million figure was calculated or how it will be distributed.

The pledge to Mukura comes only a week before Reuters reported that the [GoU will compensate 10,000 victims](#) of the LRA in northern Uganda. In light of these latest pledges of

reparations, JRP sees a renewed urgency to consult with victims of conflict and devise a national reparations program that incorporates their wishes and needs for justice and accountability.

ICC Review Conference

From May 31-June 11, members of the JRP team attended the ICC Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda.

The conference provided opportunities for us to share our work with the wider transitional justice (TJ) field and explore possible partnerships with other organizations. This special conference of states parties to the ICC allowed the international community to consider amendments to the Rome Statute and take stock of its implementation and im-

pact. Proposed amendments included: the revision of Article 24 of the Rome Statute, the definition and inclusion of the crime of aggression, and the inclusion of the use of certain weapons as war crimes in the context of an armed conflict not of an international character.

By the close of the conference, many issues had been debated at length, including the issue of complementarity of the court, the involvement of victims in the processes, and the debate surrounding peace

and justice. Delegates agreed on a definition of the crime of aggression, however had failed to come to a consensus over the court's jurisdiction of it. For a critical reflection of the conference, especially in the context of Uganda, we encourage you to read the Refugee Law Project's statement, "In Pursuit of an End to Impunity."

Above: Sylvia and Lindsay of JRP share information with Mr. Christian Wenaweser, President of the Assembly of State Parties (Photo Credit: Ali Balunywa)



Community Dialogues in Mucwini

JRP recently carried out two events in Mucwini, Kitgum District, in an effort to learn more about the community's post-conflict reconciliation situation.

The first, a community meeting on May 7, provided Mucwini with updates on on-going transitional justice (TJ) processes and explored any new developments in the community since 2008, when JRP documented Mucwini's 2002 massacre.

The second event, a com-

munity dialogue on June 6 in conjunction with Mega Fm, discussed a broad range of justice issues, including the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Uganda's new War Crimes Division, and TJ mechanisms. Three key themes emerged from the dialogue:

- The importance of



knowing the truth

- The need for compensation
- The question of accountability for government perpetrators

Over 200 people were in attendance, and the meeting created an opportunity for the Mucwini community to interact with their local leaders and discuss these important TJ issues.

Above: Community members in Mucwini gather for the community dialogue on June 6, 2010 (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia)

Reports from the Field

In addition to the community dialogues held in Mucwini, JRP traveled extensively across Pader and Kitgum districts during

May. Our team visited communities in Corner Kilak, Tyer-Achol pii and Omot in Pader, and Palabek Kal, Palabek Ogili and

Ayuu Alali in Kitgum. The primary objectives of these visits were 1.) to meet with members of the communities and discuss

“By the close of the conference, many issues had been debated at length, including the issue of complementarity of the court, the involvement of victims in the processes, and the debate surrounding peace and justice.”

(continued) Reports from the Field

significant events that took place there during the conflict and 2.) to discuss whether or not the communities want such events to be documented.

JRP learned that there is an eminent need for documentation in the communities we visited. Many significant events took place

there during the conflict but little or nothing has been officially documented. In whole, the communities value documentation as a tool that will preserve the memory of what happened and to prevent the repetition of such atrocities in the future.



Above: Local Councillors from Tyer-Achol Pill stand beside the mass grave commemorating the massacre that took place there (Photo Credit: Sylvia Opinia).

Building Capacity of Local Organisations

“As part of our mobilisation work for our local constituency, JRP engages in capacity-building of local organisations interested in promoting healing and reconciliation.”

As part of our mobilisation work for our local constituency, JRP engages in capacity-building of local organisations interested in promoting healing and reconciliation. In an effort to bolster their skills in undertaking this, JRP, in collaboration with the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Austrian Development Cooperation, embarked on a week-long training on transitional justice from January 25-29 in Kampala.

The training relied heavily on skills from international experts provided by ICTJ, blended with the local expert facilitation from JRP staff. The objective of the course was to explore the intersection between ef-

forts to achieve justice and accountability for sustainable peace, and included:

1. A basic introduction to transitional justice and definition of key terms
2. Discussion of key transitional justice mechanisms including truth seeking, accountability, reconciliation, reparations, traditional justice and other mechanisms
3. Examination of case scenarios of transitional justice mechanisms in other countries such as South Africa, Sierra Leone, Columbia, Liberia, Rwanda, Yugoslavia and other countries. This was backed up by screening films on transitional justice such as
4. Discussion on the relevance of transitional justice and its applicability to Uganda

Over 25 local organisations participated in this in-house capacity-building program. For more information on ICTJ, visit www.ictj.org.





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