

## Oduru (*Alarm*)

*A Poem by the Women's Advocacy Network*

This year, as we join the world in celebration of International Women's Day, the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) wishes to emphasize the unique peace, justice and reconciliation challenges faces women survivors of armed conflict. In line with this year's theme, "Connecting girls, inspiring futures," a member of the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN)—a JRP-supported forum for conflict-affected women to undertake gender justice advocacy—has prepared a poem that highlights some of the issues facing formerly-abducted women and the need for stakeholders and communities to listen to women's calls for justice.

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**Wululu Wululu Wululu**

**Lutuwa oduru yang ka okok lwak**

**ringo kama oduru okok iye do**

**Piny dong oto**

**Piny dong oto ada**

**Wa lworu piny calo lee tim malworu**

**got**

**Wa lworu piny kwe**

**Wa lworu Wa lworu Wa lworu**

**Oduru ki wango doo**

**Oduru pek**

**Oduru lit**

**Oduru longo**

**Aneno tungi ki tungi**

**Mutu piny mede ameda**

**Gwoko ajula dong odoko tek**

**Lutino ma pe wa yube pire**

**Anyim gi tika bibedo tye**

**Anyim gi binen awene**

**Lweny Lweny Lweny**

**Lweny, kono yang wangeyo gang pa**

**meni kono ber**

**Kadi obed kumeno kwo pud yube**

**Wun lwak wun gamente, wun NGOs,**

**wun lutela wa**

**Wucung kwed wa**

**Wu pee cing wa**

**Wuwiny koko wa**

**Wulok kwed wa**

**Mon obedo guti**

**Wu nyut it wa maa**

**Wek wabed calo dano adana**

**Wek anyim wa obed maleng**

**Wawek tim alany**

**Wek oduru ogik koko**

## Poem Explanation by the Authors

The poem was written by members of the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN). Cognizant that the war in northern Uganda affected us, the war-affected women, in various ways, we are calling for justice, healing and reconciliation.

In this poem, we note the ongoing challenges we face, such as the quest for reparations and other forms of redress from various stakeholders, which we compare to a wild animal wondering about the mountains. We also note the challenges in raising children we were not prepared to have (children born in captivity, *ajula*), whose futures are blurred and who lack basic needs, a cultural identity and access to land.

The poem's title, *Oduru*, means raising an alarm. In the past when one would hear a person alarming, he or she would know there was a problem and in turn run to the source of the cry. In this context, we believe that what befell us during the war merits attention, and we hope in hearing our calls you too will run to our side.

As we celebrate International Women's Day 2012, we call upon stakeholders to respond to our cries for justice, healing and reconciliation for ourselves and our children. Despite the challenges we face, we are hopeful that our futures and that of our children can be bright if you listen and respond to our *oduru*.

## About WAN

The Women's Advocacy Network (WAN) is a forum for war-affected women to advocate for justice, acknowledgment and accountability for gender-based violations inflicted during war. It was formed in May 2011 with support from JRP and aims to empower women survivors to participate in post-conflict policy debates in Uganda and to engage grassroots communities in gendered discussions on reintegration and reconciliation. The WAN currently comprises of 9 women's groups from Acholi sub-regions, with plans to expand to Teso, West Nile and Lango in 2012. The WAN meets quarterly to discuss common issues, including the need for compensation and other forms of reparation, the rights of children born of forced marriage in LRA captivity and strategies to end social stigma by communities.

## 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. To learn more about JRP's work, please visit [www.justiceandreconciliation.com](http://www.justiceandreconciliation.com). For comments related to this poem, please email [info@justiceandreconciliation.com](mailto:info@justiceandreconciliation.com).