



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Uganda - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 29 June 2010

Re: Current information regarding forced repatriation of people from IDP camps in Uganda.

A November 2009 *IRIN News* report states:

“Forced repatriation of displaced persons in Uganda to their original homes in the north is ‘inhuman and against the government policy of voluntary return’, local officials have said. Hundreds of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled clashes between the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and government forces in the 1990s, and sought refuge in the central district of Masindi, were recently rounded up by local authorities and sent back on trucks to northern districts. ‘We hear that these IDPs are being rounded [up] and loaded into trucks and brought back to their districts in northern Uganda; this is against the principle of the voluntary return of formerly displaced persons to their homes,’ Kitgum District [northern Uganda] chairman John Ogwok Komakech said. Sources in Masindi said 2,492 IDPs living in Kihura A village, 1,300 in Kihura B, 1,511 in Kasubi and 1,843 in Nyamiringa were to be repatriated.” (IRIN News (10 November 2009) *Uganda: Government halts forced IDP repatriation*)

In a section titled “Current Policy Context” a report published by the *Beyond Juba Project* states:

“Despite the conflict’s uncertain future the government of Uganda is currently endorsing a policy of return for internally displaced persons. Camp phase-out is underway, and international agencies are scaling down their operations in the north and preparing exit strategies. Many IDPs are indeed in the process of returning home, although fears of renewed conflict and insecurity in the north persist, particularly in those regions bordering Southern Sudan, and famine threatens some districts. The pressure for individuals to return is increasing, however, since humanitarian assistance in the camps is being eliminated.” (Beyond Juba Project (March 2010) *Why Being Able to Return Home Should be Part of Transitional Justice: Urban IDPs in Kampala and their quest for a Durable Solution*, p.9)

A report from the *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre* states:

“By the end of 2009, 235,000 IDPs remained in camps and a further 200,000 in transit sites. A disproportionate number of these IDPs were elderly, disabled and sick people, including people living with HIV / AIDS. Local authorities had been phasing out the camps without developing any potentially durable settlement options for these vulnerable IDPs. Many could not return home, as they would be unable to build a hut or access health care there. But neither could many of them settle permanently where they were, due to disputes with the owners of the land on which the camps were based; some IDPs had been threatened by eviction

from their huts in the camps.” (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (17 May 2010) *Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2009 – Uganda*)

See also *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre* report which, in a section titled “Land disputes”, states:

“IDPs who have remained in the camps are facing increasing pressure to leave from the owners of the land the camps have been situated on. The majority lack the resources to buy or rent land, and reports of forcible evictions have become more frequent.” (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (March 2010) *Peace, Recovery and Development: Challenges in Northern Uganda*, p.2)

References:

Beyond Juba Project (March 2010) *Why Being Able to Return Home Should be Part of Transitional Justice: Urban IDPs in Kampala and their quest for a Durable Solution*

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/\(httpDocuments\)/6E7A81ADA552D5A3C12576FF002E7635/\\$file/BJP.WP2.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpDocuments)/6E7A81ADA552D5A3C12576FF002E7635/$file/BJP.WP2.pdf)

(Accessed 28 June 2010)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (17 May 2010) *Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2009 – Uganda*

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=4bf2526f2>

(Accessed 28 June 2010)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (March 2010) *Peace, Recovery and Development: Challenges in Northern Uganda*

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/\(httpDocuments\)/D15CF62D20C90469C12576FE002EEFA4/\\$file/Uganda+briefing+paper+-+March+2010.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpDocuments)/D15CF62D20C90469C12576FE002EEFA4/$file/Uganda+briefing+paper+-+March+2010.pdf)

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IRIN News (10 November 2009) *Uganda: Government halts forced IDP repatriation*

<http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=86958>

(Accessed 29 June 2010)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:

Amnesty International
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Human Rights Watch
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
Lexis Nexis
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld
United States Department of State