



UGANDA

COUNTRY REPORT

April 2005

Country Information & Policy Unit

IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE

HOME OFFICE, UNITED KINGDOM

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1. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This Country Report has been produced by Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum / human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. It includes information available up to 1 March 2005.

1.2 The Country Report is compiled wholly from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to the original source material, which is made available to those working in the asylum / human rights determination process.

1.3 The Report aims to provide a brief summary of the source material identified, focusing on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.

1.4 The structure and format of the Country Report reflects the way it is used by Home Office caseworkers and appeals presenting officers, who require quick electronic access to information on specific issues and use the contents page to go directly to the subject required. Key issues are usually covered in some depth within a dedicated section, but may also be referred to briefly in several other sections. Some repetition is therefore inherent in the structure of the Report.

1.5 The information included in this Country Report is limited to that which can be identified from source documents. While every effort is made to cover all relevant aspects of a particular topic, it is not always possible to obtain the information concerned. For this reason, it is important to note that information included in the Report should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated. For example, if it is stated that a particular law has been passed, this should not be taken to imply that it has been effectively implemented; rather that information regarding implementation has not been found.

1.6 As noted above, the Country Report is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the Report, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. Country Reports do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text.

1.7 The Country Report is based substantially upon source documents issued during the previous two years. However, some older source documents may have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more recent

documents. All sources contain information considered relevant at the time this Report was issued.

1.8 This Country Report and the accompanying source material are public documents. All Country Reports are published on the IND section of the Home Office website and the great majority of the source material for the Report is readily available in the public domain. Where the source documents identified in the Report are available in electronic form, the relevant web link has been included, together with the date that the link was accessed. Copies of less accessible source documents, such as those provided by government offices or subscription services, are available from the Home Office upon request.

1.9 Country Reports are published every six months on the top 20 asylum producing countries and on those countries for which there is deemed to be a specific operational need. Inevitably, information contained in Country Reports is sometimes overtaken by events that occur between publication dates. Home Office officials are informed of any significant changes in country conditions by means of Country Information Bulletins, which are also published on the IND website. They also have constant access to an information request service for specific enquiries.

1.10 In producing this Country Report, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this Report or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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Advisory Panel on Country Information

1.11 The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's Country Reports and other country information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.

1.12 It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected individual Home Office Country Reports, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive

Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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Geography

2.1 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website, updated on 9 December 2004 states “Uganda is a land-locked country lying on the Equator in central Africa, with an area of 235,887 sq km. 20% of the country is covered by inland water and swamps, the rest is a mixture of tropical rain forest, savannah, and mountains on the western borders.” [16c](p1) As cited by Europa World Yearbook (EWY) of 2004, the country is bordered by Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, Kenya to the east and Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Victoria to the south. “The climate is tropical, with temperatures moderated by the altitude of the country, varying between 15°C and 30°C.” [1b] (p4275)

2.2 Information sourced from CIA The World Factbook, updated on 10 February 2005, indicates that the Republic of Uganda has a population of 26,404,503 *note: estimates for this country take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; (US Bureau of Census, July 2004 est.)* [44](p3)

2.3 Information sourced from the FCO Country Profile on Uganda indicates that “There are over 20 tribes, the largest being the Baganda, Banyankole, Basoga, Iteso, Acholi and Langi. The Asian and European communities remain small.” [16c](p1) The World Factbook states that English is the official language and is taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts. Luganda or Ganda is preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school. [44](p34) The FCO country profile states that “Luo is spoken in the north, Ateso in the east, Runyankole, Rukiga, Rutooro and Runyoro in the west and south. The principal religion is Christianity, with the country having a sizeable Muslim minority.” [16c](p1)

2.4 As cited in EWY 2004, the capital city is Kampala and the principal towns are Gulu, Lira, Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara, Masaka. [1b](p4281)

For further information on geography, refer to the Europa World Yearbook 2004 [1b]

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3. Economy

3.1 As reflected in the United States State Department (USSD) Report covering events in 2004, “The economy grew at a rate of approximately 6 percent during the year. Agriculture accounted for approximately one-third of the gross domestic product, and foreign economic assistance accounted for approximately half of government expenditures. The privatization of state-owned enterprises continued. Despite government efforts to curb corruption, perceptions of widespread corruption were cited by potential investors as a major concern.” [2b](p1)

3.2 As noted in the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) Country Profile for Uganda for 2005, the improvement in macroeconomic conditions that has been achieved since 1986 is commendable, with GDP growth averaging about 5% per year in real

terms. "Annual fluctuations are linked to weather conditions (owing to the importance of agriculture in the economy), to changes in international coffee prices and to variations in donor funding that affect consumer demand and hence the construction and trading sectors." [11](p24)

3.3 As cited in the EIU report,

"The effects on price stability of the government's adherence to strict monetary discipline and the opening up of the economy to market forces have been dramatic...For 2004 as a whole, provisional data indicate an average annual inflation rate of 3.7%, owing to the very low rates recorded earlier in 2004 balancing out the rapid food-based inflation later on in the year." [11](p25)

3.4 The International Monetary Fund IMF announced the disbursement of about US\$ 3 million to finance Uganda's poverty reduction and economic growth programme. A press release issued on 24 February 2005 noted that,

"The impressive economic growth and poverty reduction that was achieved through a first wave of reforms has started to taper off, while a firm basis for sustained growth and poverty reduction remains to be established... "Economic growth rebounded and inflation declined in 2003/04 due to improved agricultural production. However, continuing weaknesses in the implementation of fiscal policy and slippages under the PRGF-supported program in 2003/04 are a concern." [46]

3.5 According to Expedia.co.uk the approximate rate of exchange on 19 April 2005 was £1 = 3,206 Ugandan shillings. [71]

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4. History

4.1 As noted in the FCO Country Profile for Uganda, the country achieved full independence in October 1962.

"Milton Obote, leader of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), was elected Prime Minister. He was overthrown by former paratroop sergeant Idi Amin in 1971, who established a brutal dictatorship. The Asian Community was expelled in 1972, and intellectuals persecuted. In 1979 border tension led to an invasion by Tanzania, with the support of exiled members of the Ugandan National Liberation Front (UNLF). Amin was overthrown, and ill-organised elections in 1980 returned Obote's UPC to power." [16c](p2)

The BBC timeline for Uganda notes that Obote was deposed in a military coup in 1985 and was replaced by Tito Okello. [72](p3)

4.2 As cited in the EWY of 2004, the National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Yoweri Museveni took control of Kampala by force. On 29 January 1986, Museveni was sworn in as President. In February 1986, he announced the formation of a new cabinet, comprising of mainly NRA members and National Resistance Movement (NRM - the political wing of the NRA). The cabinet also included representatives of other political groups including the Democratic Party (DP), the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), the Federal Democratic Movement (FEDEMO) and three members of the previous administration. [1b] (p4275)

4.3 The FCO Country Profile notes that "During the period 1985-95, Museveni governed through a chain of 'Resistance Councils', based at grassroots level, which collectively formed the National Resistance Movement. Activity by political parties, mainly the old UPC and Democratic Party (DP) was banned; there were no elections." In 1995, Uganda adopted a new constitution which consisted mostly of NRM supporters. Elections took place in May and June 1996, for President and Parliament respectively. These were generally free and fair and President Museveni won the Presidency with 74.2% of the vote. Movement sympathisers won a majority in Parliament. [16c](p2)

4.4 As noted in EWY 2004, a national referendum on the introduction of a multi-party political system took place in June 2000, at which voters overwhelmingly endorsed the retention of the existing 'no-party' system. [1b](p4277)

4.5 As cited in the FCO website, "Presidential elections were held on 12 March 2001. Violence and intimidation, including by government forces, marked the later stages of the campaign. Local and international observers assessed the voting to be generally well conducted, despite some irregularities." [16c](p3) The EWY 2004 notes, following legislative elections in June 2001, the number of seats in Parliament stood at 292, comprising 214 directly elected representatives and 78 nominated members. [1a](p4277)

4.6 Information sourced from the USSD 2004 indicates that "In March 2003, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional two sections of law that prevented political parties from operating while the "Movement System" remained in place; however, severe restrictions on political activity continued, particularly for opposition parties." [2b](p1) As noted in the BBC timeline, in September 2004 the Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that cast doubt on the "no-party" political system. [72](p4) According to the BBC News Country Profile for Uganda, updated 20 January 2005, the government has said it will ease the severe restrictions on multiparty politics, imposed in 1986, before the 2006 general elections. [62](p2)

4.7 According to the same source the government has been unable to end the insurgency in the north and west of the country. Lord's Resistance Army rebels have killed and kidnapped many thousands of people. BBC News reported on 22 February 2005 that while efforts to bring about peace talks have made progress, with insurgents and government ministers meeting face to face for the first time, this has not yet produced a total cease-fire. [69aa]

For further information on history prior to 1962, refer to the Europa World Yearbook 2004 [1a]

5. State Structures

Constitution

5.1 According to the Europa Regional Survey - Africa South of the Sahara - 2005, in July 1985, following a military coup, the 1967 Constitution was suspended, and all legislative and executive powers were vested in a Military Council, whose Chairman was the Head of State. [1c](p1197) In comments prepared for the Advisory Panel on Country Information meeting on 8 March 2005, UNHCR clarified that Only Chapter 4 and articles 3 and 24 of the 1967 Constitution were suspended in July 1985. The suspension did not cover the whole Constitution. [4](a) In January 1986 a further military coup established an executive Presidency, assisted by a Cabinet of Ministers and a legislative National Resistance Council (NRC). In September 1995 a Constituent Assembly enacted a Draft Constitution. The Constitution was promulgated on 8 October 1995. Under its terms, a national referendum took place in 2000. [1c](p1198)

5.2 The USSD of 2004 reports that,

"The Constitution provides for an autonomous, independently elected president and a 305-member unicameral parliament whose members are elected to 5-year terms. The President dominated the Government, and Movement supporters remained in control of the Parliament. However, members of the Movement disagreed on several critical issues, including whether the constitutional presidential term limit should be lifted. Supporters of President Museveni retained a majority in Parliament, but not necessarily in sufficient numbers to pass constitutional amendments". [2b](p12)

5.3 The Constitution confers fundamental human rights and freedoms on every person in Uganda. This includes equal protection under the law, equality between men and women in all aspects of life and guarantees the enjoyment of individual rights without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, social standing or political opinion, and without interference with the rights of others. [18] In comments prepared for the Advisory Panel on Country Information meeting on 8 March 2005, UNHCR stated that,

"A significant feature of the Constitution is the promotion of affirmative action for the purpose of redressing the imbalances created by history, tradition or custom and affirmative action in favour of marginalized groups". [4](a)

5.4 In addition to the protection for those accused of crimes, individual freedoms include freedom of speech, expression, and the press and other media; freedom of thought, conscience and belief, including academic freedom; freedom to practice any religion and freedom of peaceful assembly, association and movement. [18]

5.5 The 'New Vision' newspaper reported in an article dated 23 February 2001 that the Government of Uganda had set up a Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) in that month. It noted that "the Commission has wide remit to consider including decentralisation; the relative powers of the executive, the judiciary and the legislative; the electoral system; the scope for federalism and the role of traditional leaders". [50h]

5.6 It was reported in the 'Monitor' newspaper of May 2001 that the CRC had launched a programme to collect views from members of the public on the amendment of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. A statement made by the Secretary of the CRC, Dr Higirow Semajenge Friday said that the terms of reference of the commission will be, among other things, to examine the consistence and compatibility of the constitutional provisions relating to the sovereignty of the people, political systems, democracy and good governance. He also said that the purpose would be to make recommendations as to how best to ensure that the country is governed in accordance with the will of the people at all times. [31ae]

5.7 President Museveni signed the Political Organisation Bill (POB) in June 2002, reports a Xinhua News Agency article of 7 June 2002. The POB provides that no party or organisation shall "open branches below national level". The resulting Act is the Political Parties and Organisation Act, which stipulate that parties and political organisations are also prohibited from holding "more than one national conference in a year". They are prohibited from holding public meetings except for the national conference, executive committee, seminars and conferences at the national level. Party leaders could be imprisoned for a number of years or made to pay fines if they contravene the Act. [28e]

5.8 BBC News: Africa, reported in an article dated 3 July 2002, that Ugandan opposition groups had filed a petition against new restrictions on political parties. The chair of the Reform Agenda, Sam K Njuba, condemned the Act as being "a violation of human rights". [69i]

5.9 On 2 September 2004 BBC News reported that Uganda's Supreme Court had overturned the lower court ruling, which cast doubt on the entire political system. The government had appealed against the decision, which nullified a 2000 referendum, in which a return to multiparty politics was rejected. President Yoweri Museveni later made an angry television broadcast criticising the judges and his supporters protested in the capital, Kampala. [69w]

5.10 The Supreme Court ruled that the results of the 2000 referendum were valid but agreed that the Act which set up the vote had been unconstitutional, states the BBC article. Mr Museveni replied that the original judgement meant that all government acts since 2000 were null and void. He said it was "totally unacceptable". [69w]

5.11 According to the USSD 2004,

" In March 2003, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional Sections 18 and 19 of the PPOA, which prohibit political parties from holding rallies, taking part in election campaigning, or holding

offices outside Kampala; however, restrictions on both registered and unregistered opposition parties continued during the year(2004). The Government restricted non-Movement political gatherings and dispersed numerous political meetings not sanctioned by the Movement. [2b] (p12)

5.12 The BBC article of 2 September 2004 notes that under Uganda's Movement system, parties are allowed to exist, but they are not allowed to contest elections. Under pressure from donors, the government has now promised to hold multiparty elections in 2006. Mr Museveni is obliged to step down under the terms of the Constitution, but his critics say he is preparing the ground to be allowed to run again. [69w]

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Citizenship and Nationality

5.13 In comments prepared for the Advisory Panel on Country Information meeting on 8 March 2005, UNHCR stated,

"The 1995 Constitution of Uganda on Citizenship states that every person born in or outside Uganda and having one parent or grandparent who is a citizen of Uganda by birth and belongs to one of the indigenous communities as stipulated in the Constitution shall be a citizen of Uganda. This provision by necessary implication rules out children born of parents who are non-citizens of Uganda". [4](a)

A child of not more than 5 years of age found in Uganda, whose parents are not known, shall be presumed to be a citizen of Uganda. On application, a child under the age of eighteen years, neither of whose parents is a citizen of Uganda, and who is adopted, shall be registered as a citizen of Uganda. [59] Citizenship can also be registered when an application is made with proof of a legal and subsisting marriage to a Ugandan Citizen of three years of such other period as may be prescribed by Parliament, or someone who has voluntarily migrated to and has been living in Uganda for at least ten years or who on the commencement of the 1995 Constitution has lived in Uganda for at least twenty years. [4](a)

5.14 A person may be deprived of Ugandan citizenship, if acquired by registration, if they have voluntarily acquired citizenship of another country, voluntary service in the armed forces or security forces of a country hostile to or at war with Uganda, or had acquired citizenship by fraud, deceit or bribery. [59]

Political System

5.15 CNN reported on their website in June 2000 that a referendum was held on 29 June 2000 on the future of politics in the country - whether to adopt 'Movement' or 'Multiparty'. [54a] The Movement System attracted 4.322 million votes accounting for

90.7 percent of the total, while the multi party drew only 442,823 votes registering 9.3 percent, states a Xinhua News Agency article of 2 July 2000. [64 b]

5.16 An Agence France Presse article of 29 January 2003 noted that there were also 148,800 invalid votes cast, 3 percent of the ballot, which electoral officials attributed to a lack of civic education and illiteracy. [48]

5.17 CNN reported on their website on March 2001 that a number of influential candidates had announced their intentions to stand in the approach to the presidential election that month. The main candidates for the presidency were Karuhanga Chapaa, Muhammad Kibirige Mayanja, Francis Bwengye and Aggrey Awori. President Museveni, in power from 1986, won 70 percent of the vote in the presidential elections of 1996. [54 b] The Europa World Yearbook of 2003 states that Museveni found himself challenged by Kizza Besigye, his former physician and comrade in arms during the guerrilla war, which brought Museveni to power. Unlike most of the other candidates, who were mostly connected with discredited political parties, Besigye, a member of Museveni's NRM presented a real challenge. [1a] (p1116)

5.18 The 'Monitor' newspaper reported pre-election violence in an article of 10 January 2001, noting an incident of 8 January where three people were injured when armed men shot at a convoy of vehicles carrying Dr Besigye's supporters. It added that UPDF commanders, who were operating in the district, were accused of engaging in political campaigns and threatening supporters of some presidential candidates. [31g] On 19 January 2001, surprise presidential candidate and Bakayimbira Dramactors director, Charles James Ssenkubuge released a press statement, reported in the 'Monitor' 20 January 2001, stating that he was quitting the race for the presidency due to intimidation. He also claimed that he had received anonymous phone calls of a threatening nature. [31j]

5.19 According to the Europa yearbook of 2003, the presidential election was held on 12 March 2001. Europa notes that the poll had been scheduled for 7 March, but was delayed to allow the Electoral Commission time to check and amend the electoral register after it was found to contain about 2.5 million more voters than there were citizens eligible to vote. [1a] (p1116-1117)

5.20 Police set up a team to fight election-related violence reports the Associated Press in an article dated 15 January 2001. On 11 January 2001 - the day before campaigning began - President Museveni's campaign manager in Uganda's central region was shot and killed after attending a strategy meeting, notes the report. [67a] Reuters reported on 20 February 2001 that Ugandan security agents had forcibly arrested a senior aide of Dr Besigye, Major Rabwoni Okwir. Just before boarding a flight to Adjumani in northern Uganda with Besigye's campaign team, Major Okwir was "forcibly arrested" by the Military Police at Entebbe Airport. [65e] A statement by Okwir reported in 'New Vision' on 21 February 2001 said that he had withdrawn from presidential candidate Dr Besigye's Task Force. [50j]

5.21 He later claimed he had been intimidated with death threats to sign the press release withdrawing from the Task Force. Okwir was released from custody and taken

to his home. [31j] According to the "Monitor" newspaper dated 28 February 2001 Okwir left Uganda to go into exile in the United Kingdom. [31k]

5.22 'New Vision' reported on 22 February 2001 that Uganda's external donors had expressed concerns about reports by local election monitors of increasing violence and intimidation of voters, particularly by Government agents. In a statement issued on 20 February 2001 and signed by the Danish Ambassador Flemming Bjork Pedersen, the Post-Referendum Support Group (PRSG) also called for the display of the voters' register in public places. The donors urged the Government to uphold the law and ensure impartiality. PRSG members include Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA and UNDP. [50g]

5.23 A Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated in an IRIN report of 4 March 2001 that the electoral playing field in Uganda was "definitely not level" and serious human rights concerns in the lead-up to Uganda's presidential elections cast doubt on whether they could be free and fair. It said that the Government of President Museveni was "trying to win this election by bullying the opposition", which had been threatened by violence, arrests and intimidation since campaigning started in January 2001. [68b]

5.24 The NGO Election Monitoring Group-Uganda (NEMGROUP-U), as reported in 'The Monitor' 6 March 2001, blamed the violence, which occurred on 3 March 2001 in Rukungiri town on the Presidential Protection Unit (PPU). The violence was the result of clashes between the PPU and supporters of Besigye at the instigation of the PPU. The monitors called for the Government to demilitarise the electoral process and immediately withdraw PPU soldiers from places like Rukungiri where the President is not present. The NEMGROUP-U also asked the electoral commission to enforce the provisions of section 12(1)(e) of the Electoral Commission Act 1997 which requires it to ensure that the electoral process is conducted under conditions of freedom and fairness. [31j]

5.25 The results of the presidential elections on 12 March 2001 were as follows:

Candidate	Votes	percent
Lt. Gen Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI	5,123,360	69.3
Dr Kizza BESIGYE	2,250,795	27.8
Other Candidates	210,036	2.9
Total	7,584,191	100.00

[34][68c]

5.26 According to a BBC News article of 14 March 2001, following the elections two people were killed and six injured in two explosions in Kampala. One explosion was at

Nakivubo Mews in central Kampala and the second took place on a taxi minibus 100km (60 miles) south west of Kampala. These explosions occurred as President Museveni's supporters were on the streets of Kampala celebrating his victory. [69d] Two men were later arrested in connection with the explosions according to an article by the Associated Press of 15 March 2001. [60]

5.27 BBC News reported on 20 March 2001 that defeated presidential candidate Dr Besigye had been summoned to CID police headquarters to explain alleged comments, made with "seditious intent". As a result, the Head of Military Intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel Noble Mayombo, imposed a travel ban on Dr Besigye. He said the move was necessary following the bomb blasts as they could be linked to politicians who were unhappy with the election results. A senior Government official said that the reason for the ban was that Besigye was going to South Africa to meet with Rwandan President Kagame who was due to arrive there on the same day. [69b]

5.28 It was reported in 'The Monitor' 21 August 2001 that Dr Besigye had challenged both President Museveni and the Electoral Commission over the alleged irregularities and rigging of the final results, despite finishing second. The hearing in the Supreme Court opened on 5 April 2001. The Supreme Court threw out Besigye's petition 2 weeks later. The court's five judges ruled by a majority of 3-2 that, although there had been irregularities in the poll, these had not substantially affected its outcome. [31s]

5.29 Legislative elections took place on 26 June 2001 to elect the new Ugandan parliament. It was reported in the Africa Research Bulletin July 2001 that there were reports of election related violence marring the voting. The Post Referendum Support Group (PRSG) together with local election monitors concurred that although the atmosphere during the elections was "calm and conducive for people to exercise their democratic choice", there were "widespread, worrying instances of election mal-administration, mal-practice and excessive violence". [56d]

5.30 It was reported in the Africa Research Bulletin August 2001 that President Museveni had made wide-ranging changes in his new Cabinet and relinquished the portfolio of the Minister of Defence to Amama Mbabazi, which he had held for the last 15 years. The 64 strong Cabinet and junior ministers has 17 new entrants, eight ex-officio members and 16 women [56c] Reuters reported in an article dated 25 July 2001 that one of the women Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe had been appointed vice president. [65c] After the appointment of Dr Kazibwe, President Museveni was reported in the 'Monitor' article of 20 August 2001 saying that "some men did not like the appointment of a woman as vice president". But the President said that he did this so that she could be "a role model for girls". [31q] On 22 May 2003 IRIN reported in an article that Dr Kazibwe had resigned her political role in order to pursue a PhD at Harvard School of Medicine in the United States. Her resignation lead to a mixed reaction from Ugandan Women's Organisations. While many have welcomed the stand taken on such issues as domestic violence and independence from spouses, the article claimed that she has seen as being a product of "mere tokenism" by Jackie Asiime – Mwesige, co-ordinator of the Uganda Women's Network. [68aa]

5.31 On 4 April 2002, it was reported in the 'Monitor' that a democracy advocacy group (NGO) called RESPOND Uganda had been launched in Washington DC in the United States of America. Besigye's former campaign manager, Anne Mugusha, hosted the launch. The group promised to work with democracy advocates across Africa, and Colonel Besigye was highly praised at the launch. The Chairman Board of Directors is Joseph Angole, an economic consultant with the International Finance Corporation. [31a]

5.32 It was reported in the 'Monitor' on 17 August 2001 that Col Dr Besigye had beaten a 24-hour surveillance by military intelligence personnel and fled to the United States of America. The article claimed that since the March 2001 elections he had been under a travel ban and 24-hour surveillance by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence. [31u]. Dr Besigye said that the Government was trying to tarnish his name when it was reported that he had links with the ADF and that he had supplied 200 guns to the rebel organisation. He denied the allegations in a 'Monitor' article dated 21 June 2002. [31b]

5.33 In an American radio interview, reported on by BBC News in an article dated 28 August 2001, Dr Besigye was quoted as saying that he left Uganda mainly because he "felt that his security was quite compromised and in danger" but this was refuted by a presidential spokesman who claimed that this statement was not true. [69h] The 2003 USSD report states that Dr Besigye remains in his self-imposed exile (South Africa) [2](p17). However, the 'Monitor' notes that members of his family remain prominent and high profile. His wife, Mbarara Municipality MP Winnie Byanayima remains in Uganda and is currently 3rd Chairperson and Secretary for Political Strategy and Mobilisation of the Reform Agenda, and is a prominent politician on many Ugandan issues including women's issues (also see section on Reform Agenda). [31aa]

5.34 Human Rights Watch note in their 2003 report that in May 2002, parliament adopted the highly contested Political Organisations Law, which retained current constitutional restrictions on political parties and added new ones. It outlawed most activities normally associated with political parties, such as opening and operating branch offices, and holding delegates' conferences and rallies. Existing political parties would "legally cease to exist" if they failed to register within six months of the law's entry into force. [35c]

5.35 It was reported in the 'New Vision' 7 February 2003, that President Museveni had announced on 26 January 2003 that Uganda was not yet ready for a pluralist society. However, the Movement's vice-chairman, Al Hajji Moses Kigongo, in early February 2003, stated that the return to full operation of political parties would be addressed at an appropriate time. [50i] On 18 February 2003, in the 'Monitor', President Museveni was reported as saying that he has recommended Uganda to open up to multi party politics. President Museveni, who had in the past been most critical of multi party politics, surprised Movement leaders when he passionately called for a return to political party competition. [31h]

5.36 On 21 March 2003, BBC News reported that a court in Uganda had ruled as unconstitutional a law, which prevents political parties from carrying out their activities. Under the Political Organisations Act (2002) the court agreed that it effectively makes Uganda a one party state in favour of the government-sponsored system of

Government. According to the judgement the Movement is now treated as a political party that cannot enjoy preferential treatment. [69r]

5.37 The Amnesty International annual report of 2003 notes that “on 21 March the Constitutional Court declared Sections 18, 19 and 21 of the Political Parties and Organizations Act (2002) null and void as they contravened the Constitution. This allowed political organizations to participate more freely in public life, although political parties remained banned from such participation until they registered with the Registrar General”. [22]

5.38 On 1 April 2003, BBC News reported that the ruling Movement had sought to lift the two-term limit, provided for in the Constitution, for a serving president. This was sharply criticised by the Local Government Minister. [69q] However, a couple of days later IRIN reported in an article dated 3 April 2001 that some 200 members of the NRM's top decision-making organ, the National Executive Committee had reached a decision to remove the presidential term limit. Ugandan opposition leaders vowed to block the decision. [68a]

5.39 In their 2003 report, Amnesty International state that “riot police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a peaceful rally held at Constitutional Square in Kampala (on 23 March 2003) by members of the Democratic Party. No casualties were reported”. In addition the report states that police blocked a political rally at Constitutional Square called by the Conservative Party on (1 May 2003)”. [22]

5.40 In June 2004, opposition politicians won an important legal battle against the government over the legality of the enactment of the law governing the 2000 referendum. [68ee]

5.41 The courts ruled that the law which paved the way for the referendum was null and void. But in a televised address, Museveni vowed to disregard the verdict, saying it was "unacceptable", and accusing the courts of trying to "usurp the people's power". [68ee]

Next Elections

5.42 The Ugandan government confirmed in late June (reported in IRIN) that it would relax restrictions on political party activity and hold a referendum in February (2005) to decide whether the country should revert back to full multiparty politics with presidential and parliamentary elections being planned for between February and March 2006. [68ee] ‘New Vision’ reported that the referendum to approve the Constitution (Amendment Bill and its ratification by district councils would be done by February 2005, while the question of the referendum will be drafted in January 2005. [50ap]

5.43 Justice Minister Janat Mukwaya told IRIN "The road map shows how the country will move in the next two years. We have budgeted for the referendum, and a number of activities will follow, including amending laws to conform with the decision that would have been taken by the people through a referendum." [68ee]

5.44 Other government sources told IRIN that the referendum would also decide whether a ceiling on terms of Ugandan presidents should be maintained. Controversy has been generated by demands from President Yoweri Museveni's supporters that he be allowed to contest for a third term at the end of his current term in 2006. The constitution limits the president to two terms. [68ee]

5.45 According to a BBC News report of 25 February 2005,

"The Ugandan government has announced the new political roadmap ahead of elections early next year. It includes a broad referendum on whether to return to a system of multi-party politics. In an attempt to counter divisions after years of war, parties have been severely restricted since President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986. But as the political parties prepare themselves for the 2006 election, the tension is rising. Currently, the Ugandan parliament is debating a constitution amendment bill which contains numerous proposals - from Swahili being declared the second official language to the issue of dual nationality. There are also hotter topics - like the two-term limit on the presidency and whether a return to multi-party politics is a good idea. All the proposals have been heaped together in what is known as an omnibus bill, and having debated the issues, the MPs must vote on the bill by the end of April". [69z]

Reform Agenda

5.46 The Reform Agenda is an opposition pressure group founded by Besigye after his bid for presidency failed. However, as noted in 'New Vision', security organisations claim that RA is more than a pressure group. [50a] In July 2002, the 'Monitor' reported that the Reform Agenda (RA) had elected Dr Besigye as National Chairman in absentia. Deputy Chairman of the RA, Sam Njuba said that the group has reconstructed itself into a pro-reform, pro-democracy pressure group and resolved not to register under the newly passed Political Parties and Organisations Act. [31aa]

5.47 On 5 January 2003, the 'Monitor' reported that the Reform Agenda had advised Besigye not to return to Uganda but to stay in exile. This followed a statement by President Museveni, the previous week that Besigye was free to return to Uganda. However, Njuba said that the Government would have to guarantee Besigye's freedom if it is serious about his return. [31e]

5.48 On 22 January 2003 'New Vision', a local daily newspaper quoted an official from RA as saying that about 50 of their activists had been arrested by security operatives. Security organisations accused all those arrested of being involved in armed rebellion. Bushenyi RDC Mr Barnabas Bamusede Bwambale said, in his personal opinion, there were genuine fears that the RA offers the political base and network from which the People's Redemption Army would draw inside support. The military establishment also made remarks that Besigye has links with the Lords Resistance Army (LRA). However,

a RA Activist said that any talk linking them to the LRA is aimed at intimidating them into submission and a ploy by the Government to label them as a rebel group and consequently outlaw them. [50a]

5.49 On 28 January 2003, BBC Monitoring reported that President Museveni had agreed to talk to RA members. At an RA Press Conference on 27 January 2003, it was revealed that the RA were ready for such a meeting. [66g] In February 2003, the 'New Vision' reported that the RA had resolved that their exiled leader, Dr Besigye, should lead their delegation and take part in the proposed talks with the President. Vice-chairperson, Njuba said that the RA gave certain conditions for the talks: there must be an agenda, Besigye has to lead the delegation, the meeting must also be with other opposition leaders and that RA prisoners were to be released first. [50i]

5.50 It was reported in the New Vision news paper on 10 August 2004 that,

"REFORM Agenda, the Parliamentary Advocacy Forum (Pafo) and the National Democrats Forum leaders yesterday formally announced the formation of a new party, the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC). The leaders, including Sam Njuba of RA, Augustine Ruzindana of Pafo and Chapaa Karuhanga of the NDF, addressed a press conference at the RA offices in Kampala. Other leaders including Reagan Okumu, Geoffrey Ekanya and Joyce Sebugwawo of RA, Salaamu Musumba, Ben Wacha, Abdu Katuntu, Jack Sabiiti of Pafo, NDF secretary general John Matovu and a prominent city lawyer, attended the conference. Present also were former ESO chief David Pulkol, now of the National Progressive Movement party, former minister Prof. Edward Kakonge and Luweero district Pafo coordinator Baale Bwanika". [50aq]

5.51 In February 2003, it was reported in the 'Monitor' that the former Kampala mayor, Nasser Sebaggala had said that Besigye should return from exile. Mr Sebaggala supported Besigye in the 2001 elections after he himself was not nominated. Sebaggala is back in Uganda after pursuing a bachelor's degree in politics and economics in the UK. [4](a) He hopes to run for the position of mayor of Kampala in the 2005 elections. Following this he has stated that he hopes to contest the 2006 presidential elections. [31f]

Judiciary

5.52 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports that,

"The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, and the Government generally respected this provision in practice; however, the President had extensive legal powers of judicial appointment. The President appoints Supreme Court, High Court, and Court of Appeal judges with the approval of Parliament. The President also nominates, for the approval of Parliament, members of the Judicial

Service Commission, who make recommendations on appointments to the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. The judiciary ruled against the Government on several high-profile cases during the year; however, judicial corruption was a serious problem. For example, a High Court judge was accused during the year of soliciting a \$500,000 (850 million shillings) bribe; the case was pending at year's end. The lower courts remained understaffed, weak, and inefficient". [2b](p6)

5.53 The same report also states that,

"The highest court was the Supreme Court, followed by the Court of Appeal, which also functioned as the Constitutional Court for cases of first instance, the High Court, the Chief Magistrate's Court, local council (LC) level three (sub-county) courts, LC level two (parish) courts, and LC level one (village) courts. A minimum of six justices could sit on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal". [2b] (p6)

5.54 The USSD report of 2004 reported that,

" The civilian judicial system contained procedural safeguards, including bail and the right of appeal; however, an inadequate system of judicial administration and a lack of resources, resulting in a serious backlog of cases, limited the right to a fair trial. During the year, the High Court reduced its backlog from 84 to 51 cases. All non military trials were public". [2b] (p7)

5.55 Although the USSD report of 2004 notes that many defendants (or 'accused persons' as they are more commonly known in Uganda [4a])

"... could not afford legal representation. The Constitution requires that the Government provide an attorney for indigent defendants accused of capital offenses, but there rarely was enough money to retain adequate counsel. The Uganda Law Society (ULS) operated legal aid clinics in four regional offices, although services remained limited due to funding constraints. The ULS also assisted defendants in military courts. The local chapter of Uganda Women Lawyers Association and the FHRI practiced public interest law from offices in Kampala. The Law Development Center operated a legal aid clinic to address cases involving children and those accused of petty crimes. A public defense service also operated; however, it lacked government funding and relied solely on donor support". [2b] (p7)

5.56 In a 'New Vision' article of 10 July 2002, the Chief Registrar of the High Court announced that Chief Magistrates Courts would start handling cases of defilement and rape and shall have high powers to grant bail. It was agreed that the age of consent

remains 18, but the sentence reduced to life imprisonment. The number of Chief Magistrates is to be increased from 29 to 59 in order to handle the backlog of cases in courts. [50ak]

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Treason

5.57 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2003 reports that the Constitution provides for bail in all but capital cases and cases of treason. It states that "if the case is presented to the court before the expiration of this period, the Constitution does not limit pre-trial detention". The report notes that the Government had continued to arrest people on treason charges. [2a](p9)

5.58 In the past, states the 2003 USSD report, numerous human rights abuses were committed in connection with treason cases, including political detention, detention without charge, detention in unregistered and unofficial places of remand, and mistreatment, including torture. [2a](p9-11)

5.59 Detainees included members of the Islamic Tabliq group, some of whom were released and then rearrested, notes the USSD 2003 report. [2a](p9-11) Fifteen Tabliq Muslims were acquitted of treason by the High Court on 12 July 2002. On their release they were taken to a religious leader for counselling and then, according to the 'Monitor' in an article dated 13 July 2002, were allowed home. [31m]

Legal Rights/Detention

5.60 The USSD 2004 reporting on the situation of arbitrary arrest or detention stated that,

" The Constitution prohibits such practices; however, members of the security forces arrested and detained citizens arbitrarily during the year". [2b](p5)

Under the Constitution, a suspect must be charged within 48 hours of arrest and be brought to trial or released on bail within 120 days for minor offences and within 360 days for capital offences. [4](a)

5.61 The USSD 2004 continued however that,

" ... many persons were detained for more than 48 hours without being charged... however, if the case is presented to the court before the expiration of this period, there is no limit on pre trial detention. Detainees must be informed immediately of the reasons for their detention, although authorities did not always enforce these procedural protections in practice. Suspects must have access to a lawyer; however, there was no provision ensuring

family visitation. The Constitution provides for bail in all but capital cases and cases of treason". [2b] (p5)

The USSD report of 2004 added that,

" Legal and human rights groups criticized the excessive length of detention prior to trial, which in many cases amounted to several years; such lengthy pretrial detentions both violated the constitutional rights of the detainees and contributed substantially to prison overcrowding (see Section 1.c.). Pretrial detainees comprised 60 percent of the prison population. The average time in pretrial detention was between 2 and 3 years. During the year, the UHRC heard several cases brought by prisoners challenging the length of their detention". [2b](p6)

5.62 In 2002, a tough anti-terrorism law came into force. Humans Right Watch Report of 2003 states that the Anti-Terrorism Act has a broad definition of terrorism, describing it as the "use of violence or threat of violence with intent to promote or achieve political, religious, economic and cultural or social ends in an unlawful manner." The law carried a mandatory death sentence for those found to be terrorists. It could threaten also the legitimate work of journalists who publish material considered "likely to promote terrorism." [35c]

Death Penalty

5.63 According to AI 2004 covering events from January - December 2003,

" At least 432 people were under sentence of death. No executions of civilians took place. Government and military officials repeated their readiness to execute soldiers as a disciplinary measure to safeguard state security; at least three soldiers were executed. In July, 398 death row inmates, including 16 women, filed a petition before the Constitutional Court challenging their death sentences on the grounds that they were unconstitutional, inhuman and degrading. The petition was based on Articles 24 and 44 of the Constitution prohibiting any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment. The Attorney General opposed the petition. On 3 March, three UPDF soldiers were executed by firing squad in circumstances where the swiftness of their trials, without any possibility of appeal, constituted a denial of the right to a fair trial. Private Richard Wigiri was executed in Kitgum Matidi Township, near Kitgum, after a military court found him guilty of murdering a civilian in December 2002. Privates Kambacho Ssenyonjo and Alfred Oketch were executed after a military court near Kitgum found them guilty of killing three people on 4 January 2003". [22a](p3)

5.64 According to the USSD 2004,

" The military court system often did not assure the right to a fair trial. Although the accused had the right to legal counsel, some military defense attorneys were untrained and could be assigned by the military command, which also appointed the prosecutor and the adjudicating officer. The law establishes a court-martial appeals process; however, a sentence passed by a military court, including the death penalty, could be appealed only to the senior leadership of the UPDF. Under circumstances deemed exigent, a field court martial could be convened at the scene of the crime; however, the law does not permit an appeal under this provision. In 2002, the ULS filed a petition challenging the execution of soldiers under field court martial without the right of appeal; the case had not been resolved at year's end". [2b](p7)

According to a BBC News Report of 04 March 2003 in March 2003, the Ugandan army executed three soldiers in public after they were found guilty of murdering several civilians near the northern town of Kitgum. The Ugandan army has been known to execute its own soldiers. In 2002, two young soldiers were executed after being found guilty in a field court martial of murdering an Irish priest and his two Ugandan employees. [69p]

5.65 According to the USSD 2004 a range of sentences up to the death penalty can be imposed for defilement (sex with minors). [2b] (p16)

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Torture

5.66 According to the USSD 2004,

"The Constitution prohibits such practices; however, there were widespread and credible reports that security forces tortured and beat suspects in unregistered detention facilities to force confessions. Between January and December, the UHRC received 2,249 complaints of mistreatment; 179 of those complaints involved torture. The UHRC Tribunal confirmed many of these complaints and ordered the Government to compensate the victims. Security units involved in torture included the regular police, the UPDF, and the Violent Crimes Crack Unit (VCCU); on occasion, such torture resulted in death". [2b](p3) and also noted that during the year, the UHRC Tribunal awarded compensation to several persons who had been abused by security forces. [2b](p3)

5.67 HRW reported in the 2003 Human Rights Watch report 'State of Pain: Torture in Uganda' that since 2001 there has been an escalation of human rights violations by security and intelligence agencies. These forms of torture include beatings with hammers and sticks with protruding nails and electrocution. [10b](p4)

5.68 The report describes the forms of torture in use in Uganda including *kandoya* (tying hands and feet behind the victim) and suspension from the ceiling of victims tied *kandoya*, “Liverpool” water torture (forcing the victim to lie face up, mouth open, under a flowing water spigot), severe and repeated beatings with metal or wooden poles, cables, hammers and sticks with nails protruding, pistol-whipping, electrocution, male and female genital and body mutilation, death threats (through showing fresh graves, corpses and snakes), strangulation, restraint, isolation, and verbal abuse and humiliation. [10b](p23) Some of these practices have reportedly resulted in the death of detainees in custody. HRW says that an informal survey at Kigo Prison near Kampala, where ‘political’ cases are held, indicated in June 2003 that 90 percent of detainees/prisoners had been tortured during their prior detention by state military and security agencies. [10b] (p4)

5.69 It should be noted however that not only have Ugandan Government officials dismissed the report but also the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) have accused the New York-based HRW in a ‘New Vision’ article of 5 April 2004 of “repackaging old information” and “marketing it to the world as fresh findings on torture by state security agencies”. Jemera Rone, the American who researched the HRW report countered that “said the issue was not whether the cases were fresh or old. The whole thing is about torturing suspects which is still going on in Uganda.” [50ao]

5.70 UPDF spokesman Maj. Shaban Bantariza said in the same article from the Ugandan online newspaper ‘New Vision’, that the alleged torture victims cited in the HRW report were “not political opponents but criminals and terrorists”. Bantariza said Rashid Kawawa, one of the alleged torture victims in the HRW report, was arrested and charged in court with taking part in ADF rebel bombings in Kampala in 2001. He said another suspect, Ibrahim Lwere, was found with a gun and incriminating documents. [50ao]

5.71 The aforementioned HRW report - State of Pain: Torture in Uganda - 2004, alleges that “Uganda set up a shadow sector of security operations to contend with armed rebel groups and crime but now, the security system serves to punish and deter political opposition by detaining and torturing supporters of the political opposition”. [10b] (p19)

5.72 The HRW report states that victims are blindfolded and taken to unknown locations known, as “safe houses” which it claims have become an established feature of the Ugandan system of detention. HRW says the “safe houses” provide Ugandan security and military forces with the opportunity for unseen torture and interrogation of suspects. [10b] (p23)

5.73 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2003 reports that following widespread public outcry and an exchange of accusations, the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Defence and Internal Affairs presented a report exonerating security forces of torture charges; however, several members of the subcommittee disputed the validity of the report. On 16 July 2003, the UHRC acting chairperson Joel Omara testified before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee that several persons in Kigo Prison had been tortured by security

organisations and that CMI personnel were being used to illegally arrest and torture persons to encourage them to pay their financial debts. [2a] (p6-7) According to the USSD 2004 no action was taken during the year against the security organizations that reportedly tortured prisoners in Kigo Prison or CMI personnel who were illegally arresting and torturing persons to force them to pay their financial debts. [2b](p4)

5.74 According to the USSD 2004, during the year, the UHRC Tribunal awarded compensation to several persons who had been abused by security forces. [2b] (p3)

5.75 Amnesty International in its Country Report 2003 state that:

Throughout 2003 operatives from the police, various security agencies and the army, including the Violent Crime Crack Unit (VCCU), the Internal Security Organization, the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence and the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force were persistently reported to have tortured people detained on suspicion of political or criminal offences. Suspects were held incommunicado at unrecognized detention centres commonly referred to as "safe houses". According to official reports, security forces frequently extracted information through torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. [22a] (p2)

Internal Security

5.76 According to the Europa World Yearbook 2003, "in August 2001, the Uganda People's Defence Forces was estimated to number 50,000 to 60,000 men including paramilitary forces (a border defence unit of about 600 men, a police air wing of about 800 men, about 400 marines and local defence unit totalling about 15,000 men). Disruptive activity by rebel groups in northern and western Uganda, in conjunction with Uganda's military involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the middle of the 1998 resulted in higher levels of military expenditure during the 1990s". [1a] (p4192)

5.77 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2003 reports that the Internal Security Organisation (ISO) remained under the direct authority of the President. It notes that although the ISO primarily was an intelligence-gathering body, its operatives occasionally detained civilians. The Chief of Military Intelligence (CMI), under UPDF control, detained civilians suspected of rebel and terrorist activity. The police were organised as a national force under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. All security forces were under government control and were responsive to the Government. [2a] (p1)

5.78 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports that,

"Security forces committed unlawful killings and were responsible for short-term disappearances. Torture by security forces and beating of suspects to force confessions were serious problems. Security forces were responsible for incommunicado detention, and prison conditions remained harsh and frequently life threatening. The Government punished some security force officials who were guilty of abuses; however, impunity remained a problem". [2b](p1)

Security Forces

5.79 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports that,

"The Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) was the key security force, and a civilian served as Minister of Defense. The Internal Security Organization (ISO) remained under the direct authority of the President, and was an intelligence-gathering body; however, its operatives occasionally detained civilians. The Chieftancy of Military Intelligence (CMI), under UPDF control, detained civilians suspected of rebel and terrorist activity. The police were organized as a national force under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs". [2b] (p1)

5.80 The same report notes that,

"The UPDF continued "Operation Iron Fist" in its 18-year war against rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the northern and eastern portions of the country and in southern Sudan. A ceasefire announced by the Government on November 14 expired on December 31 after the two sides failed to agree on terms for its extension. Local leaders formed Local Defense Units (LDUs) to reinforce government efforts to protect civilians from LRA attacks. [2b](p1)

5.81 According to the USSD 2004,

"The country provided the use of its airfields and other logistical support for international peacekeepers operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); however, there continued to be allegations that security force members and some government officials supported militia activities in the DRC and profited from illegal trade". [2b] (p1)

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Prisons & Prison Conditions

5.82 According to the USSD 2004,

"Prison conditions remained harsh and frequently life threatening, primarily as a result of the Government's severely inadequate funding of prison facilities. In addition, there were several reports that security forces and guards tortured inmates. Prison conditions came closest to meeting international standards in Kampala, where prisons provided medical care, running water, and sanitation; however, these prisons also were among the most overcrowded. There were an estimated 19,000 inmates in the country's prisons and police cells. By one estimate, the country's prisons held

approximately three times their planned capacity. The central prison system continued to work with NGOs and the donor community to improve prison buildings, water and sanitation systems, food, and the provision of uniforms; however, progress was minimal during the year". [2b](p4)

5.83 The USSD 2004 further reports that,

"Although the law provides for access to prisoners by their families, ignorance of this right and fear of prison authorities often limited family visits. The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) reported that it received allegations that officers in charge of police cells sometimes demanded bribes to allow visits". [2b] (p4)

5.84 The USSD report of 2004 added that,

" the Government permitted access to prisons by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), foreign diplomats, and local NGOs, principally FHRI and the Uganda Prisoners' Aid Foundation. The UHRC visited numerous prisons and reported on its findings publicly; however, the UHRC also complained that it was not given access to UPDF detention facilities or "safe houses." Prison authorities required advance notification of visits, a process that was sometimes subject to administrative delays". [2b](p4 -5)

5.85 The same report notes in addition that,

"The Community Service Act seeks to reduce prison congestion by allowing minor offenders to do community service instead of being imprisoned. Since 2001, 1,726 offenders have been sentenced to community service in 4 pilot districts. By year's end, the program had been expanded to 10 additional districts". [2b](p4)

5.86 The 'Monitor' in an article dated 11 February 2003 reported that the treatment of suspects detained in alleged torture chambers had dominated debate in Parliament. Kashari MP John Kazoora informed the house that he had received reports of suspects being dumped in cages of snakes and crocodiles. [31x] On 20 February 2002, the 'New Vision' newspaper reported that inmates at Kigo Prison narrated the alleged torture they went through at the hands of the military before they were taken to court. One inmate said he was forced to accept that he communicated with Kizza Besigye as he faced snakes in a place not known to him. [50ae]

5.87 According to the US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004,

" Female prisoners were held in segregated wings with female staff in most prisons; conditions were severely substandard. Due to lack of space in juvenile facilities, juveniles often were held in prisons with adults. The central prison system maintained one juvenile prison and four remand homes. School facilities and health clinics

in all five juvenile institutions were grossly inadequate; prisoners as young as 12 performed manual labor from dawn until dusk. Severe overcrowding also was a problem at juvenile detention facilities and in women's wings. The remand home in Kampala, designed for 45 inmates, held more than 80 children. In Kampala jails, pretrial detainees were kept separate from convicted prisoners; however, in the rest of the country, due to financial constraints, pretrial detainees and convicted prisoners sometimes were held together". [2b] (p4)

Military Service

5.88 It is noted in the US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2003 that there is no military conscription in Uganda. It states that:

"The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) is under full civilian control. The recruitment criteria is a minimum age of 18, recommended by the local council structure, medically fit and educationally literate. However, in practice some recruiters have allowed 17 year olds to enlist. LDUs may recruit children under the age of 18 with parental consent". [2a] (p18)

5.89 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has informed the Home Office that there have been several reports from concerned parents of forced recruitment. This may be due to the massive levels of recruitment since the start of the conflict with the DRC and also high levels of unemployment making the army a relatively attractive option for out of work youngsters. [14b]

5.90 The War Resisters International Report "Refusing to Bear Arms," notes that there is no provision for conscientious objection. In 1991, under the National Resistance Army (NRA) Code of Conduct, applications from professional serving soldiers for discharge were made under an individual basis. The report concludes that leaving the armed forces for professional serving soldiers may prove difficult. [17]

LRA Rebels Join the Military

5.91 The BBC reported on 13 July 2004 that thousands of people had turned out to watch as around 300 former Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels marched through Gulu town before heading to a showground for the passing-out ceremony. They were then welcomed into the regular Ugandan army. [69x]

5.92 IRIN reported in an article dated 14 July 2004 that the rebels included nine women whom the LRA had abducted from villages in northern Uganda and forced to become fighters. They graduated from the course at a ceremony in Gulu officiated by army commander Lieutenant General Aronda Nyakayirima, according to the army's spokesman in the region, Lt. Paddy Ankunda. [68ff]

5.93 According to army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza in the BBC 13 July 2004 article, the new recruits have received three months' military training and political

education. The new recruits will be going back to fight the LRA, their former allies. "They can now turn away from being terrorists into a people's defence force," he told the BBC. "They have been helping us a great deal in tracking their [former] colleagues." [69x]

5.94 "This is the first exercise to train LRA [fighters who give themselves up] and integrate them into the army. They are all ready to do a good job and ready to fight alongside the UPDF (government army) and end the Kony [LRA leader Joseph Kony] problem once and for all," Ankunda told IRIN. [68ff]

5.95 Ankunda told IRIN that the rebels would make up the army's 105 battalion, which would be commanded by a UPDF major and would be expanded with time. "We shall continue to top it up as others continue to report," he added. [68ff]

5.96 He added, "They went through a conventional military training to become real soldiers. They also had a political education programme that was meant to re-orient them," army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza told IRIN, adding that those integrated had to be between 18 and 30 years of age. [68ff]

5.97 However IRIN report in the same article that some humanitarian bodies have questioned the wisdom of making these fighters part of the army, saying they required longer periods of counselling because many were children when they were abducted and forced to commit atrocities. "These people cannot be in their normal senses to handle a service like the army. They required months of counselling before the idea of introducing them to any vocation could arise," said a church worker in northern Uganda who preferred not to be named. [68ff]

5.98 "They only know that to go out and fight is to kill people. Three months could not change this attitude and all of them needed psychiatric help after going through those rituals of killing by the LRA," another added to IRIN. [68ff]

5.99 Bantariza countered in the same article that the political education they received was meant to re-orient them so that they become part of a pro-people army and abandon past traits. "A number of them have known only fighting for the best of their lives, it would have been difficult to ask them to take up a different vocation," he said. "We even asked them to take options and they opted for the army." [68ff]

5.100 Many of the former rebels were not the leaders of the atrocities, noted Major Bantariza. "We should make a difference between the misleaders and the misled, the ones that have formed the new battalion are basically the misled" added in the BBC article. [69x]

5.101 Senior rebel commanders who surrendered recently and held meeting with top government officials, including President Yoweri Museveni, witnessed Tuesday's ceremony after returning to Gulu from the capital, Kampala. They had gone to Kampala to apply for pardon under an existing amnesty law. [68ff]

Medical Services

5.102 According to the January 2000 Country Health Briefing Paper on Uganda produced by the British Department for International Development, the 1993 Health Policy clearly set out consolidation and rehabilitation as the main strategies. This is being updated by the Government and has entered into negotiations with donors with a view to implementing a sector wide approach. The underlying theme is to increase access to a minimum essential package of health services. This allows for limited expansion of the health infrastructure. Services are currently being provided by a combination of public and private sources, with the public sector playing a key role. With decentralisation, the districts have taken on the responsibility for delivering district health services receiving block grants from the Ministry of Health. The role of the Ministry of Health is now focussed on providing technical support, supervision and monitoring, setting norms and standards, mobilising resource and donor co-ordination. The NGO sector also plays an important role. [19]

5.103 In September 2001, the Government, with the assistance of the African Development Bank, established a support to health sector strategic plan project. A statement issued by the permanent secretary, Ministry of Health, Richard Muhinda, said the project is aimed at strengthening mental health services in Uganda and added that it will also serve to address primary health care in northern Uganda. [49a] In October 2001, a new hospital opened in Gulu. The new hospital specialises in specialist services that will minimise travel for medical treatment outside Uganda. [49b] The hospital website states that the facility deals in such areas as cancer treatment, rheumatology, orthodontics, oncology, metabolic medicine, neurology, nephrology and cardiology. See the extensive website (source 26) for full details of facilities, specialisms and payment options (including assisted). [26]

5.104 Uganda has one of the highest sickle cell prevalence rates in Africa although the exact numbers are not known. [50r] The disorder affects the red blood cells, which contain a special protein called haemoglobin (Hb for short). The function of haemoglobin is to carry oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body. [29]

5.105 Health officials estimate that over 25,000 children in Uganda are born every year with sickle cell. According to experts on the disease most of the deaths could be avoided by simple interventions if the communities are sensitised. Chairperson of a new body, The Sickle Cell Association of Uganda said the association would offer counselling and sensitisation to reduce the stigma among the sufferers. [50r]

5.106 According to Government figures Uganda has an estimated 5.3 million cases of malaria for a population of 21.1 million. According to Medecins sans Frontieres in a 2002 report, in Bundi Bugyo hospital in the east of the country next to the border with Democratic Republic of Congo, 60 percent of hospital stays in the paediatric department are linked to malaria. Reducing malaria morbidity and mortality is one of Medecins sans Frontieres's priority objectives. [55]

HIV/AIDS

5.107 In December 2000, the Bill Gates Foundation donated US\$15.3m (over sh27b) to Uganda for the implementation of national population programmes focusing on adolescents and HIV/AIDS. [50y] A report in May 2001 stated that the Government of the United States of America was to introduce two new development programmes and a total of \$50m to help fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Uganda. [31p] According to an HIV/AIDS surveillance report released by the Ministry of Health in November 2002, 94,755 Ugandan children under the age of 15 years had died as a result of the disease. Statistics at the end of 2001 showed that out of 1,050,555 Ugandans living with HIV/AIDS, 105,055 were children under the age of 15 years. [50ag]

5.108 In June 2002, officials from the Ministry of Health and the United Nations children's fund said they would be expanding the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) project following successful pilot trials at six sites in four districts. Under the project, all mothers attending antenatal clinics would be counselled about the need to take HIV tests. Those who test HIV positive and their babies would receive free doses of the drugs, which reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission. They also receive counselling and support. [50aj] In August 2002, the Government announced that they plan to provide free anti-retroviral treatment for more than 2,000 AIDS patients countrywide. [28g]

5.109 In February 2003, trial of a preventive HIV/AIDS vaccine began on human volunteers in Entebbe, by the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). [68i] However, response was slow - as reported in April 2003. The head of UVRI said the initial phase required 50 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 and only ten people had participated so far. [68h]

5.110 According to the country profile issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Program (GAP) for 2003,

"Uganda's response to HIV/AIDS has been comprehensive and, therefore, is seen as a model for the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1992, HIV prevalence in Uganda has dropped by more than 50% (the most marked decline has been people ages 15-19 and 20-24 years), and significant changes in HIV-related behaviors have been documented. The government's openness about HIV/AIDS has led numerous multilateral and bilateral, indigenous, and international non governmental organizations (NGOs) to work on HIV/AIDS in Uganda. In addition, numerous community-led initiatives characterized Uganda's early response to HIV/AIDS. The overall prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country is 4.8%, with prevalence estimates of roughly 10% and 4% for the urban and rural populations, respectively. The total of new AIDS cases in 2002 was 73,830, compared to 99,031 new cases reported in 1999 and 2000 combined. Of the new AIDS cases in 2002, 17,050 were in children under 15 years of age. Transmission is mainly heterosexual (75%-80%); mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT) accounts for 15%-25%; infected blood products 2%-4%, and use of non-sterile instruments less than 1%". [21b]

Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARV's)

5.111 Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARV's) are available in Uganda, and the Government is to receive a further US\$36 million under the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS to help fight the AIDS pandemic. [50n] According to the Minister of Health a total of 10,000 people (one-third of the ARV users in sub-Saharan Africa), are in Uganda. [68f] AIDS Healthcare, one of the United States' specialised provider of HIV/AIDS medical care currently operate a completely free AIDS treatment clinic in Masaka. [43]

5.112 Dr Stockley of "The Surgery, Kampala" has informed The Home Office that HIV treatment is readily available from any hospital and many private clinics in Uganda. There is considerable expertise within Uganda for HIV, as experts from USA and Britain, in particular the CDC and the MRC, are doing a lot of research in Uganda. Some Ugandan specialists also have internationally recognised experience. [75]

5.113 Most ARV drugs are available such as Zalcitabine. "The latest most expensive drugs are unnecessary in treatment and we see no reason to use them as first line treatment. All my patients have responded to the cheap drugs and we see almost no side effects at all. Most of my European patients who come out on the expensive drugs feel ill most of the time and are usually delighted to switch to the cheaper drugs with fewer or no side effects" states Dr Stockley. Indian generic drugs are used in preference to the more costly western versions and even European doctors in Uganda use these Indian generics by choice in preference to heavily promoted brand names. Management of HIV is considered to be adequate and in many centres at least as good as in the U.K. The drugs are very readily available at relatively cheap prices. A plane ticket to U.K costs the same as 2 years treatment. [75]

5.114 However, according to a report issued by the International AIDs charity AVERT (Updated April 2005),

"Few people living with HIV/AIDS have adequate access to anti-retroviral therapy which means that many people continue to die from AIDS-related diseases. The graph (above) shows a prevalence rate of over 30% in the early 90s. In resource-poor countries such as Uganda, poor nutrition, geographic instability, poor sanitation and water-supplies reduce people's chances of remaining healthy, especially if their immune systems are damaged by AIDS. In such circumstances, progression from HIV infection to death from AIDS-related diseases is likely to take less than 4 years. It can be said with surety that all of the 30% of Uganda's population who were infected with HIV in the early 90s are now dead. This is one very significant explanation for the decline in HIV prevalence. There have, however, been other factors which have also had an effect on lessening the prevalence rate". [25a](p5)

and goes on to state that,

"Only very recently, in June 2004, Uganda has begun to offer free ARV medication to people with AIDS. This initial consignment has been funded by the World Bank, with future drugs to be paid for by a Global Fund grant of US\$70million. It is also hoped that funding will be forthcoming from President Bush's promised US\$15billion which is set aside to fight AIDS in fourteen badly-affected countries, including Uganda. This has to be accompanied by education of these HIV+ people since as they will live long enough and remain healthy enough to be sexually active. In October 2004, the Ugandan Ministry of Health claimed 25,000 were being treated out of a minimum estimate of 110,000 in need". ... In June 2004, free ARV distribution began in all areas of Uganda, and the health minister was quoted as saying that at least 2,700 people would be treated by the first batch of medicines. 'Priority' he said, 'would be given to the poor including some civil servants'. [25a](p7)

Mental Illness

5.115 According to the World Health Organisation World Report 2005,

"Mental health services in Uganda were decentralized in the 1960s, and mental health units were built at regional referral hospitals. These units resembled prisons and were manned by psychiatric clinical officers. Services were plagued by low staff morale, a chronic shortage of drugs and no funds for any community activities. Most people had little understanding of mental disorders or did not know that effective treatments and services were available. Up to 80% of patients went to traditional healers before reporting to the health system. In 1996, encouraged by WHO, the health ministry began to strengthen mental health services and integrate them into primary health care. Standards and guidelines were developed for the care of epilepsy and for the mental health of children and adults, from community level to tertiary institutions. Health workers were trained to recognize and manage or refer common mental and neurological disorders. A new referral system was established along with a supervisory support network. Linkages were set up with other programmes such as those on AIDS, adolescent and reproductive health, and health education. Efforts were made to raise awareness of mental health in the general population. The Mental Health Act was revised and integrated into a Health Services Bill. Mental and neurological drugs have been included in the essential drugs list. Mental health has been included as a component of the national minimum health care package. Mental health is now part of the health ministry budget. Mental health units are to be built at 6 of the 10 regional referral hospitals, and the capacity of the 900-bed national psychiatric hospital is to be reduced by half". [73b]

5.116 In 2000 Uganda formulated a mental health policy based on advocacy, promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. This revised the previous policy formulated in 1996. [73a]

5.117 Uganda treats mental health as part of the primary healthcare system but treatment for severe mental disorders is not available at the primary level, however such treatment is available at the 10 regional referral centres and the National Mental Referral Hospital. Uganda spends around 0.7 percent of the total health budget on mental health and there exists an essential drugs list (for therapeutic drugs), first formulated in 1993 and subsequently reviewed in 1996 and 2001. [73a]

People with Disabilities

5.118 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reported that,

"The Constitution provides persons with disabilities "a right to respect and human dignity"; however, widespread discrimination by society and employers limited job and educational opportunities for such persons. There was no statutory requirement that buildings be accessible for persons with disabilities". [2b](p16)

5.119 The same report notes that

"There was a Minister of State for Disabled Persons, and five seats in Parliament were reserved for representatives of persons with disabilities. There was also a Department for Disabled Persons within the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development; however, this institution lacked sufficient funding to undertake or support any significant initiatives". [2b](p16)

5.120 The USSD report of 2004 adds that

The Children's Act required that children with disabilities be given necessary special facilities; however, in practice inadequate funding hampered enforcement of this provision. [2b](p16)

Educational System

5.121 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reported that

"The Government continued the Universal Primary Education (UPE) program, which provided free education through the seventh grade; however, education was not compulsory. UPE increased funding for education, provided additional skills training for teachers, and reduced the textbook to student ratio; however, some provisions had not been implemented fully by year's end. Strained finances,

corruption, instability in some areas, infrastructure problems, and inadequate teacher training prevented full implementation. The UPE program made education more accessible financially; however, parents still had to pay for school supplies and some school costs". [2b](p14)

In comments prepared for the Advisory Panel on Country Information meeting on 8 March 2005, UNHCR stated that,

" The first group of pupils sat for their primary leaving examinations in 2003. The Ministry of Education observed that the performance was generally encouraging". [4](a)

5.122 The same report notes that,

"According to UNICEF, the country's primary school enrollment rate was 86 percent for both boys and girls. Girls and boys theoretically had equal access to education in the lower grades; however, the proportion of girls in higher school grades remained low because families traditionally favored boys when making educational decisions. Boys also were more likely to finish primary school and performed better on examinations for admission into secondary school. The Government continued several programs to promote a national plan for the education of girls. According to the 2002-03 National Household Survey, only 59 percent of adult women were literate compared with 80 percent of adult men". [2b] (p14)

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Human Rights

6.A Human Rights Issues

Overview

6.1 Regarding the human rights situation in Uganda in 2004, the US State Department 2004 Report on Human Rights Practices, published in February 2005, reported that:

"The Government's human rights record remained poor; although there were some improvements in a few areas, serious problems remained. Domination by the Movement of the political process and continued restrictions on political party activity limited the rights of citizens to change their government. Security forces committed unlawful killings and were responsible for short-term disappearances. Torture by security forces and beating of suspects to force confessions were serious problems. Security forces were responsible

for incommunicado detention, and prison conditions remained harsh and frequently life threatening. The Government punished some security force officials who were guilty of abuses; however, impunity remained a problem. Arbitrary arrest and detention, including those of opposition supporters, and prolonged pretrial detention were problems. Poor judicial administration, lack of resources, a large case backlog, and lengthy trial delays limited due process rights, including the right to a fair trial. Security forces at times infringed on citizens' privacy rights. The Government at times restricted freedom of speech, the press, and association, and severely restricted freedom of assembly." [2b] (p1)].

6.2 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) 2004 Report on Uganda states:

"The war in northern Uganda, which started when President Yoweri Museveni and the National Resistance Movement/Army took power eighteen years ago in 1986, continued in 2004. Violence and related human rights abuses abated somewhat by mid-year yet predictions of an imminent military solution to the conflict proved unfounded. The war pits the northern Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against the government's Ugandan Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) and the people of the three northern districts where the Acholi live – and the war has expanded to parts of eastern Uganda in 2003-04. In February, the LRA committed the worst massacre of the entire conflict in an eastern district by attacking Barlonyo internally displaced person's camp, defended only by a small local defence unit, and killing more than 330 people. The LRA continues in its practice of abducting children, who remain the main victims of this war. President Museveni did, however, take an unprecedented step in referring the case of Uganda's LRA to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in December 2003. The ICC agreed to undertake an investigation but peace activists in Uganda remain wary that Museveni will manipulate this international institution to punish his foes, and thereby diminish chances for a negotiated settlement, while avoiding investigation of the Ugandan's army's abuses." Ugandan security agencies have proliferated and are implicated in torture and illegal detention of suspected rebels and rebel sympathizers. The Ugandan government continued to support armed groups in the conflict in the Ituri region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), despite officially withdrawing from eastern DRC in accordance with the Luanda accords signed in September 2002." [10c] (p1).

6.3 The LRA committed human rights abuses during 2004. The 2004 HRW report states:

"The LRA persisted in its policy of abducting northern Ugandan children to use as soldiers and forced sexual partners for its forces in 2004. This has brought the number of abducted children to a new

high. More than 20,000 children have been seized by the LRA over the course of the war. In total, more than 1,300,000 civilians are currently forced to live in government-controlled displaced camps. In 2004, the LRA continued with renewed severity its attacks on civilians living in displaced persons and Sudanese refugee camps and others it considered to be collaborating with the UPDF. An LRA raid on Barlonyo camp near Lira in eastern Uganda resulted in up to 337 deaths. This attack was followed by a protest demonstration of more than 10,000 people, angry at the lack of government protection in the camps. Many questioned the willingness and effectiveness of the UPDF to protect civilians against the LRA, claiming that it is often absent or too late to respond when the LRA strikes. President Museveni in a rare move, apologized for UPDF's failure to stop the massacre. The LRA continued in its offensive through the year, killing civilians, abducting children, destroying and looting property and taking captives to porter the loot in a number of other raids on internally displaced persons camps. Cases of LRA mutilation of suspected spies, including cutting off lips and limbs, were reported." [10c] (p1).

6.4 The UPDF has also committed human rights abuses in northern Uganda. The 2005 HRW report states:

"The UPDF has also committed abuses in the north, including arbitrary detention, torture, rape, and stealing. A few civilians have pending civil actions for damages on account of this ill treatment; the UPDF soldiers are rarely criminally prosecuted for abuse of civilians. Furthermore, the failure to protect civilians in the north has been persistent. The Human Rights Committee, a body that monitors state compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, noted in its concluding observations on Uganda the failure of the state "to ensure the right to liberty and security for persons affected by the armed conflict in northern Uganda." " [10c] (p1).

6.5 The 2005 HRW Report also states that:

"Ugandan security and intelligence agencies have used torture to coerce detainees to provide information or confess, detaining suspects in illegal places of detention called "safe houses," and holding them for weeks or months without ever charging them with any crime. Methods of torture include suspending suspects tied "kandoya" (tying hands and feet behind the victim) from the ceiling, severe beating and kicking, and attaching electric wires to the male genitals. Among the agencies accused of torture are the UPDF's Chieftancy of Military Intelligence (CMI), the Internal Security Organisation (ISO), the Violent Crime Crack Unit (VCCU) and ad hoc agencies such as the Joint Anti-Terrorist Task Force (JATF.) In October the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) found that torture continued to be a widespread practice

amongst security organizations in Uganda, being commonly used to humiliate and breakdown suspects in investigation.” [10c] (p2).

Amnesties

6.6 In December 1999 Parliament passed a Bill granting a general amnesty to all rebels who had been fighting to overthrow the Museveni Government and who were prepared to renounce rebellion. An Amnesty Act was passed in January 2000 with a date of commencement of 21 January 2000. The Act provided for an "amnesty for Ugandans involved in acts of a war-like nature in various parts of the country and for other connected purposes". The Act was to remain in force for 6 months and on expiry it could be extended by statutory instrument. [38] The 2000 amnesty law applies to all persons involved in insurgencies since the Movement came into power in 1986. Between January and December, 3,048 former LRA combatants were granted amnesty; 7,613 former combatants have received amnesty since 2000. The amnesty law was extended through December. [2b](p7)

6.7 According to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this law is unconditional and open to all levels within the rebel movements. Despite formal notification the amnesty remains in force. [47b] The amnesty covers any Ugandan residing within or outside of the country, according to an IRIN article dated 22 January 2003. [68j]

6.8 In April 2001, more than 50 Allied Democratic Forces rebels were freed in the first application of the amnesty law. As reported by IRIN on 22 August 2001 over 5,000 current and former rebels have appealed to the Ugandan Amnesty Commission to be allowed to return peacefully to their homes but the outcome is yet unknown. [68q] On 30 August 2001, IRIN reported in an article that the Amnesty Commission chief Justice Onega had stated that rebels convicted of treason were eligible for pardon under the amnesty initiative. Increasing numbers of LRA combatants took up the offer of amnesty over the following months. [68p]

6.9 According to the Government-owned newspaper 'New Vision', between July 2000 and January 2002, 1671 rebels had surrendered under the amnesty law and were issued with certificates by the Amnesty Commission. According to the Amnesty Commission over 700 other rebels based in Sudan had sent "signals" that they were willing to surrender under the law. [50p] Also in a 'New Vision' article dated 16 July 2002, the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs said that during the last financial year the Amnesty Commission had granted amnesty to 5,000 people. They also expect to grant another 6,000 persons who have reported. [50ah]

6.10 In January 2003, the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) office in Kenya launched a programme to screen former LRA rebels who wish to apply for amnesty and return to Uganda. [68j] As reported by IRIN on 28 January 2003, a total of 358 Ugandans had registered with the IOM to take advantage of the amnesty. [68k]

6.11 The BBC note in an article dated 13 July 2004 that the amnesty still exists for those [rebels] who escape or are rescued during clashes with the army, and the level of forgiveness amongst the civilian population is high. [69x] The BBC note that

concerns have been raised in many quarters that prosecuting the LRA leadership would be unlikely to bring an end to the devastating war. [69y]

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Freedom of Speech and the Media

6.12 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press; however, the Government at times restricted these rights in practice. In addition, the law criminalizes offenses committed by the media and limited the media’s ability to function effectively. The Government at times harassed and intimidated journalists, who continued to practice self-censorship. The Government did not restrict academic freedom.” [2b](p9).

“...Private media were generally free and outspoken. There were many privately owned publications and broadcasts. The New Vision, a government-owned daily newspaper, sometimes included reporting that was critical of the Government. The Monitor, the country’s largest independent daily newspaper, consistently was critical of the Government. During the year, four independent weekly newspapers began publication. The East African, a Kenya-based weekly publication that provided extensive reporting on the country, continued to circulate without government hindrance.

“Unlike in the previous year [2003], there were no reports that persons were arrested for publicly criticising the Government.

“...During the year, the Government cited national security as grounds to suppress media reporting that criticized the Government [for] its handling of the LRA conflict, particularly reports that the LRA had killed UPDF soldiers. In January [2004], army spokesperson Shaban Bantariza accused two Monitor journalists of being LRA rebel collaborators; the two journalists had covered the killing of UPDF soldiers by LRA rebels. In September [2004], Vice President Gilbert Bukenya accused the electronic media of “painting a false image of the Government.” [2b] (p9).

6.13 The USSD 2004 report also states that:

“The Government continued to operate Radio Uganda, the only national radio station, and one television station (UTV), whose reporting was not considered to be independent. At year’s end, there were at least 60 private radio stations in operation, with another 60 awaiting licensing. Several independent media outlets broadcast daily or weekly political talk shows, including recorded off-site radio public debates called “ekimeeza” (table talk), which were often very critical of the Government.

“On November 25 [2004], Minister of Information James Nsaba Buturu instructed the Uganda Broadcasting Council to revoke the licenses of those stations that “abuse the President or use offensive language and fail to correct the behavior.” Buturo also announced that no additional licenses would be issued for stations seeking to broadcast in Kampala; in 2003, the Broadcasting Council proposed regulations that would limit the number of FM radio stations, allegedly to prevent overburdening the airwaves and adversely affecting the quality of broadcasting. Critics charged that the restrictions targeted independent radio, which was the primary news source for 80 percent of the population.

“There were four local private television stations and numerous private television stations available via satellite.” [2b] (p9).

6.14 The Human Rights Watch 2005 Report on Uganda states:

“The temporary closure by army and police of the independent Monitor newspaper in late 2002 has had a chilling effect on that newspaper and on free speech generally. Journalists from the paper continued to come under attack in 2004, two of whom were publicly denounced as “rebel collaborators” by the spokesman for the UPDF.

“However, in February [2004] the Supreme Court enhanced freedom of expression in Uganda by repealing a frequently invoked law allowing reporters to be prosecuted for reporting subversive “false news” in a ruling in favour of the Monitor newspaper. Following this the Chief Magistrates Court in Kampala in April ruled in favour of The Monitor in another case brought by the government who alleged the newspaper has endangered national security by reporting on the war in the north.” [10ca] (p3).

6.15 The BBC Country Profile on Uganda, dated 20 January 2005, also reports that there is press and media freedom in Uganda. The Country Profile states:

“Uganda has seen a mushrooming of privately-owned radio and television stations since the government loosened its control of the media in 1993.

The government occasionally voices unhappiness about the conduct of some [of] the 100-or-so private radio and TV stations. Some have been accused of raising ethnic tensions and of being negative in their reporting.

State-owned Radio Uganda broadcasts throughout the country in English and several vernacular languages. BBC World Service is widely available on FM, and Radio France Internationale operates on FM in Kampala.

Although the print media are led by the state-owned New Vision newspaper, it enjoys considerable independence and often publishes articles which are anti-government.” [62].

Journalists

6.16 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“Unlike in the previous year [2003], no journalists were arrested or detained; however, journalists were harassed during the year [2004]. On June 18, six journalists covering a court martial that involved army corruption were convicted by the same tribunal of contempt of court. Some of the six, who were sentenced and released without detention, were not provided legal counsel. At least some of the convictions were being appealed at year’s end.

“...On February 11 [2004], the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision declared unconstitutional the law prohibiting publication of “false information”. On February 21, the Government dropped its case against two editors and a journalist for the Monitor on charges of publishing “false news” that threatened national security. The case arose from a Monitor report on an alleged UPDF helicopter crash in 2002.” [2b](p9).

6.17 The USSD 2004 Report states that “Media laws require that journalists be licensed to meet certain standards, such as possessing a university degree in journalism or the equivalent. A 1994 law also provides for a Media Council with the power to suspend newspapers and deny journalists access to state information.” [2b](p10).

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Freedom of Religion

6.18 The US State Department 2004 Report on Religious Freedom, published in September 2004, reports that:

“The Constitution provides for freedom of religion; however, in practice the Government imposed some minor restrictions.

“There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the period covered in this report, and government policy continued to contribute to the generally free practice of religion; however, local authorities prevented some nighttime religious meetings for security reasons. During the period covered by this report, no members of religious groups under suspicion of being “cults” were arrested or detained for illegal assembly or public nuisance.” [7b] (p1).

6.19 A general harmonious relationship exists between members of Uganda's different religious groups but there are inter-religious tensions. The USSD Religious Freedom 2004 Report states:

"The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, there were isolated cases of tension between Muslims and evangelical Christians over the issue of slaughtering animals for public sale during the period covered by this report. Unlike the previous year, the negative backlash from the Kanungu killings is no longer an issue, except in Kanungu District, where authorities closed one church suspected of "cult-like" activities." [7b] (p1).

Religious Groups

6.20 The USSD Religious Freedom 2004 Report states that:

"Christianity is the majority religion, and its adherents constitute approximately 75 percent of the population. Muslims account for approximately 15 percent of the population. A variety of other religions, including traditional indigenous religions, Hinduism, the Baha'i Faith, and Judaism, are practiced freely and, combined, make up approximately 10 percent of the population. Among the Christian groups, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches claim approximately the same number of followers, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the country's professed Christians. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Orthodox Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Baptist Church, the Unification Church, and the Pentecostal Church, among others, also are active. Muslims are mainly Sunni, although there are Shi'a followers of the Aga Khan among the Asian community. Several branches of Hinduism also are represented among the Asian community. There are few atheists in the country." [7b] (p1)

6.21 The USSD Religious Freedom 2004 Report also states that: "In many areas, particularly in rural settings, some religions tend to be syncretistic. Deeply held traditional indigenous beliefs commonly are blended into or observed alongside the rites of recognized religions, particularly in areas that are predominantly Christian." [7b] (p1)

6.22 All Ugandan religious organisations must register with the Government, as is the case for all Ugandan NGOs. The USSD Religious Freedom 2004 Report states that:

"All indigenous nongovernment organizations (NGOs), including religious organizations, must register with the NGO Board, a division of the Interior Ministry that regulates and oversees NGO services. According to the NGO Registration Act (1989), failure to register is a criminal offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$6 (10,000

shillings) and not exceeding \$115 (200,000 Shillings). Failure to pay such [a] fine can result in the imprisonment of those responsible for the management of the organization, for up to a year. [7b] (p1 and p2)

“A harsher new NGO Registration Amendment Bill that was introduced in 2001 remained under consideration by the Parliamentary Defense and Internal Affairs Committee. However, the bill has encountered significant opposition from civil society groups and several committee members, such that its enactment in its current form may be blocked.” [7b](p2)

“...The Government continued to refuse to grant registration to the World Last Message Warning Church, an apocalyptic group under suspicion following the 2000 killings of more than 1,000 citizens; however, there were no reports that the Government refused to grant such registration to any other religious organization.” [7b] (p2)

6.23 Some local authorities have temporarily restricted the activities of religious organisations for security and public morality reasons. The USSD Religious Freedom 2004 Report states that:

“Some local governments have temporarily restricted operation of religious organizations for reasons of security and protection of public morality. In August 2003, Masaka district officials asked the Chairman of the Masaka District Traditional Healers Association to close a traditional shrine belonging to Mawawu Kasozi. The estimated 50 nightly visitors to the shrine were allegedly required to disrobe, leading to district concerns about the morality of the institution’s activities. In November 2003, police in Nebbi District temporarily closed a mosque during Eid-al-Fitr prayers, after reports of violence and of a person injured. Kanungu District officials reportedly closed a church in February [2004], alleging similarities with a local “cult” group, Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, deemed responsible for the mass killing of its followers in 2000. [7b] (p2).

Freedom of Assembly & Association

6.24 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The law restricts freedom of assembly, particularly for political groups, by prohibiting any activities that interfere with the Movement system of governance in practice, security forces often enforced these restrictions. For groups legally authorized to operate, permits were not required for public meetings; however, groups were required to notify the police prior to such gatherings. Police denied permission to hold public rallies to several opposition political groups during the year [2004] and, on several occasions, disrupted or forcibly dispersed opposition meetings and other

events. Security forces arrested and detained opposition members.

“Mainstream political opposition groups, including the FDC, the Democratic Party (DP), and the UPC, generally complied with government restrictions to hold meetings only in enclosed spaces; however, the ruling Movement had frequent public demonstrations in support of President Museveni and his efforts to eliminate presidential term limits.

“During the year, security forces arrested and intimidated members of the opposition and disrupted numerous rallies and political events. On April 1, the Inspector General of Police, Major General Edward Katumba Wamala, directed police officers to arrest members of any unregistered political organization that held or was attempting to hold a political rally.

“The Constitution provides for freedom of association; however, the Government severely restricted this right in practice, particularly for opposition political parties and organizations (see Section 3). NGOs were required to register with the NGO Board, which included representation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as other ministries.” [2b](p10).

Employment Rights

6.25 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The Constitution provides for the right of every person to join workers' associations or trade unions; however, at times the Government did not respect this right in practice. Employers often did not observe the requirement to recognise a union. The right to form unions extended to civil servants; however, many "essential" government employees were not permitted to form unions, including police, army, and management-level officials throughout government. The Government failed to enforce the rights of some employees to join unions in newly privatised industries and factories.

“...The law does not prohibit anti-union discrimination by employers, and union activists were not protected sufficiently from retribution for union activities; however there were no reported incidents of government harassment of union officials during the year. There were reports that several private companies urged workers not to take part in unionization efforts.

“...The Constitution provides for the right to strike; however, the Government seldom defended this right, and government policy required labor and management to make “every effort” to reconcile labor disputes before resorting to strike action. This directive

presented unions with a complicated set of restrictions. If reconciliation did not appear to be possible, labor had to submit its grievances and give notification of the strike to the Minister of Labor, who usually delegated the dispute to the IC. In principle, IC rulings were final, but in practice, they could be appealed to the High Court, an option often taken by employers. The Minister of Labor generally did not permit strikes in the absence of a determination from the IC that “every effort” had been exhausted. The Government only took limited action on organized labor complaints; however, frustrated laborers often went on strike anyway.” [2b](p18)

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People Trafficking

6.26 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The law does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons; however, it prohibits trafficking-related offenses. The penalty for the procurement of women for purposes of prostitution or detention with sexual intent is up to 7 years’ imprisonment; the penalty for trading in slaves is up to 10 years’ imprisonment. A range of sentences up to the death penalty can be imposed for defilement (sex with minors). Forced labor is a misdemeanor. There were reports that persons were trafficked to, from, or within the country. During the year, persons were arrested for trafficking-related offenses; however, none reportedly were convicted.” [2b](p17).

Freedom of Movement

6.27 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The Constitution provides for these rights; however, the Government at times limited them in practice. Some local officials reportedly demanded payment of fees before writing a letter of introduction on behalf of individuals changing their residence. A married woman must obtain her husband’s written permission on her passport application if children are to be listed on her passport.” [2b](p12).

6.28 The same report states:

“Continued attacks by the LRA and Karamojong warriors caused many ethnic Acholis and Iteso to leave their homes for urban centers, IDP camps, and villages guarded by the UPDF and LDUs. According to the U.N. office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, there were more than 1.3 million registered IDPs as a result of this violence. At year’s end, the number of IDPs per affected district were: Gulu, 558,765; Kitgum, 267,078; Pader, 279,589; and

Lira, 298,197.“ [2b]p12).

Refugees

6.29 The USSD 2004 Report states that:

“The law does not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status in accordance with the definition of the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol; however, the Government has established a system for providing protection to refugees. In practice, the Government provided protection against refoulement, the return of persons to a country where they feared persecution. The Government granted refugee status or asylum and generally cooperated with the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and asylum seekers. Unlike during the previous year, the Government did not forcibly relocate refugees or deny UNHCR access to camps.” [2b](p13) In comments prepared for the Advisory Panel on Country Information meeting on 8 March 2005, UNHCR stated, “The Refugee Bill of 2003 does provide the procedure for the refugee status determination procedure”. [4](a)

6.30 On 24 July 2003, IRIN reported that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the governments of Rwanda and Uganda had signed a tripartite agreement on the voluntary repatriation of thousands of Rwandan refugees living in Uganda. It is estimated that 2.5 million people fled Rwanda during and after the 1994 genocide that claimed the lives of at least 800,000 Rwandans, mostly Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus. Up to 26,000 Rwandans are presently reported to be in refugee camps mostly in western Uganda. [68d1] It is the intention of the government of Uganda to repatriate 25,600 Rwandan refugees following this agreement IRIN adds. [68ee] Approximately 2,300 Rwandese have repatriated between January 2004 and December 2004. [4](a)

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6.B Human Rights Specific Groups

Ethnic Groups

6.31 According to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Country Profile on Uganda last updated 13 December 2004

“Only about 11% of Ugandans are classed as urban dwellers; of these, 40% live in the capital, Kampala, which had an estimated population of 1.2m in 2000. The second-largest town is Jinja, with a population in 2000 of around 65,000. Ugandan society is thus overwhelmingly rural. There is a major ethnic division between

Bantu groups, who live mainly in the south, and Nilotic groups, who live largely in the north. In the early years of independence there was an important community of about 70,000 Asians of Indian and Pakistani origin, and almost 10,000 Europeans. However, since the expulsion of “non-citizens” (as they were described by the government of Idi Amin) in 1972, both these groups have been reduced to a negligible size, although there is evidence of Asians returning in recent years. The most widely spoken indigenous language is Luganda (the language of the Baganda), although English and Swahili are widely used.” [11](p13)

6.32 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports that:

"The Constitution prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, disability, language, or social status; however, the Government did not enforce the law in matters of locally or culturally accepted discrimination against women, children, persons with disabilities, or certain ethnic groups. Continued instability in the northern region led to violations of the rights of some Acholi, an ethnic group that comprises a significant part of the population; LRA rebels, although predominantly Acholi themselves, were responsible for the most serious human rights violations". [2b](p15)

6.33 According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile on Uganda last updated 9 December 2004 there are over 20 tribes, the largest being the Baganda, Banyankole, Basoga, Iteso, Acholi and Langi. The Asian and European communities remain small.[16c] According to the U.S. States Department of State Background Note on Uganda issued January 2005 “Africans of three main ethnic groups--Bantu, Nilotic, and Nilo-Hamitic--constitute most of the population. The Bantu are the most numerous and include the Baganda, which, with 18% of the population, constitute the largest single ethnic group. Individual ethnic groups in the southwest include the Banyankole and Bahima,10%; the Bakiga, 8%; the Banyarwanda, 6%; the Bunyoro, 3%; and the Batoro, 3%. Residents of the north, largely Nilotic, include the Langi, 6%, and the Acholi, 4%. In the northwest are the Lugbara, 4%, and the Karamojong, 2%, occupy the considerably drier, largely pastoral territory in the northeast. The Basoga, 8%, are among ethnic groups in the east. Europeans, Asians, and Arabs make up about 1% of the population with other groups accounting for the remainder.” [41](p1)

Acholi

6.34 According to the US State Department Background note issued January 2005 the Acholi account for around 4 percent of Uganda's population. They live primarily in the north of the Uganda. [41](p1)

6.35 The FCO Country Profile on Uganda noted that

“The LRA, under the leadership of Joseph Kony, is the longest-running insurgent organisation, with links back to the resistance against Museveni in northern Uganda since 1986. The group practices a form of spiritualism to intimidate its members, and appears to have no political aims beyond opposition to the Government. The LRA have conducted a brutal campaign of atrocities against the local Acholi and Langi population, often in punishment for failure to support their cause. These have included massacres and abduction of Acholi children, who are then forced to fight for the LRA. Over 50% of the population of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader Districts in northern Uganda have in recent years left their homes to live in 'protected villages' (now known as Internally Displaced Persons camps). The Sudanese government have previously supported the LRA, in retaliation for Ugandan support to the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), based in southern Sudan. Uganda denies giving anything other than moral support to the SPLA. In 1999, both countries reached an agreement not to support the respective insurgents.” [16c](p3)

6.36 According to the USSD 2004

“Civil strife in the north and east led to the violation of the rights of members of the Acholi, Langi, and Ateso ethnic groups, who primarily resided in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, Apac, and Soroti. LRA rebels, who themselves largely were Acholi, committed abuses against ethnic Acholi and other ethnic groups. The LRA in particular was implicated in the killing and kidnapping of Acholi tribe members. During the year [2004], the UPDF committed abuses against ethnic Acholi during combat operations against the LRA. Ethnic Acholi leaders also complained that outsiders were attempting to take advantage of continuing instability to steal their land.” [2b]p18)

6.37 The USSD 2004 also noted that “Continued attacks by the LRA and Karamojong warriors caused many ethnic Acholis and Iteso to leave their homes for urban centers, IDP camps, and villages guarded by the UPDF and LDUs. According to the U.N. office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, there were more than 1.3 million registered IDPs as a result of this violence.” [2b]p12)

6.38 A 2001 article called ‘Africa’s Untold Genocide – Military repression of the Acholi community’ published on the africanfront.com website noted that

“Over the course of the last 15 years Acholi's have been gradually eliminated from the political life of Uganda. President Yoweri Museveni revealed in August 2001 that while the level of absolute poverty has reduced from 56 to 35 percent in most parts of the country, in northern Uganda it has instead gone up from 60 percent to 66 in the last three years. Museveni attributed the mass poverty

in northern Uganda to the continued insurgency and the aftermath of rebel activities, which have left in place dysfunctional families and ruined infrastructure. In the current Museveni cabinet of 66 people, Northern Uganda that makes up 50% of the state has only nine representatives. Compared to the numbers from other regions. Museveni appointed a total of 19 ministers from Buganda and a whole 25 from western Uganda. Statistics show that this state of affairs is duplicated in other political appointments and jobs.” [84]

6.39 A full examination of the conflict in northern Uganda and the position of the Acholi is contained in "The Bending of the Spears", which is attached as source 51. The continued instability in the north led to violations of the rights of some Acholi. Most 'violations' of Acholi rights resulted from LRA actions. [51]

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Karamojong

6.40 The Karamojong website 'Culture of the Karimojong' section notes that they descended from a group of people referred to as the Nilotes. They migrated from an area near the Nile Valley in Southern Sudan and Ethiopia. A portion of these groups settled on the high, dry plateau of Karamoja. Karamoja lies mostly in the northeastern region of Uganda and nearly straddles Uganda's border with Kenya. They built a culture revolving around the herding of cattle and the raiding of cattle from neighbours has been part of the Karamojong culture for centuries. [6a](2)

6.41 According to the Karamojadata website "Karamoja is visibly the poorest and most underdeveloped part of Uganda with 8 in 10 of its people under the nationally defined poverty line. (UPPAP Studies, MFPED, 2003). It has the lowest literacy rate, with the average for the three districts being 8% (Census 2002). It has the highest infant mortality rate (147 per 1,000 live births), lowest life expectancy (37 years) and the worst human development index (UNDP, 1999). Recent studies show that the Karamoja Region is the only region in the country that has registered the highest and fastest increase in poverty levels (UPPAP, 2003)" [6b](p1-2)

6.42 The USSD 2004 noted that

“Raids by armed cattle rustlers of the Karamojong ethnic group continued during the year [2004] in Katakwi, Kotido, Kumi, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kaberamaido, Pader, Lira, and Kapchorwa districts in the northeast. These raids resulted in the deaths of more than 100 persons and the displacement of thousands. The Government continued its Karamoja disarmament program during the year [2004]. UPDF forces killed numerous persons during clashes with armed Karamojong warriors during the year [2004]. [2b](p3) ... During the year [2004], raids by armed Karamojong warriors in Katakwi, Kotido, and Kapchorwa Districts in the northeast resulted in approximately 100 deaths. The raids reportedly exacerbated ethnic tensions in the northeast. The

Government's mandatory disarmament program for Karamoja, which has caused confrontations between the UPDF and the Karamojong, continued, and negotiations continued for a Karamojong-led solution. The UPDF and police continued efforts to improve security conditions by arresting cattle rustlers and preventing cross-border incursions.” [2b](p18)

6.43 The Karamojong website ‘Culture of the Karimojong’ section also notes that,

“The Karimojong have always been nomadic pastoralists. They keep cattle, goats, sheep, camels especially those neighbouring the Turkana of Kenya (Matheniko) and donkeys. In the past, the Karimojong practiced a rotational grazing system, transhumance, which was well guided by the availability of pasture and water. Construction of county, district and international boundaries by the colonial administration, coupled with insecurity partly prevented this practice and has led to overstocking of animals on the floral species and over concentration of animals at watering points. Cattle provide the Karimojong with a major means of daily living, insurance against periodic famines, bride prices and are considered a symbol of one's social status. The cattle provide food, clothing/bedding, while goats which mainly browse provide the same above, but are mainly intended for cultural rituals.”

[6a](p5-6)

Women

6.44 Amnesty International's country report of 2003 states that few cases of sexual violence in the home, including rape in marriage and rape of minors, were prosecuted in 2003. [22a]

The USSD report of 2004 notes that

“Violence against women, including rape, remained common. A 2003 Johns Hopkins University study indicated that one in three women living in surveyed rural areas experienced verbal or physical threats from their partners, and 55 percent sustained physical injuries as a result of domestic abuse. The law prohibits assault, battery, and rape; however, there were no laws that specifically protected women from spousal abuse. Many law enforcement officials continued to view wife beating as a husband's prerogative and rarely intervened in cases of domestic violence. Women remained more likely to sue for divorce than to file rape or assault charges against their husbands.” [2b](p15)

6.45 Amnesty International in their 2003 report note that a Domestic Relations Bill was presented to parliament for debate in December 2003. It addressed issues such as the criminalization of marital rape, property in marriage, polygamous marriages, bride

price, widow inheritance and minimum age for marriage and cohabitation. [22a]

6.46 According to the PeaceWomen campaign by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in October 2003

"A coalition of women groups, including the Uganda Resource Center and the AIDS Information Center, launched a campaign demanding a law to protect women from domestic violence, which has been blamed for the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among them. The coalition maintain that the proposed Domestic relations Bill, which is supposed to tackle the domestic violence, is too general and contains components which are controversial, and therefore, is not the right tool to weed out domestic violence. Women demand to pull domestic violence out of the Bill and let it stand alone as a separate law to reduce the risk of contracting the HIV/AIDS among them." [79]

6.47 The USSD 2004 also "Security forces were sometimes implicated in widespread reports of rape and sexual violence against women and girls. In some instances, perpetrators were punished after victims complained; however, most such incidents went unpunished, in part because the procedures for making such complaints were not widely known." [2b](p8)

6.48 An article in The New Vision published by BBC Monitoring on 24 November 2004 noted that

"An international women's group has accused the UPDF [Ugandan People's Defence Forces] and Karimojong warriors of committing crimes in the war-ravaged north. The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ), which has been monitoring the International Criminal Court (ICC) activities in northern Uganda, said testimonies had shown that it was not only the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels committing crimes in the area....WIGJ Chairperson Vahida Nainar said, "Most of the women, victims and survivors we spoke to identified the government's failure to protect them as a cause for their sufferings. "She said the government and the ICC did not consult people of northern Uganda, creating arguments about the period from which ICC would begin investigations. Vahida asked the government to compensate the war victims. "Identify and punish the offenders in the army who have committed crimes and violations of human rights in northern Uganda," Vahida said." [50a]

6.49 The USSD 2004 also noted that "The Constitution requires elections through electoral colleges for the 81 seats reserved for special interest groups in Parliament: 56 seats were reserved for women; 5 for organized labor; 5 for persons with disabilities; 5 for youth; and 10 for the army, which were selected by the UPDF High Command, chaired by President Museveni." [2b]p14)

6.50 According to the Women of Uganda Network website last updated 15 September 2004 a number of organisations exist in Uganda to assist women. These include the Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA(U)), Christian Women Concern, Hope After Rape, Coalition on Violence Against Women and others. A copy of the list is attached as source [80].

6.51 The WomenWatch website run by the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) notes that Uganda became a signatory of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in July 1980. In their first annual report on 31 May 1995 (14th Session) covering Uganda many issues were raised. Among these one of the issues raised concerned the fact that women did not enjoy the right to extend their citizenship to their children born outside the country unlike male citizens. The Committee also wanted to know why it was that 49 percent of households were headed by a single woman. [27]

Children

6.52 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports that:

“The Government demonstrated a commitment to improving children's welfare. Education received the largest percentage of the national budget. The Government did not enforce effectively the Children's Statute, which outlines broad protections for children, because of the large proportion of children in the population (approximately half of the country's population was under 15), staffing and fiscal constraints on the judiciary, and cultural norms. The law stipulates parents' responsibilities and provides extensive protection for children in a wide variety of areas, including financial support, foster care placement, adoption, determination of parentage, and treatment of children charged with offenses. The law also prohibits children from taking part in any activity that was likely to injure the child's health, education, or mental, physical, or moral development; however, the Government often did not enforce these prohibitions.” [2b](p16)

6.53 The same USSD 2004 report also noted that

“The Government continued the Universal Primary Education (UPE) program, which provided free education through the seventh grade; however, education was not compulsory. UPE increased funding for education, provided additional skills training for teachers, and reduced the textbook to student ratio; however, some provisions had not been implemented fully by year's end. Strained finances, corruption, instability in some areas, infrastructure problems, and inadequate teacher training prevented full implementation. The UPE program made education more accessible financially; however, parents still had to pay for school supplies and some school costs.” [2b](p16)

6.54 The USSD 2004 report also noted that

“Girls and boys theoretically had equal access to education in the lower grades; however, the proportion of girls in higher school grades remained low because families traditionally favored boys when making educational decisions.” [2b](p16)

6.55 A report by the Women’s Commission – ‘Learning in a War Zone: Education in Northern Uganda’ dated February 2005 noted that

“When families in northern Uganda can afford to send a child to school, they often choose their sons; parents may feel that given the traditional role of women marrying, tending crops and raising children, they do not need education as much as their male siblings. Parents in situations of insecurity also know the risks that their daughters take in going to and from school; gender-based violence and rape. There are reports of girls who do better than boys in school being bullied by boys. Given this, parents may want to keep their girls at home to protect them.” [85a](p5)

6.56 According to the USSD 2004

“Child abuse remained a serious problem, particularly rape and other sexual abuse of girls, offenses known as “defilement.” Defilement applied to all cases of sexual contact outside of marriage with girls younger than 18 years of age, regardless of consent or the age of the perpetrator. The perpetrators of defilement often were family members, neighbors, or teachers. During the year [2004], 1,878 persons were convicted of defilement, and 1,818 suspects were awaiting trial at year's end [2004]. Defilement carried a maximum sentence of death; however, no court sentenced persons convicted of defilement to death during the year [2004]. In practice, defilement cases often were settled by a payment to the girl's parents.” [2b](p16)

6.57 The Human Rights Watch (HRW) Uganda report of 2005 notes that,

“The LRA persisted in its policy of abducting northern Ugandan children to use as soldiers and forced sexual partners for its forces in 2004. This has brought the number of abducted children to a new high. More than 20,000 children have been seized by the LRA over the course of the war. In total, more than 1,300,000 civilians are currently forced to live in government-controlled displacement camps.” [10c]

6.58 The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers briefing – ‘Child Soldier Use 2003: A Briefing for the 4th UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict’ published on 16 January 2004 reported that,

“In March 2003, Human Rights Watch documented on-going recruitment of children into Local Defence Units (LDUs), which were intended to provide security to local villages, but were reportedly used to fight with the Ugandan People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) against the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda, and even in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. Recent reports from Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers partners on the ground indicated on-going child recruitment into the UPDF, including of children who had escaped from the LRA. Coalition members have also reported recruitment of children into local defence groups in northern Uganda, especially the Arrow Group. On a recent visit to Lugore training camp, UNICEF identified 120 children among the recruits. Reliable sources also identified UPDF recruits among demobilized child soldiers in Yumbe. International organizations were not granted access to many more military training camps where it was suspected that many more children were held. At least two children formerly with the LRA were detained by the government on treason charges, despite the amnesty in place.” [82]

6.59 The Global Report 2004 from the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers covering Uganda noted that,

“In November 2003 the UN Secretary-General identified the LRA and the government’s armed forces and the LDUs as users of child soldiers, and in particular noted that ‘Abducted children are subjected to brutal treatment and other egregious personal violations. In Northern Uganda, LRA has abducted thousands of children and forced them to become child soldiers and to commit atrocities.’”

6.60 According to the UNICEF publication ‘Child soldiers trapped in vicious cycle of war’ dated 16 February 2004,

“Many former child soldiers in Uganda who have been freed from the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) have been drawn again into armed conflict – this time with the national army.... Many of the former child soldiers have no other job skills and working for the army is often seen as a lesser of two evils.” UNICEF said that “The former child soldiers need a chance to integrate into the society. They need to find their families, return to school and have a normal life, which could take quite a long time. [83]

6.61 On 30 February 2003, IRIN reported that the deteriorating humanitarian situation in northern Uganda was placing children under the age of five years at a high risk of

mortality. The WFP who were distributing food in the region said that the humanitarian situation was getting worse according to the international NGO; Action Against Hunger in Pabbo. [688] A follow-up article by IRIN from 5 March 2003 quoted WFP stating that over 31 per cent of children under the age of five years were suffering from acute malnutrition in Anaka camp in Gulu district. [689]

6.62 The Global Report 2004 from the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers covering Uganda noted that

“From mid-2003 LRA abductions spread from the north into eastern Uganda. UNICEF estimated that 8,400 children were abducted between June 2002 and May 2003. In July 2003 more than 20,000 child ‘night commuters’ were estimated to seek safety each night in Gulu, Pader and Kitgum towns, to reduce the risk of abduction. On 14 July 2003 an estimated 20,000 children marched in Kitgum to protest against continued abductions. A similar march took place in Gulu in August 2003.” [76]

6.63 The above-mentioned Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers published 16 January 2004 noted that

“Human Rights Watch reported a dramatic rise in ‘night commuters’, children who move into towns and villages at night, coming back in the morning to reduce the risk of abduction. The organization said that the number of night commuters in Gulu had tripled between February and May 2003 to over 13,000. In July 2003, The Monitor estimated that 20,000 children were estimated to seek safety each night in Gulu, Pader and Kitgum towns. Other estimates suggested 20,000-30,000 young “night commuters” in Gulu town alone.” [82]

6.64 A report by the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children dated February 2005 entitled ‘Resilience in the Darkness: An Update on Child and Adolescent Night Commuters in Northern Uganda’ noted that

“Girls, women, boys and men amongst the night commuters and staff report that sexual harassment and rape continue to occur along transit routes and in sleeping spaces in town centres. Most youth report that they are still walking either alone or with a small group of other youth. A small percentage of the night commuters are adults and parents, but generally, most parents, but generally, most parents are still not accompanying their children to the sleeping spaces. The road that leads to the sleeping centers remain unlit and perilous for the unaccompanied children.” [85b]

6.65 The USSD 2004 noted that “There were an estimated 2 million children who had lost one or both parents. This large number of orphans resulted from wars and other instability, population dislocation, and HIV/AIDS. [2b](p17)

An article in the Monitor newspaper dated 4 February 2004 noted that "Uganda has the highest number of orphans in Africa, an official from the Uganda HIV/Aids Control Project has said. Mr Julius Byenkya said 70 percent of them were orphaned by HIV/Aids." [31ag]

Child Care Arrangements

6.66 According to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda there are no state owned orphanages in Uganda, and neither does the state sponsor any such institutions. According to the Ministry, the Government has no long or medium term plans to establish child care facilities. The information was provided via the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). [47c]

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

6.67 The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2004 reports

"There was no law against FGM, but the Government, women's groups, and international organizations continued programs to combat the practice through education. These programs, which received some support from local leaders, emphasized close cooperation with traditional authority figures and peer counseling. Significant press attention to these ongoing efforts brought public attention to the problem during the year [2004]. [2b](p15)

6.68 The same USSD report notes that,

"FGM was performed on girls in the Sabinu and Pokot ethnic groups. [2b](p16) FGM was practiced by the Sabinu ethnic group, located in rural Kapchorwa District, and the Pokot ethnic group along the northeastern border with Kenya. There were approximately 10,000 Sabinu and approximately 20,000 Pokot in the country. Among the Sabinu, initiation ceremonies involving FGM were carried out every 2 years. In August [2004], an official in Moroto District confirmed more than 84 cases of FGM in his sub-county; in 2003, there were 30 cases. In Kapchorwa District, there were 594 cases of FGM during the year [2004], according to an anti-FGM organization". [2b](p15)

6.69 However, according to an article dated 25 January 2005 by the New Vision "Data from all the district's 49 parishes showed that the number of women who underwent the ritual dropped from 621 in the 2002 circumcision season. The data showed that 261 women were saved from the knife through peer education and provision of initiatives to the circumcision surgeons, some of whom hail from Kenya." [50as]

6.70 An article in the Monitor dated 19 November 2003 reported that, Sabinu Elders Association chairman, William Cheborion said that 75 per cent of the Sabinu are now

opposed to the practice. He said that the number of people supporting FGM is now very small. Cheborion said that their target for elimination of the practice is 2006. [31v]

Homosexuals

6.71 Under the Ugandan Penal Code homosexuality is illegal for men. Homosexual acts between women are not mentioned. The maximum penalty for homosexuals in Uganda is life imprisonment. Section 140 of the Penal Code criminalises "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Section 141 prohibits "attempts at carnal knowledge" with a maximum penalty of 7 years' imprisonment. Section 143 punishes acts of, procurement of, or attempts to procure acts of "gross indecency" between men in public or private with up to 5 years' imprisonment. However, prosecutions are rare. [57]

6.72 In September 1999, President Museveni called for the arrest of homosexuals for carrying out "abominable acts". This comment followed the wedding of two gay men. [57]

6.73 In March 2002, while accepting an award for his Government's successful campaign against HIV/AIDS, President Museveni said "we don't have homosexuals in Uganda so this is mainly heterosexual transmission". [21] In December 2002, the Bishop of Mukono Diocese cautioned Christians against homosexual organisations that want to join the church in the pretext of funding them. [50t]

6.74 According to an article dated 30 November 2004, by 365Gay.com published on the Sodomy Laws website

"The government of Uganda has has [sic] issued a warning to the UN joint program on HIV/AIDS that it risks being thrown out of the country if it offers AIDS education to gays. Information Minister James Nsaba Buturo accused UNAIDS and the Uganda AIDS Commission of holding 'a secret meeting' with members of Uganda's gay community. Buturo said that any initiatives with gays would be a violation of Ugandan law. Homosexuality is illegal in the country and Buturo said that contacts with gays in which UNAIDS gave sexual advice would be a crime. The government has recently called on police to crack down on homosexual activity." [45]

Rebel Groups

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

6.75 The Lord's Resistance Army, which has been fighting the Ugandan Government for nearly 18 years, has become know for its brutality. The Ugandan Refugee Law Project (RLP) produced a report called "Uganda: Behind the Violence" in February 2004 about the LRA after interviewing around 900 people from northern Uganda,

including many former fighters, to try to discover just what it and its mysterious leader, Joseph Kony, stand for. [5](p13)

6.76 The report states that the seeds of this 18-year conflict were sown in the defeat in 1986 of Presidents Milton Obote and Tito Okello by forces loyal to Uganda's current leader, Yoweri Museveni. The remnants of the defeated forces fled north, to their home areas - fearful that the new government would carry out attacks in retribution for government massacres in the Luwero triangle under the previous regimes. [5](p13)

6.77 According to the RLP report, the defeated fighter reformed and eventually rallied to a spiritualist - Alice Lakewanya, in the hour of their despair. She was in turn defeated in 1987 and other rebels failed to capitalise leaving a power vacuum in northern Uganda that Joseph Kony filled with the Lord's Resistance Army, states the report. [5](p13-14)

6.78 The RLP report states that:

"The leader of the LRA Joseph Kony is himself shrouded in a veil of secrecy: on the one hand he is presented as a disorganised criminal who can be quickly and easily crushed, and on the other he is portrayed as an invincible messenger of God which no bullets can penetrate. A BBC reporter confirmed what RLP found in the field: "Little is known about the rebel leader— and it is clear that this is exactly how he likes it. He has created an aura of fear and mysticism around himself which is an image difficult to dispel". Given this confusion, numerous labels have been used to describe Kony and the LRA: 'lunatic', 'irrational', 'inexplicable', 'terrorist bandits' and 'thugs'. [5](p14-15)

6.79 These caricatures have had important practical implications, making it hard to know what strategies would be most effective in ending the war, claims the RLP report. [5](p14-15)

6.80 In addition, according to the RLP report there is an important spiritual dimension to the LRA. It states that "although the group is not a cult, Kony uses his spiritual and biblical revelations to manipulate people much like a cult leader, but does not appear to brainwash them heavily: most LRA members end up believing in his spiritual power, but they are not mesmerised by his presence. Kony has a multi-layered spiritual vision, but Kony also uses this spiritualism to maintain control, starting with his overall vision of liberation and destruction and continuing with individual spirits that 'guide' specific military tactics". [5](p14-15)

6.81 Andrew Harding, states in his article on BBC News from 3 March 2003 that, "the LRA has so successfully terrorised the population that it only needs to carry out the occasional massacre to keep hundreds of thousands of civilians on the run". [69v]

6.82 The USSD 2004 states that,

“The LRA continued to abduct thousands of civilians for training as guerrillas; most victims were children and young adults whom the LRA forced into virtual slavery as laborers, soldiers, guards, and sex slaves.” [2b](3)

The USSD 2004 continued,

“More than 85 percent of LRA forces were made up of children whom the LRA abducted and forced to fight as rebels; most LRA rebels were between the ages of 11 and 16. [2b](p17)

6.83 It is reported by the RLP that these child soldiers are often forced to kill their own parents so they have no way back. In the LRA only around 200 core combatants are fully armed with weapons allegedly supplied by the Sudanese government and other sources. [5](p19)

6.84 President Museveni wishes to use military means to end this conflict. But many church and traditional leaders believe that only talking can halt the LRA's murderous campaign. Kony and his senior commanders believe that if they surrendered the government would kill them, says the RLP. [5](p15)

6.85 Andrew Harding of the BBC, believes that “The LRA has no obvious territorial or political goals”. [69v] The RLP reports however that in addition to the spiritual dimension, there is considerable debate within the discourse on the war as to whether or not the LRA has a political agenda. Having a political agenda is seen by many of those commenting on the war as a precondition for conducting negotiations with Kony, and his apparent lack of a clear political program has generated considerable confusion. [5](p14)

6.86 The RLP report notes that “This lack of clarity was reflected on the ground: some respondents in the conflict zone expressed the belief that he has no political agenda, while others said that Kony may have an agenda but that it was not yet articulated. Indeed, many interviewees were profoundly confused about the fact that Kony claimed to be fighting for them, yet was killing and abducting them at the same time”. As one northern politician says in the report, ‘Now the LRA say that their agenda is democracy, multi-partyism, land, etc. They even claim they are upset by rigged elections! Ha! They are just jumping on the bandwagon, any bandwagon that comes.’ [5](p14-15)

6.87 The USSD 2004 states that,

“LRA attacks increased during the first half of the year [2004], and there were numerous atrocities. Civilians were summarily executed, often by gruesome methods, to terrorize local populations or as retribution for violating various LRA edicts, such as the prohibition on riding bicycles. LRA rebels also attacked private homes, schools, churches, and IDP camps in which persons were killed, injured, raped, mutilated, or abducted. During the year [2004], LRA attacks resulted in the deaths of several thousand persons,

including children; numerous injuries; and the destruction of homes and property. During the first 3 weeks in February [2004], LRA attacks in Lira district IDP camps resulted in more than 250 deaths and the displacement of 283,000 persons". [2b](p9)

6.88 IRIN reported on 15 July 2004 that seventy-year-old LRA "Brigadier" Kenneth Banya had been captured following a battle at Okidi, along the River Unyama in Gulu District. Banya was, army spokesman Maj Shaban Bantariza said, "the most senior adviser to Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader Joseph Kony. [68gg]

6.89 The same IRIN news article dated 15 July 2004 goes on to mention that Bantariza told IRIN that "He has been the heart and spirit of the rebellion. He is the main military and technical brain behind the rebel movement. He has been attached to Kony in Sudan." The former Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) major and escort to President Yoweri Museveni is the first high-profile capture for the army since the rebellion started some 18 years ago. [68gg]

6.90 The same IRIN article also notes that Bantariza emphasised the significance of the capture, saying that following Banya's apprehension, a number of other rebel commanders had surrendered, including another veteran, "Major" Isiah Luwum, who, the army spokesman said, was one of those who had joined the rebel force in its early days. Two other commanders with the rank of "captain" had also followed Luwum with a total of 32 fighters and a quantity of arms and ammunition. [68gg]

6.91 According to an article in the BBC News dated 29 July 2004 "The World Court has begun an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Ugandan rebels...." International Criminal Court prosecution spokesman Christian Palme told the BBC 'We are investigating any crimes committed in northern Uganda after July 2002. We have the full support for this from the authorities in Uganda'. [69y]

6.92 According to the USSD 2004,

"Security forces tortured and abused civilians suspected of collaborating with the LRA; however, unlike in previous years, there were no reports that security forces killed suspected collaborators." [2b](p8) The USSD 2004 also noted that "There also were persistent and credible reports that the UPDF failed to protect civilians threatened by the LRA. On February 5 [2004], for example, more than 40 persons were killed during an LRA attack on the Abiya IDP camp in Lira District under the protection of a small UPDF force; most of the UPDF unit had left to collect their pay, and the unit's commander allegedly had gone to Kampala without authorization." [2b](p8) ... "No action was taken against LRA rebels who were responsible for numerous killings in 2003 and 2002." [2b](p9)

6.93 According to the World Report 2005 from Human Rights Watch for Uganda,

"The LRA persisted in its policy of abducting northern Ugandan children to use as soldiers and forced sexual partners for its forces in 2004. This has brought the number of abducted children to a new

high. More than 20,000 children have been seized by the LRA over the course of the war. In total, more than 1,300,000 civilians are currently forced to live in government-controlled displaced camps.” [10c](p1)

6.94 The same HRW Report noted that,

“In 2004, the LRA continued with renewed severity its attacks on civilians living in displaced persons and Sudanese refugee camps and others it considered to be collaborating with the UPDF. An LRA raid on Barlonyo camp near Lira in eastern Uganda resulted in up to 337 deaths. This attack was followed by a protest demonstration of more than 10,000 people, angry at the lack of government protection in the camps. Many questioned the willingness and effectiveness of the UPDF to protect civilians against the LRA, claiming that it is often absent or too late to respond when the LRA strikes. President Museveni, in a rare move, apologized for UPDF’s failure to stop the massacre.” [10c](p1)

Peace Process

6.95 As recorded in the Africa Research Bulletin [ARB] Volume 41 Number 11 pages 16004 and 16005, Uganda’s government declared a temporary truce on 14 November 2004 to allow rebels in the north of the country to meet and discuss plans for talks to end the 18-year civil war. President Museveni ordered a seven-day suspension of UPDF operations in a limited area of Acholi, to allow the leadership of Joseph Kony’s group to meet and confirm that they accept his offer to come out of the bush. In early November 2004 and LRA spokesman telephoned a radio station and called for talks – and for Museveni’s government to show its commitment to peace - in a rare statement by rebels. A statement from State House said that if after the meeting, the Kony groups make a clear recorded statement that they accept the president’s offer, then a 10-day cessation of UPDF operations will be ordered. [56e]

6.96 The same ARB report states that the army said it would continue operations against remnants of Kony’s group in all other areas of northern Uganda and southern Sudan ‘until the government gets an irreversible commitment indicating their intention to end...once and for all the terror campaign.’ Although the statement detailed a seven-day truce, it detailed a nine-day period, saying hostilities would be suspended between 1500 GMT on 14 November 2004 and 0400 GMT on 23 November 2004. The UPDF withdrew 15,000 troops from the gazetted areas for a cease-fire. The troops will now guard displaced peoples’ camps, schools and roads. [56e]

6.97 According to a Reuters, Australia article published on ReligionNewsBlog.com dated 31 December 2004, posted on 30 December 2004,

“The Ugandan Government and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army are to sign a ceasefire today [30 December 2004], opening the way for an end to a bloody 18-year insurgency. ... Both sides expressed

hope the ceasefire would bring an end to a war described by the UN as the world's most-neglected humanitarian emergency. 'This is a very important day because the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army rebels have agreed to sign the agreement to end hostility before this year ends,' said the chief negotiator and former government minister, Betty Bigombe." [81]

6.98 A report featured in the ARB Volume 42 number 1, January 1st to 31st 2005 noted that,

"The Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, said the army would resume all-out war in the north, who he says rejected a ceasefire deal expected to pave the way on ending the 18-year civil war. The ceasefire expired on 31 December 2004, the day the talks between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] collapsed....However, efforts to resume the talks were not entirely buried."

The initiator and chief mediator, Ms Betty Bigombe, continued to meet with LRA leaders to revive the negotiations. Following the failure of the peace talks, the UPDF reoccupied the 100sq km truce area that President Museveni had gazetted for the LRA rebels to assemble in for the talks. [56]

6.99 According to the above mentioned article in the ARB "The comprehensive peace accord signed on January 9th [2005] between the Sudanese government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) should help resolve the 18-year war in northern Uganda, officials say." Following the peace agreement, SPLA leader, Colonel John Garang said Joseph Kony's LRA rebels must vacate southern Sudan.... In mid-January 2005 the government gave the rebels more time to study the peace proposals. Ms Bigombe had met with the rebel negotiating team several times and the consensus is that the peace process is on track. Mr Museveni has said that if Ms Bigombe's peace mission fails, the African Union (AU) can intervene. It would try alternative mediation. Meanwhile the International Criminal Court (ICC) hopes to start its first war crimes trial in six months. Joseph Kony is slated to be the first. [56]

6.100 The BBC Monitoring website published an article in The New Vision dated 12 January 2005 stating that,

"Chief peace broker Betty Bigombe has met a top rebel team to discuss the draft peace terms to pave the way for another meeting next week and for the signing of the peace accord to end the northern war. To show their commitment to peace, a senior LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] commander, Brig. Onen Kamdulu, a confidant of rebel leader Joseph Kony, handed over his three wives and child to Bigombe. The 11-point memorandum of understanding the government gave to LRA calls for a joint monitoring team composed of two government representatives, two LRA

representatives and ‘such a number of international observers as shall be agreed upon by the parties.’” [50at]

6.101 An excerpt from a report by Ugandan TV published by BBC Monitoring on 13 January 2005 noted that,

“Government has commended the parties that participated in peace resolution that led to the signing of the peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the SPLA [Sudan People’s Liberation Army], the minister of state for information, Dr James Nsaba Buturo, said today [13 January 2005] at a weekly press briefing held at Nakasero [Kampala]. ... He assured all Ugandans that with such peace developments in the Sudan the LRA [Lord’s Resistance Army] rebels of Joseph Kony will no longer have bases in southern Sudan, hence the end of the conflict in northern Uganda.” [78]

6.102 An article in the New Vision dated 5 February 2005 reported that “The LRA director of operations, Col. Onen Kamdulu, has surrendered in Palukere, Atyak.” He claimed he reported to the UPDF at about 9 a.m. with his wife Santa Lalam and his escort. He said he would join the other former LRA commanders to end the war. Meanwhile President Museveni declared a new 18-day cease-fire to allow the rebels to organise talks with the Government. [50au]

6.103 The BBC reported on 16 February 2005 that a key official in the LRA had surrendered. The article states that,

“Brigadier Sam Kolo, the LRA’s negotiator in the recent peace talks, gave himself up to the army, according to government mediator Betty Bigombe. He was attacked by rebels as he tried to escape and phoned the army who came to his rescue in Kitgum district.... Ms Bigombe, a former Ugandan minister who is acting as a mediator in the conflict, insisted his surrender would not affect the peace talks and said she would continue to negotiate an end to the war. ‘I want to assure everyone that it does not mark the end of the peace process. I already talked to Vincent Otti, who told me he was going to take over and be in charge of the peace talks in the absence of Bri Kolo,’ she told the BBC” Focus on Africa programme.” [69ab]

6.104 The BBC reported on 23 February 2005 that the LTRA rebels in the north are suspected to have carried out two attacks killing at least 10 people. These attacks have led to calls for more troops to be deployed to protect the civilians. Ugandan Army spokesman, Major Banatariza, said a group of rebels were pursued and eight LRA members have been killed since the attack. [69ac]

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)

6.105 According to the Monitor on 5 February 2001, former ADF rebel, Zarome Bwambale said to Zedekiya Karokora, District Commissioner of Kasese, that at least 30 rebels said they wanted clearance in order to surrender. They also wanted to be reassured that their lives were safe. [31y] According to a Reuter's news report on 2 April 2001, 53 rebels from the ADF were freed in the first application of the Amnesty Law, which was enacted more than one year ago. [65a] In the New Vision newspaper of February 2002, it was reported that as a result of intensified UPDF operations in the Rwenzori region 20 ADF rebels and seven others, including two commanders, were captured. [50c]

6.106 As reported in May 2002 in the New Vision newspaper, since the Amnesty Law came into force over 500 ADF rebels had surrendered in Kasese. Their former Chief of Staff Chris Tushabe Benz surrendered two years ago and is now a UPDF Major. [50ab]

6.107 According to the USSD 2004, "August 13 [2004], 22 members of a Muslim group were set free after treason charges were withdrawn; the 22 were arrested in 2003 for allegedly financing the ADF." [2b](p6) According to an answers.com article posted on the Wikipedia website "As of 2004, the ADF had been largely destroyed by the Ugandan People's Defense Force. [77]

West Nile Bank Front (WNBF)

6.108 According to the FAS Intelligence Resource website, the now largely defunct West Nile Front (WNBF) was mainly concerned with destabilising northern Uganda from bases in Sudan, but had linked up with Interahamwe and anti-RCD rebels around the Bunia area. The Front resumed attacks during 1998 in the northwestern region bordering Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. [13] In September 1998, the Monitor newspaper in Kampala reported that the WNBF were active and had abducted about 220 people since August 1998 and killed several others in the Arua area. [31ab] It was reported in the Africa Research Bulletin dated July 2001 that the group commander Juma Oris had died in March 2001 and had already been buried. He had reportedly suffered a stroke in 1999. [56b]

Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF II)

6.109 According to the Monitor in an article dated 3 September 1998, the United National Rescue Front II (UNRF II) operates from Sudanese bases and were also supported by the Government of Sudan. It is reported in the same article that the UNRF II have split into two factions, the original led by Juma Oris and the breakaway group by Ali Bamuzes. [31ab]

6.110 The New Vision reported on 2 May 2002 that the Government of Uganda had sent a nine-member team led by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs to talk peace with the UNRFII rebels in Yumbe District. [50aa] The Xinhua News Agency reported on 25 May 2002 that after four days of talks the two sides had agreed to formalise a cease-fire agreement. [28f] The peace process started in 1998 and

eventually on 15 June 2002, the Government of Uganda and the UNRF signed a formal cease-fire agreement, according to an IRIN article dated 26 June 2002. [68x]

6.111 In September 2002, Nasur Ezaga, the elderly former chairman of the UNRF returned to Uganda after having spent the last 13 years in exile in Sudan. He said that his return was testimony that the government of Uganda was interested and serious about the peace process. [28b]

6.112 BBC News reported on 26 December 2002, that two days earlier a peace deal had been signed between the Government and the UNRF rebels after over five years of negotiations between the two sides. In the peace deal about 700 of the rebels were to be integrated into the Ugandan army while the remainder will be given resettlement packages. The article notes that the UNRF rebels had not been a serious destabilising threat in recent years. [69a]

6.113 According to the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers Global Report 2004 on Uganda,

“Around 1,000 combatants of the Uganda National Rescue Front II and their families returned to Uganda in April 2002, having been based in Sudan since 1997. After negotiations with the government, 135 child soldiers were handed over to UNICEF.” [76]

National Army/Union for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU/NULU)

6.114 The ADF website claims the National Army/Union for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU/NULU) is an ADF- affiliated group. They have claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks that resulted in fatalities. Its aims were unclear and most of its operations were aimed against the local peasant population. It faded from view in 1994 and was thought defunct, most of the members having been absorbed into the ADF. [12] However, they re-emerged in 1997 under the leadership of Jafari K Salimu and issued both a manifesto (source 30) dedicated to overthrowing the Government and an invitation to President Museveni to meet them. [30]

CAMP

6.115 BBC Monitoring noted in July 1999 that the Citizens Army for Multiparty Politics (CAMP) had originally been led by Brigadier Smith Opon Acak, (who had been Obote's army chief of staff). He was shot by the UPDF in July 1999 when they raided his camp near the town of Lira in northern Uganda. Of the 43 others present, 4 were captured and the others escaped. [66f]

6.116 According to an article dated 23 December 2003, in The Monitor published by AllAfrica, inc. Africa News, CAMP is one of a number of groups that took up arms to fight the National Resistance Movement. The article notes from a report by Amnesty International in December 2003 that between 2000 and 2003, 10,000 rebels surrendered and applied for amnesty. Of those who surrendered, 3,848 were from the LRA, 2,902 were from the UNRF II, 1,990 from WNBF and 659 from the ADF.

There is no mention in the article about any CAMP members surrendering at that time. [31af]

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6.C Human Rights - Other Issues

Treatment of failed asylum seekers

6.117 The Ugandan Department of Immigration have confirmed that only failed asylum seekers who had previously committed a crime in Uganda, and are on their wanted list, would be arrested on arrival in the country. Someone would not be imprisoned simply for being returned to Uganda as a failed asylum seeker. The information came via the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [14c]

Treatment of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

6.118 The USSD 2004 noted that

“A number of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Government officials generally were responsive to their views; however, in August 2003, President Museveni issued a statement calling on civil society organizations to avoid involvement in partisan politics. Active domestic groups included the FHRI [Foundation for Human Rights Initiative]; FIDA-U [Uganda Association of Women Lawyers]; Human Rights Focus; the National Association of Women's Organizations of Uganda; the International Federation of Human Rights; and the Human Rights and Peace Center of Makerere University. Government officials continued to attend conferences and seminars hosted by NGOs on social problems and cooperated with NGOs on legal and prison reforms.” [2b](p14)

The USSD 2004 also noted that NGOs were required to register with the NGO Board, which included representation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as other ministries. [2b](p11)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

6.119 The Internally Displaced Persons [IDP] website, Profile of Internal Displacement: Uganda, updated 24 February 2005, reported that

“The ongoing peace talks between the government and the rebel group, Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), have revived cautious hopes that the plight of the internally displaced people (IDPs) in northern Uganda may finally be eased. While the official number of IDPs has decreased slightly from 1.6 million in June 2004 to around 1.4 million in February 2005, the real number could be more than 2

million as hundreds of thousands of IDPs live with relatives or in camps not yet fully recognised by the government. IDPs living outside official camps have not been registered and do not benefit from UN food assistance.” [9](p8)

6.120 The IDP website also states that,

“The intensity and frequency of LRA attacks have reduced considerably in the second half of 2004 and some NGOs reach far-away camps without armed escort. Nonetheless, insecurity prevails and many humanitarian organisations prefer to access the camps protected by the Ugandan army. Living conditions in the camps are appalling, with a widespread lack of infrastructure and basic services, including schools, health care, and water and sanitation facilities. IDPs living in unrecognised camps have not received any food assistance. Abductions, killings and looting by the LRA continue to impede any large-scale return movements.” [9](p8)

6.121 The IDP website further notes that

“Increased military and international political pressure has led to a weakening of the LRA and seems to have removed whatever it might have had of a political agenda. This appears to have resulted in the LRA oscillating between the willingness to engage in peace talks and a violent struggle for mere survival. To fill their ranks, the LRA has resorted to the abduction of children. An estimated 20,000 children have been abducted by the rebels during the 19-year conflict, nearly half of them reportedly in the two years up to May 2004. Tens of thousands of children, so-called night commuters, come into some of the major towns every night to sleep on the streets or in public buildings for fear of being abducted or killed.” [9](p8)

6.122 According to the USSD 2004 “During the year [2004], civilians were killed, injured, and displaced as a result of security force operations against the LRA”. [2b](p4)

6.123 The IDP website notes that there were revived expectations for peace between the Government and the LRA in February 2005. This is primarily because this is perhaps the best chance for peace in the last 18 years; There is a reduction in LRA support from the Sudanese government and a more effective Ugandan Army are beginning to have a settling effect; Primary obstacle to a realistic peace settlement is the leader of the LRA, Joseph Kony. The report notes that the LRA is in "survival mode" because of cuts in its supply lines from Sudan. "Northern Uganda, which has been torn by decades of fighting between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has perhaps its best chance for peace in the last 18 years, says the special advisor to the president of the International Crisis Group (ICG), a nongovernmental organization. John Prendergast, a former advisor on African issues at the National Security Council, said confidence-building measures such as cease-

fire negotiations, the reduction in LRA support from the Sudanese government, and a more effective Ugandan Army are beginning to have a settling effect on the region.

[9](p51)

Annexes

Annex A

Chronology of Major Events

Pre- Amin

1958 - Uganda given internal self-government.

1962 - Uganda becomes independent with Milton Obote as Prime Minister and with Buganda enjoying considerable autonomy.

1963 - Uganda becomes a Republic with Mutesa as president.

1966 - Milton Obote ends Buganda's autonomy.

1967 - New constitution vests considerable power in the president and divides Buganda into four districts.

The Idi Amin years

1971 - Milton Obote toppled in coup led by Idi Amin.

1972 - Amin orders Asians who were not Ugandan citizens - around 60,000 people - to leave the country.

1972-73 - Uganda engages in border clashes with Tanzania.

1976 - Idi Amin declares himself president for life and claims parts of Kenya.

1978 - Uganda invades Tanzania with a view to annexing Kagera region.

1979 - Tanzania invades Uganda, unifying the various anti-Amin forces under the Uganda National Liberation Front and forcing Amin to flee the country; Yusufu Lule installed as president, but is quickly replaced by Godfrey Binaisa.

1980 - Binaisa overthrown by the army.

Milton Obote becomes president after elections.

1985 - Obote deposed in military coup and is replaced by Tito Okello.

1986 - National Resistance Army rebels take Kampala and install Yoweri Museveni as president.

Museveni - Beginnings of recovery

1993 - Museveni restores the traditional kings, including the king of Buganda, but without giving them political power.

1995 - New constitution legalises political parties but maintains the ban on political activity.

1996 - Museveni returned to office in Uganda's first direct presidential election.

1997 - Ugandan troops help depose Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, who is replaced by Laurent Kabila.

1998 - Ugandan troops intervene in the Democratic republic of Congo on the side of rebels seeking to overthrow Kabila.

2000 - Ugandans vote to reject multiparty politics in favour of continuing Museveni's "no-party" system.

2001 January - East African Community (EAC) inaugurated in Arusha, Tanzania, reviving an idea which collapsed in 1977, and which lays the groundwork for a

common East African passport, flag, economic and ultimately monetary integration. Members are Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

2001 March - Uganda classifies Rwanda, its former ally in the civil war in DR Congo, as a hostile nation because of fighting the previous year between the two countries' armies in DR Congo.

Museveni wins another term in office, beating his rival Kizza Besigye by 69 percent to 28 percent.

Recent History

2002 March - Sudan, Uganda sign agreement aimed at containing Ugandan rebel group, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), active along common border. LRA wants to run Uganda along lines of biblical Ten Commandments. Led by "prophet" Joseph Kony they have kidnapped thousands of children and displaced many civilians.

2002 October - Army evacuates more than 400,000 civilians caught up in fight against LRA, which continues its brutal attacks on villages.

2002 December - Peace deal signed with Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) rebels after more than five years of negotiations.

2003 March - Government's decision-making body recommends lifting 17-year ban on political party activity, subject to public referendum.

2003 May - Uganda pulls out last of its troops from eastern DR Congo. Tens of thousands of DR Congo civilians seek asylum in Uganda.

2003 August - Former dictator Idi Amin dies in hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Up to 400,000 people were killed during his dictatorship.

2004 February - LRA rebels slaughter at least 200 people at a camp for displaced persons in the north. President Museveni blames poor military co-ordination.

2004 May - President Museveni is promoted to general and then retires from the military.

2004 September - Supreme Court overturns lower court ruling that casts doubt on "no-party" political system.

2004 December - Government and LRA rebels hold first face-to-face peace talks. A limited 18 day ceasefire granted by President Museveni expired on 22 February in northern Uganda. There are calls from the international community for more attention to be focused on the peace process in order to end the 19-year conflict.

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Annex B

Political Organisations

Political parties were ordered to suspend active operations, although not formally banned, in March 1986.

Bazzukulu ba Buganda (Grandchildren of Buganda): Bagandan separatist movement.

Buganda Youth Movement: f.1994; seeks autonomy from Buganda; Leader - Stanley Kato

Conservative Party (CP): f.1979; Leader – Jehoash Mayanja-Nkangi

Democratic Party (DP):f.1954;main support in southern Uganda; seeks multi party political system; President – Dr Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere; Vice President – Zachary Olum.

Federal Democratic Movement (FEDEMO): Kampala

Forum for Multi Party Democracy: Kampala; General Secretary – Jesse Mashatte.

Movement for New Democracy in Uganda: based in Zambia; f.1994 to campaign for multi party political system; Leader – Dan Okello-Ogwang

National Resistance Movement (NRM)

Founded in 1981 as the political wing of the guerrilla National Resistance Army in opposition to the Obote (UPC) Government. The NRM assumed power in 1986 and is the dominant force with the present Government. Leader: Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Chairman: Dr Samson Kisekka.

National Liberal Party: Kampala; f.1984 by a breakaway faction of the DP; Leader – Tiberio Okeny

Uganda Democratic Alliance: Leader – Apolo Kironde

Uganda Democratic Freedom Front: Leader – Major Herbert Itonga

Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM): Kampala; mainly Baganda support; withdrew from NRM coalition Government in 1987; Secretary General – Vacant

Uganda Independence Revolutionary Movement: f.1989; Chair – Major Okello Kolo.

Uganda Islamic Revolutionary Party (UIRP): Kampala; f.1993; Chair – Idris Muwonge.

Uganda National Unity Movement: Chair Alhaji Suleiman Ssalongo.

Uganda Patriotic Movement: Kampala; f.1980; Secretary General – Jaber Ssali.

Uganda People's Congress (UPC): f.1960; socialist-based philosophy; mainly northern support; ruling party 1962-71 and 1980-85; sole legal political party 1969-71; President – Dr Milton Obote (in exile in Zambia); National Leader – Dr James Rwanyarare.

Ugandan People's Democratic Movement (UPDM): seeks democratic reforms; support mainly from north and east of the country; includes members of former government's armed forces; signed a peace accord with the Government in 1990; Chair – Eric Otema Allimadi; Secretary General – Emmanuel Oteng.

Uganda Progressive Union (UPU): Kampala; Chair – Alfred Banyana.

Rebel Movements:

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF): Active since 1996 in south-eastern Uganda; combines Ugandan Islamic fundamentalist rebels, exiled Rwandan Hutus and guerrillas from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; President – Sheikh Jamil Mukulu.

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA): f.1987; claims to be conducting a Christian fundamentalist 'holy war' against the Government; forces estimated to number up to 6,000, operating mainly from bases in Sudan; Leader Joseph Kony; a breakaway faction (LRA-Democratic) is led by Ronald Otim Komakech.

Uganda National Rescue Front Part Two (UNRF II): based in Juba, Sudan; Leader – Ali Bamuze.

Uganda People's Freedom Movement (UPFM): based in Tororo and Kenya; f.1994 by means of the former Uganda People's Army; Leader – Peter Oti

West Nile Bank Front (WNBFB): operates in northern Uganda.

[1c](p1218)

Annex C

Prominent People

ALI Brig. Moses

Currently 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees. Charged with plotting terrorist action in April 1990. Acquitted of these charges but found guilty in January 1991 of illegally possessing ammunition. He was previously appointed Minister of the Interior after a cabinet reshuffle in which he swapped jobs with Rugomayo.

AMIN DADA Idi

Maj. Gen. (later field Marshall), led coup to overthrow Obote in January 1971. Died in 2003

AMIN Taban

Son of Idi. Currently commanding a unit of Ugandan rebels deployed in eastern DRC and recently named Chief of Staff of the ADF.

APIRA Josephine

London-based spokeswoman of the LRA.

BINAISA Godfrey

Successor to Lule as President of NEC from June 1979 - May 1980.

KAYIIRA Andrew

Ex Minister of Energy and ex-leader of UFM, charged with treason in October 1986 (charges withdrawn Feb 1987), murdered in March 1987 by unknown assailants.

LULE Dr Yusuf

President of NEC from April - June 1979.

MUSEVENI Yoweri

President of NRM Government from 1986 to present.

MUSOKE Kintu

Succeeded Adyebo as Prime Minister in November 1994.

MUTESA II

Kabaka (King) of Buganda, first president of Republic of Uganda.

OBOTE Milton

Leader of Uganda People's Congress (UPC) from 1960 and Prime Minister from 1962. Returned to office in December 1980 until July 1985.

OKELLO Basilio

Brigadier - succeeded Obote in military coup in July 1985.

OKELLO Lt.Gen.Tito

Headed Military Council established in July 1985.

ORIS Juma

Leader of West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs under Amin Government. Juma Oris died in March 2001. He had previously suffered a stroke in 1999.

SALEH Salim

Maj. Gen. - younger half-brother of President Museveni. He was appointed Army Commander in 1989 but was soon relieved of his position allegedly due to corruption apart from other reasons. He was then appointed to the job of Commander of the Reserve forces and went into private business. Since then he has built up a considerable business empire, including banking, property, air transport and cargo handling and a security firm among others. In 1996 he was re-appointed by President Museveni and he played a significant role in Uganda's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Saleh became involved in the 1998 Uganda Commercial Bank privatisation scandal and was forced, by Museveni, to resign. In 2001, the Porter Commission (a judicial commission set up to consider the allegations made by the UN panel into the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources) exonerated Saleh of any wrongdoing over allegations that he was involved in the DRC plunder.

SSEMOGERERE Paul

Chairman of DP - won 23.7 percent of votes in May 1996 elections.

SSEMUJU Herman

"President General" of the National Freedom Party (NFP). Generally considered not to be a serious political figure. Had to withdraw from 1996 Presidential election through lack of support. Often claims to have foiled assassination attempts. Now President of new rebel group, the UFF/A.

[1c](1195-1217)

Annex D Glossary

ADF	ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES
CA	CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
CAMP	CAMPAIGN FOR MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY
DP	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (FORMERLY ZAIRE)
FEDEMO	FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
FGM	FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
FIDA	UGANDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS
GDP	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
IC	INDUSTRIAL COURT
ICRC	INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
ISO	INTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
LC 3	LOCAL COUNCIL - SUBCOUNTY
LC 2	LOCAL COUNCIL - PARISH
LC 1	LOCAL COUNCIL - VILLAGE
LDU	LOCAL DEFENCE UNIT
LRA	LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY
NALU/NULU	NATIONAL ARMY (UNION) FOR THE LIBERATION OF UGANDA
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION
NRA	NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY
NRC	NATIONAL RESISTANCE COUNCIL
NRM	NATIONAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
NUSh	NEW UGANDAN SHILLING
SPLA	SUDANESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY
UFA	UGANDAN FEDERAL ARMY
UFF/A	UGANDA FREEDOM FRONT/ARMY (NEW GROUP IN 1999)
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNDA	UGANDAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
UNHCR	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
UNLA	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY
UNLF	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT
UPC	UGANDA PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
UPDA	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE ARMY
UPDF	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE
UPDM	UGANDAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
UPFM	UGANDA PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT
UNRF II	UGANDA NATIONAL RESCUE FRONT
US	UNITED STATES
Ush	UGANDAN SHILLING
WNBF	WEST NILE BANK FRONT

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