



The situation on the ground

In northern Uganda, where residents bore the brunt of more than two-decade rebellion, the army has assured the population that the rebels will not cross back. Government troops have consequently been deployed along the DR Congo and Sudan borders and security has been tightened. "Our deployments along the borders with DR Congo and Sudan are intact and there is no cause for alarm," the 4th Division army spokesman, Capt. Ronald Kakurungu, said. With the assurance of safety, the people in Northern Uganda have continued to live their normal lives.

Watoto's Commitment

In 2007, Watoto Church (formerly KPC) planted a church in Gulu town and through that church, Watoto's Project Gulu was set up to rebuild the lives of the war affected children, women and the general community in this region and its surrounds. Please refer to the About Project Gulu page (put a link on this page name) for further information.

The history

For more than 20 years, the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group has waged a ruthless 'spiritual' crusade of murder, mutilation, abduction and destruction against the people of Northern Uganda. Unimaginable atrocities have been inflicted upon an entire generation of children.

In the early 2000s, the Government of Uganda embarked on physical confrontation forcing the rebels out of Northern Uganda into Southern Sudan and eventually the Democratic Republic of Congo where they are currently based.

The Government then offered rebel leader Joseph Kony and his top commanders amnesty through the peace talks that started on 14 July 2006 in Juba, Southern Sudan. However, the talks dragged on when the LRA repeatedly failed to sign the final peace agreement, citing indictments against its top commanders by the International Criminal Court (ICC) among other excuses.

The final blow was on 29th & 30th November 2008 when Kony kept mediators and diplomats waiting for two days in Sudan. He did not show up to sign the agreement, insisting that the ICC indictments must be dropped.

In the meantime, he continued terrorising the local people of Southern Sudan and DR Congo, killing and maiming thousands of them and in the process defying the cease-fire agreements.

His adamancy to the peace talks caused the Government of Uganda along with the governments of Southern Sudan and DR Congo with the backing of the American Government and other Western powers to resume physical warfare. The joint attack was launched on Sunday, 14th December 2008 and since then; Kony and his army have been on the run.

More reading about the war:

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/667448>

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/664595>

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/UPDF_captures_100_LRA_guns_78304.shtml