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Uganda Children's Rights

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RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Mr. Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
P.O. Box 14285
Washington, D.C. 20044-4285
703-941-8878
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*file Uganda
children's rights
children in conflict*

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

February 1, 1999

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I am with the GIC Special Projects (Global Investment Company) under contract with the Office of U.S. Trade and Foreign Investments, and am also with the International Rescue Committee under the contract of the Department of State. I am an American, but was born in Northern Uganda.

I am writing to you to enlist your support in efforts now underway to secure the release of hundreds of children now under the captivity of Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). These children are either held in captivity on Sudanese soil, or are deployed as child-killers and soldiers for the LRA inside Uganda. In the last 10 years of the war between the cultish LRA rebels and the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, it is estimated by Unicef that as many as 10,000 children have been abducted by the LRA. Today, many of these children are full-fledged members of Kony's fighting force, having "grown up" in the LRA cult. Others are newly abducted young children who are forced to carry out duties at the rear camps in Sudan, including sex services for the LRA commanders.

There are now immediate prospects for the release of up to 200 of these younger children. As understood by the parties involved, this release would also be a first step in bringing about negotiations for a peace settlement with the LRA, which would end the war and bring all the children home.

I am seeking your aid because you have dedicated your life to the protection of women and children. And, as First Lady of the United States, you have visited

Uganda twice, and voiced your concern for the sufferings of the children of the north caused by the war.

Before proceeding further, please permit me to give you some background on the war.

The LRA war against the Museveni government began ten years ago. Before that the Ugandan Peoples Army and the Ugandan Democratic Peoples Army, which had fought the new Museveni regime from 1986-88, had reached an agreement with the government and laid down their arms. The war in Northern Uganda, which had been prosecuted by Museveni beginning in 1986, was perpetuated, however, by the cult leader Alice Lakwena and her Holy Spirit Movement. After Lakwena's forces were defeated in 1988, the fight was continued by her father Lukoya, and then by her cousin Joseph Kony. Kony's Lord's Resistance Army was comprised of remnants of the UPDA, and the Holy Spirit Movement. But for the most part, over the last ten years, Kony's recruitment method has been the abduction of children of Northern Uganda, from the Acholi community.

This war has caused unbelievable levels of suffering in the Acholi community. Parents have watched as their children are abducted and turned into sex-slaves or child-killers. The LRA has been able with virtual impunity to loot, kill, and kidnap in the two war districts of Kitgum and Gulu, the home of the Acholi people.

For the last ten years, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has vowed to militarily defeat the Lord's Resistance Army, but he has failed to do so. Nevertheless, President Museveni has refused to negotiate with the LRA. In 1994, peace negotiations between Kony and the Museveni government were carried out under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Bigombe, then Minister of Northern Reconstruction. The LRA showed that it was willing to come out of the bush, but at the last moment the government set new conditions which destroyed the talks. At that point, the LRA found safe haven and some logistical support from the government of Sudan. Since then, the LRA's attacks on the Acholi community have increased.

When the Acholi community demanded protection from the government against the abductions, killings, burning and looting by the LRA, the Museveni's government's only response was to herd the rural population of Kitgum and Gulu into "protected villages." This policy uprooted the Acholi from their homes and farms, destroying their means of livelihood. It placed them in camps, where there is even today no food, no medical services, no

sanitation, no clean water, no education for the children. Today, there are 474,000 Acholis in these camps, most of them widows and children. Children are dying of disease, particularly diarrhea and measles. Calls by Acholi religious leaders to the Ugandan government to declare the two war districts as disaster zones, permitting the influx of international relief, have fallen on deaf ears.

For the past two years, I and other Acholi leaders, both inside and outside Uganda, have been working to bring about an end to the war. In December and early January, I was able to carry out a peace mission, which took me to London, Cairo, and to Khartoum and Juba in Sudan. I was able to speak to Sudan government officials who then arranged for me to meet with Joseph Kony directly.

I requested of both the Sudan government and Joseph Kony the release of all the children in the captivity of the LRA and their cooperation in seeking a peace process to end the war. The LRA leadership welcomed this initiative and said the LRA would be able to release up to 200 children who are at the LRA base camp in Sudan. The LRA leaders indicated their understanding that this release would lead to additional steps for the securing of a peace settlement. The government of Sudan indicated to me that it would cooperate with this effort for peace, if the government of Uganda were also willing to negotiate.

Upon my return to Washington, in the second week of January, I conveyed to the Department of State what had transpired. I requested that the Department of State get involved in supporting the peace process, and place pressure on the governments of both Uganda and Sudan to end the war. I submitted a memorandum on my peace mission with recommendations for further steps for peace.

Since that time, I have received no response from the Department of State. Before my peace mission, the relevant State Department officials had indicated that they would support an ending to the war. However, now that the breakthrough has been made, there is silence.

This silence is one reason why I am seeking your help, either directly or indirectly. It is impossible to either secure the release of the children or to secure a permanent peace without the moral, diplomatic, and financial support from the relevant agencies in the United States.

I am enclosing to you the Memorandum and Recommendations I presented to the State Department. I would like to meet with you personally to give you a fuller understanding of how we might proceed to secure the release of the children and to end the war.

I know that bringing peace to Northern Uganda and securing the release of the children of Kitgum and Gulu who have undergone such terrible physical and psychological suffering will benefit the long-suffering Acholi people. I also believe that it is in the interests of the United States to aid in this process.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration to this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jongomoi Okidi-Olal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC/Special Projects
Chief of Staff

Mr. Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
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Mr. Thomas Pickering
Undersecretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

January 22, 1999

Dear Sir,

I am herewith submitting to you a report and memorandum on my Dec. 20-Jan. 5 trip for peace in Northern Uganda, which took me to London, Cairo, Khartoum, and Juba. During the trip, I met with all the people I intended to meet, including the government official of the Sudan government that has been placed in charge of the Lord's Resistance Army. The Sudan government also put me in touch with Joseph Kony, the LRA leader. I discussed with Kony the release of children under his captivity on Sudan soil. Kony agreed to make arrangements to release over 100 of the younger children who are at the base camp in Sudan. We also discussed arrangements required for a peace process to end the long war in Northern Uganda. Kony agreed again that he would consult with his commanders, and that by the time of our next meeting would be prepared to proceed with arrangements for peace.

Upon my return to Washington, I gave a detailed report to the officials at the African Bureau of the Department of State. Two weeks ago, I submitted a formal report and my recommendations to Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice, with a copy also to Director of the East Africa Bureau David Dunn. Up to now, there has been no response. There is no sign that they will respond soon. However, this case requires urgent action, particularly in the case of the release of the children, who are currently living under intolerable conditions, physically and mentally.

Because of the total silence from this section of the State Department, I am turning to you, as the Undersecretary of State and someone who has long experience in Africa and has been working on similar cases, to help review the matter and help make decisions for future action. I believe that it is important that we work to secure these children's safety and proceed with arrangements to bring about a permanent peace in Northern Uganda, which will also aid in resolving

the conflict in southern Sudan. I believe that peace is the only way out of these conflicts, not more war. The continuation of the war will only prolong the violence, and thereby the suffering and death of the people in the region.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you soon. Thank you for your consideration of this serious matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jongomoi Okidi-Olal', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC Special Projects
Chief of Staff

**MEMORANDUM ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE
WAR IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND NEGOTIATION FOR
RELEASE OF CHILDREN IN THE CAPTIVITY OF THE
LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY IN SOUTHERN SUDAN**

The conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Yoweri Museveni government has gone on for 13 years, and it has cost a lot of lives for the Acholi people. They are the victims of this war, from both sides. Neither the LRA nor the Ugandan government has taken any steps to end this war. I and others have come forward for the last 18 months to find a means for a peaceful settlement to this conflict. We believe that after 13 years of war, the government of Uganda is not in a position to win a military victory over the LRA. The LRA is not in a position to overthrow the government of Uganda. Instead, the LRA concentrates on the killing of innocent people, on the abduction of innocent children. They are not always in a military confrontation with the Ugandan army; they turn most of their weapons against innocent civilians. At the same time, the government of Uganda is not protecting its own citizens.

1. A brief note on the activities of the LRA:

The LRA claims that they are fighting to overthrow Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, but in reality, they are engaged in killing the very people they claim to be fighting for.

- * They do not respect the human rights of the civilians in the area.

- * They continue to abduct young children and force the closing of all the schools, so there is no future for the education of these children. The LRA abductees are then turned into "child-killers," forced to kill their own people, their own families. The Acholi people do not blame the children for this, but see these children as victims, who are forced and trained to kill by the LRA commanders. The Acholi people see that these children need immediate help.

- * The LRA continues to destroy property, crops, and other foodstuffs in the two districts of Gulu and Kitgum in northern Uganda.

As a result of all this, the war has caused famine in the area, and the death toll is rising every day among civilians. The Acholi community has come to the point that it is committed to ending this war, because the conflict has caused so much suffering. The situation has been made all the worse, since the government of Yoweri Museveni does not protect the people. The reason for Museveni's failure to secure the safety of the Acholi people from the LRA, is that he had planned earlier to destroy the

Acholi community, with their properties, because he has long regarded the Acholi community as a threat to his power. But now, the LRA is doing even more against the Acholi people than Museveni himself would have planned.

Thus, the LRA is not engaged in fighting the military of Yoweri Museveni, but in fact is carrying out Museveni's mission for the destruction of the Acholi people, and the Acholi people are well aware of this reality. This is why the LRA has lost all respect and all support from the Acholi people on the ground.

The LRA has also lost support from all citizens of Uganda, and they have lost support worldwide.

2. On the side of the government of Yoweri Museveni, his government does not seem to care about the suffering of the Acholi people. Museveni seems to close his mind to the destruction that has been ongoing within the Acholi community. Instead of fighting the LRA and defeating them, he goes to fight in foreign countries, leaving his own people to be killed.

For Museveni, peace in the northern districts is a political gamble. His refusal to either make peace with or defeat the LRA, while the destruction of the lives and livelihood of the Acholi people continues, has lost him the support of the people. But that does not come as a surprise to some of us who know his theory of violence to maintain power.

The Ugandan President is further empowered by the violent insurgent activity of the LRA. He is militarily and diplomatically capable of ending the conflict, and the people call upon him day and night--from the pulpits to the street, from the community to parliament, from educational institutions--to end the conflict.

However, Museveni is not willing to end the conflict for the following reasons:

a. Museveni and his family, which command the Ugandan army, make a lot of money from this war. The war has become a family business in which Museveni and his family make money out of the blood of innocent civilians.

b. As the war continues in northern Uganda, Museveni continues to claim that the support of the LRA comes from the Sudan, and as a result he is able to go to London and Washington and claim that the Sudan government is backing the rebels, or "terrorists," and is a threat to the national security of Uganda and the region. In this way, he receives a lot

of money to allegedly defend his country against the Sudan and its "Islamic fundamentalist" government. He can claim that he is not fighting the LRA, but the Sudan. For the last six years, Museveni has been able to come to Washington and make this claim, and to reap the benefits of it. When he is given this money from Washington, he does not use this money to fight the LRA or to defend the Acholi people, but he puts this money into his family's businesses, or diverts this money to fight other wars, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a war which he has also turned into a family business in gold, timber, and diamonds.

c. If there is peace in northern Uganda, there will be increased momentum for a peace process in southern Sudan, to end the 16-year civil war there. Museveni has been involved in this war through his support for the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army of John Garang. As even the SPLA has complained, however, Museveni also makes money from southern Sudan and the prolongation of the war there, and he wants to prolong the war to keep his family businesses going.

d. If peace is brought to northern Uganda, then Museveni is likely to face a stronger challenge from the citizens of Uganda for a full multi-party democracy in Uganda, which Museveni openly and directly opposes as a threat to the effective one-party rule of his National Resistance Movement.

In the last 13 years, over half a million people have died due to causes stemming from the war. Over 700,000 people are living in concentration camps in northern Uganda. Over 10,000 children have been abducted by the LRA over the last 13 years, and the whereabouts of most of these children is unknown. Schools in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum are closed.

This is a very serious matter. I and others have come forward and have been working for a peaceful settlement to this conflict, because a military victory for either side will not come. I personally wrote a recommendation to the Congress, to the Department of State, and to the White House, asking for support to advance this process. After several meetings in London and after a meeting of religious leaders and some legislators in northern Uganda, we have decided to proceed with finding ways of negotiating with Joseph Kony, and asking the government of Uganda to agree on a framework for negotiations and permanent settlement of this conflict.

Upon my recommendation to the U.S. Congress, in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, to the State Department, and to the White House to support this process, there was total silence from all branches of the government to support our efforts. Since then, the death toll continues to rise in northern Uganda; more children have been abducted; and more schools have been destroyed. At the same time, the Ugandan government, instead of using the Ugandan army to fight the insurgency in the north, has deployed those troops to fight in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Museveni does not care about his own people of the northern districts of Uganda.

After I had waited in vain for a response from the Department of State to support the process we have started, I did inform the East African Bureau that I was proceeding to go into the Sudan and find ways of talking to the government of Sudan, which supports the LRA, and to request that they permit me to speak to the LRA leader Joseph Kony directly.

My mission to Sudan, which started on December 21 and continued through January 4, took me to London to Cairo, to Khartoum, and to Juba, in southern Sudan.

My mission was as follows to talk to the government of Sudan to ask them:

- a. To arrange a meeting between myself and LRA leader Joseph Kony to discuss a peaceful settlement to the war
- b. To arrange for the release of all the children who are now in LRA captivity on Sudan soil controlled by the Khartoum government
- c. To ask the government of Sudan to urge Joseph Kony to stop killing innocent civilians in northern Uganda
- d. To urge the government of Sudan to stop supporting or supplying any arms, if they are doing that, to the LRA, and to cease giving the LRA safe haven, because the LRA military activity in northern Uganda is destructive to innocent civilians but not to the Ugandan military.
- e. To urge the government of Sudan to pressure Joseph Kony and his commanders to come to the negotiating table with a clear agenda of creating a permanent peace in northern Uganda.

- f. To request the government of Sudan to work with myself and others who are pursuing peace, security, and economic cooperation in the region.

All these requests in meetings with the Sudan officials. The Sudan government welcomed my peace initiative. Sudan government officials arranged to put me in touch with Joseph Kony, who was then on the border of Uganda. But they managed to track him down, and he and I had a discussion in the presence of Sudan military and civilian government officials. In our discussion I urged Joseph Kony the following:

- a. To stop killing innocent people in northern Uganda and to stop looting their properties.
- b. To arrange to release all the children who are under his captivity in order for them to be returned to their parents and to return to school, and to have a brighter future.
- c. To come to the negotiating table and settle this conflict peacefully, when the government of Uganda agrees to sit down.

Kony's general reply was that he does not trust the government of Yoweri Museveni, and will not surrender to the government of Museveni. If Museveni wants a serious and honest peaceful settlement, he, Kony, will be ready to sit down with respect, but only in the presence of third parties. Kony suggested that the government of the United States act as a third party, and he also requests that during the negotiation, the government of Sudan should be present, since the LRA is in their territory. He also agreed to the release of 130 children who are underaged who are with him. However, the other children that have been listed as being under the LRA captivity, have been trained and are part of his fighting force. It will be very difficult to secure their immediate release, since they are on the battlefield. He did agree to the 130 children, because of their young age and their presence in his camp. However, he said, he could only release them to the government of Sudan, and the Sudan government could then hand them to over to a U.S. agency, to Unicef, or the International Committee of the Red Cross for their rehabilitation before they are returned back to their parents. He repeatedly said that he would never release the children to the government of Yoweri Museveni, because he said he does not trust that government. We ended our meeting by promising to meet again, in the presence of his of commanders to make arrangements for the children's release and proceed with a peace process.

Recommendations to the Department of State

Once again I am sending my recommendation to the Department of State. This is not the first time I have sent my recommendation on this issue. Now that I have made a breakthrough, I believe we are on the way to peace. In order to fulfill this mission and to build a framework for peace, I request the following:

The U.S. Department of State should support the peace process to end the war in northern Uganda, and this support should include:

- a. Urging the Administration to help in the process
- b. Support the peace process financially, enabling me to return to Sudan and continue negotiations for the release of the children and to build a framework for peace
- c. Support any resolution that might be brought by the Congress in support for peace, security, and economic development in northern Uganda
- d. Finance the rehabilitation of the released children, and rehabilitation and training of the rebel returnees after the peace agreement, so that they may have some skills which enable them to advance their lives, instead of returning back to the bush in despair.
- e. Pressure President Yoweri Museveni to join the peace process that we have already started to settle this conflict peacefully.
- f. Choose a few members of the Department of State to work with me in carrying out this peace process, and aid in the release of the children.

I am prepared to return to Sudan at any time, and both the Sudan government officials and Joseph Kony are waiting to hear from me on the next step. I go through Sudan government officials in order to get in touch with Joseph Kony, so I need the permission from the U.S. Department of State for this as well, in order to speak freely to Sudan government officials.

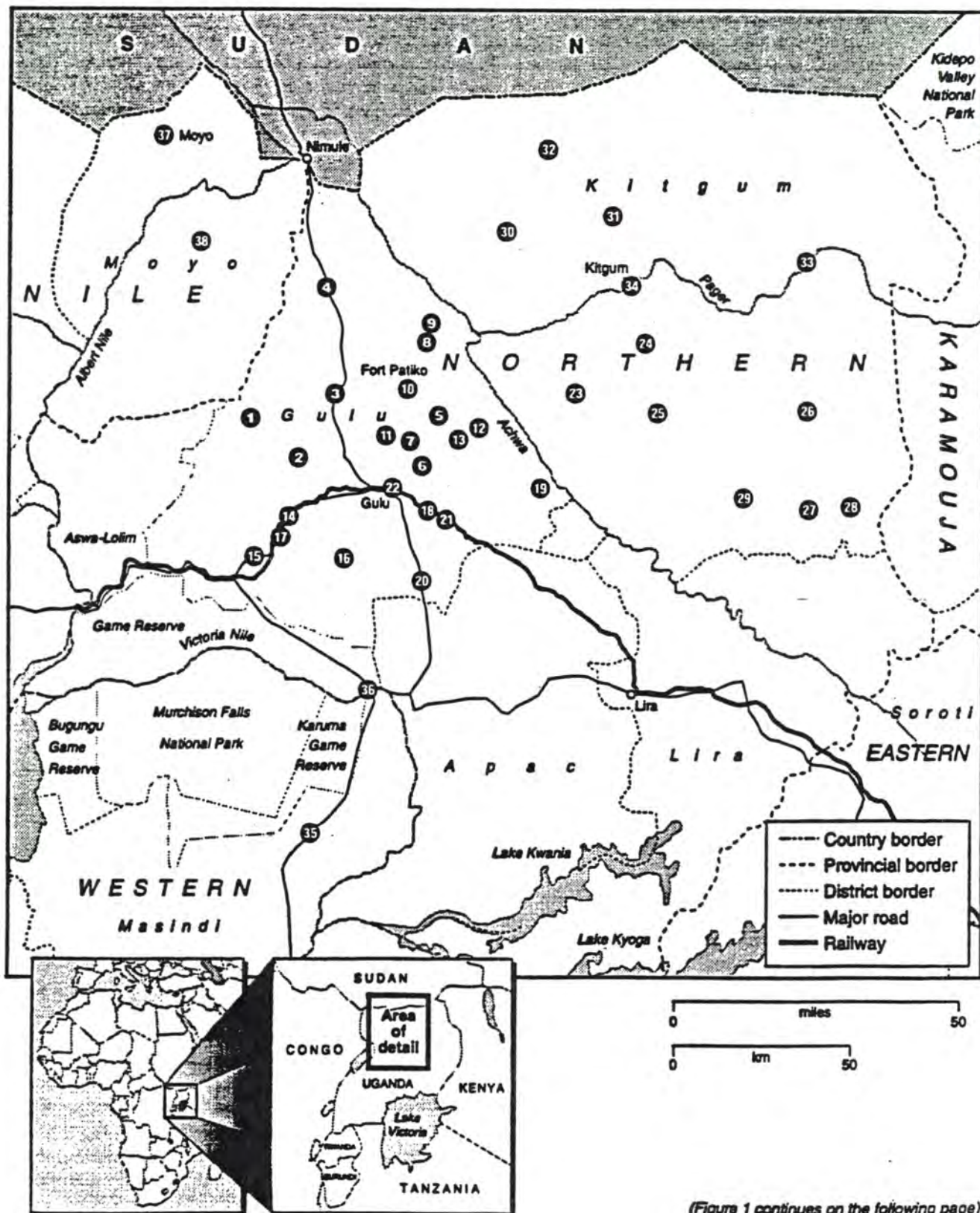
Submitted by Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC/Special Projects, Chief of Staff

FIGURE 1 (continued)

Sub-division	County	Number of Persons
<i>Gulu District</i>		
1. Amaru*	Kiak	32,000
2. Awe	Kiak	11,000
3. Pabo*	Kiak	20,000
4. Atiak	Kiak	14,000
5. Awac	Aswa	8,000
6. Onyama	Aswa	8,000
7. Coo-pee	Aswa	9,000
Palao	Aswa	
8. Made-ade township		4,000
9. Labwonyaro-moo township		5,000
10. Patiko	Aswa	7,000
11. Gwenya-deyo	Aswa	8,500
12. Cwero	Aswa	3,700
13. Paicho	Aswa	5,200
14. Alero*	Nwoya	28,000
15. Anaka (Payira)*	Nwoya	36,000
16. Koc-Goma	Nwoya	5,000
17. Koc-Ongako	Nwoya	7,000
18. Acet	Omoro	16,000
19. Odek	Omoro	11,000
20. Bobi*	Omoro	7,000
21. Lakwaramer	Omoro	6,000
22. Gulu City		50,000
<i>Gulu District Total</i>		<i>297,400</i>
<i>Kitgum District</i>		
23. Lacek-ocot*	Aruu	7,500
24. Acholibur	Aruu	5,000
25. Pajule	Aruu	22,000
26. Kalongo*	Agago	6,000
27. Patongo	Agago	21,000
28. Adilang*	Agago	approx. 5,000
29. Lira Pahwo*	Agago	approx. 5,000
30. Palabek-Kal*	Lamwo	9,000
31. Padibe*	Lamwo	7,000
32. Lokung*	Lamwo	approx. 3,000
33. Naam-okora	Chua	20,000
34. Kitgum City		50,000
<i>Kitgum District Total</i>		<i>160,500</i>
<i>Masindi District</i>		
35. Kinyadongo		
36. Karuma		combined 26,000
<i>Moyo District</i>		
37. Moyo		
38. Adjumani		camps under construction
<i>Grand Total</i>		<i>483,900</i>

* "Protected villages" that have come under military attack by the Lord's Resistance Army.

Museveni's 'protected villages' in northern Uganda



(Figure 1 continues on the following page)



file Uganda - children's MS
Embassy of the United States of America

Office of the Ambassador
Kampala, Uganda
January 11, 1999

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Verveer:

First, best wishes for the New Year. I hope you'll find a way to make it three-in-a-row and return to Kampala in 1999. We would all welcome you and the First Lady once again. I've spoken to Anita Botti concerning our interest in hosting Africa's Vital Voices. I hope you will keep us in mind.

I am forwarding for your action Christmas greetings and a letter from the Concerned Parents Association and the sisters of St. Mary's College in Aboke. The First Lady has met with members of the association and the faculty as part of their efforts to obtain the release of the girls who were abducted from the school in 1996 by the Lord's Resistance Army. Mrs. Clinton referred to their plight and that of the thousands of other children during her speech in Kampala last March.

I visited the school in December and met with the faculty and parents group as well as with two of the girls who escaped. It was an incredibly moving experience and a vivid reminder of the horror that is being inflicted by the Lord's Resistance Army.

Many thanks for the photos from the March visit that were forwarded by your office. They were the only ones we received of the meeting with the American community. There were many, many smiles and pleasant memories of last year's visit when I passed them out.

Sincerely,

Nancy Powell
Nancy J. Powell
Ambassador



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE ABOKE.

PLEASE,

KINDLY KEEP IN YOUR PRAYER

OUR STUDENTS STILL CAPTIVE IN SUDAN:

(abducted on 10.10.1996)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------|
| 1. ABER JANET | S 3 | - Gulu |
| 2. ACAN GRACE | S 3 | - Lira |
| 3. ACEN PALMA | S 2 | - Kitgum |
| 4. AKELLO AGNES | S 1 | - Lira |
| 5. AJCK CATHERINE | S 2 | - Apac |
| 6. AKELLO JANET | S 2 | - Apac |
| 7. AKELLO MIRIAM | S 2 | - Moroto |
| 8. ALABA SYLVIA | S 1 | - Lira |
| 9. ALOBO JACKLIN | S 2 | - Lira |
| 10. ANGU JESKA | S 1 | - Lira |
| 11. ANYANGO CAROLINE | S 3 | - Lira |
| 12. ATIM ANGELA | S 3 | - Gulu |
| 13. ATOO BRENDA | S 2 | - Lira |
| 14. AWINO CHARLOTTE | S 3 | - Lira |
| 15. EJANG SUSAN | S 1 | - Lira |
| 16. ENANG JUDITH | S 3 | - Lira |
| 17. KIA REBECCA | S 1 | - Apac |
| 18. LONGORIA AGATHA | S 3 | - Moroto |
| 19. NAMAHELE LOUIZA | S 1 | - Lira |
| 20. NYANJURA VICTORIA | S 2 | - Atura-Apac |
| 21. WEGESA JACKLINE | S 2 | - Lira |

AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER CAPTIVES.

Thank-you.

1. APIO SUSAN - was abducted on 21st March 1989; she was killed during a crossfire about 2 months after being kidnapped.

2. ENANG JUDITH - was abducted on 10.10.1996; there are strong rumours that she was killed by Kony's order in November 1997.

3. ALUK TEDDY - this last victim, was returning to School from her holidays on the 1st of June 1998; at 6 km from Kitgum - her home town - the bus she was travelling with ran into an ambush; she died burnt inside the bus.

Again, we ask your prayers for these young innocent victims and for hundreds of other victims of this tragedy.

Thank you.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
First Lady
U.S.A.

St. Mary's College Abaka
P.B. LIRA - UGANDA
Christmas 1988

With deep gratitude for your kind
concern for our 21 girls still in Sudan
and thousands of other captives, we
wish you a very happy Christmas.
May the coming New Year bring you
all that your heart desires.
Please rest assure of our daily prayers.
With best regards
Yours sincerely
2 m Aba Bulo

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE ①
PRIVATE BAG,
LIRA
18/12/1998

MRS POWELL
THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR
TO UGANDA.

Your excellency,

It is my pleasure to disclose to you that your special visit has started a new chapter in our struggle for the release of our abducted children who are in rebel captivity in Sudan.

Your excellency, I have tried together with the school administrators especially Rev. sr. Rachelle and members of concerned parents Association to see to it that the innocent abducted children are released by L.R.A rebels. We have nearly exhausted all possible avenues but they are still held in rebel captivity. I hope your special visit will mark the dawn of their release.

Your excellency, I would like to bring to your attention that despite the efforts of those who felt concerned that

(2)

child abduction is a threat to society existence, there are others who are bent towards perpetrating it. They are covered up, tormenting our children, laughing at us and insulting our sorrow with infinite lies. Take for instance that the students of St. Mary's College were not abducted but were captured when the L.R.A rebels engaged the government troops. This is very false and I bear witness that they were abducted from their dormitories under their blankets after midnight. It pains us and I hope through your good office you will see to it that those who are perpetrating child abduction will be silenced and the efforts of the school administration and members of concerned parents Association will not be frustrated towards the release of young innocent children who are still in rebel captivity in Sudan.

Your excellency, concerned parents Association is still a baby as observed by one of UNICEF representatives. So

for it to begin walking and achieve its aims, it needs some support, one way or the other. I hope you will look into it in your embassy. (3)

Your excellency, despite the efforts of good women and men, who have struggled day in, day out to see to it that peace prevail in this country. We from this part of the country are still on the look-out for good individuals of your calibre. I hope you will be our ambassador for peace as well as the ambassador of U.S.A. And may peace prevail through you from Northern Uganda down to western Uganda.

Last but not least, your excellency the biggest headache to us which have made our eyes to brim with tears is that our children are still in rebel captivity in Sudan. I hope your visit in this part of the country has made you to be in touch with the situation on the ground, and therefore you will offer us your candid assistance where possible so that our children are released as

④

we are very badly off for them.

Finally, your excellency, all I have written herein is for God and my Country. may the good Lord protect you and bless your work richly. Amen

Yours faith fully,

O CRN JOHN BOS CO

(A TEACHER WHO RESCUED THE
GIRLS WITH REV. SR. RACHTEL)



SOROTI DISTRICT MOVEMENT COMMITTEE

P.O.BOX 1,
SOROTI
UGANDA

Our Ref: SDM/9/98

21st December, 1998

Her Excellency the Ambassador
The United States of America
P. O. Box 7007
Kampala, Uganda

Your Excellency,

RE: AMBASSADOR'S TRAVEL TO SOROTI DISTRICT

I wish to register our gratitude to you and your entourage for a significant visit to Soroti District on December 17.

This visit was commendable for a number of reasons. Firstly it was the first visit in the post conflict era by the Ambassador of the biggest Donor Country to the war-ravaged district of Soroti.

Secondly it was significant that you were able to make on the sport assessments of projects that are funded by your government and U.S.A.I.D.

Your address to the District leadership, and your visit to the Womens Self Help projects at Arapai, Opuyo, and Kamuda were a clear demonstration of your commitment to the establishment of a partnership for the enhancement of a sustainable development effort by our people.

I am therefore grateful, particularly to you and Costas Christ, Ron Stryker, and Randy Berry, for having accorded our people the benefit of your personal presence.

As I did indicate earlier, Soroti District, which has been plagued by insurgency similar to Gulu and Kitgum, will in the foreseeable future continue to require



**SOROTI DISTRICT
MOVEMENT COMMITTEE**

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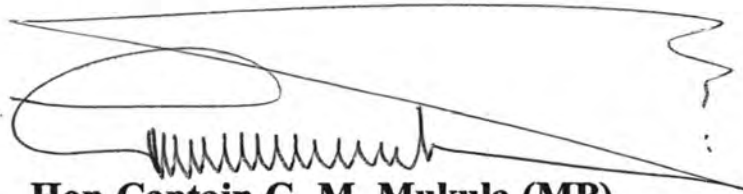
maximum support from friends of good will in order to effectively counter the traumatic impacts of strife on all sectors of our people's livelihood and development.

I wish to identify education as the most effective short, medium and long term vehicle for implementing that strategy. It is in this regard that I would like to draw your attention to the Soroti Library, which site is to be accessed by all schools in the area. The people have provided land, and have proceeded to build the Library, approaching the ring beam. 35% of the work has been accomplished. My plea is for a combined effort from people of goodwill to supplement this local effort and complete the library.

I would be much obliged for any support in this regard.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. M. Mukula', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a series of vertical strokes at the end.

Hon Captain G. M. Mukula (MP)

CHAIRMAN, SOROTI DISTRICT MOVEMENT COMMITTEE

"PROJECT 98/99- PRINCESS DIANA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL"-SOROTI.

CITY OFFICE
P.O. BOX 10101,
KAMPALA
UGANDA.
TEL.: 041-349424
MOBILE: 075-692336

BRANCH OFFICE
P.O.BOX 1
SOROTI
UGANDA.

**OUR REF: P.D.M/1/98
23RD DECEMBER, 1998**

**THE EXCELLENCY
THE AMBASSADOR
THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
P.O. BOX 7007
KAMPALA
UGANDA.**

Dear Sir,

**ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCESS
DIANA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.**

Reference is made to the above subject matter and we call upon you to join hands towards the Soroti Municipality development initiative to put in place a Maternity Wing in memory of the late Princess Diana.

The Memorial Project has already taken off to a certain stage but still with the assurance from you through either your financial or material support, we hope to realize and witness the completion of this Hosptial.

We wolcome your generous contribution A/C Princess Diana memorial Hospital Ltd Vide the kampala Project Offices located at National Insurance Building Annex suit b-02 pilikington road kampala P.o. Box10101 kampala Tel. 041-349424,M0bile 075-690281,075-692336,077-407271.

However, well wisher's including Barclays Bank and other International Sympathizers have come to the aid of the project through Kind donations.

Awaiting for your traditional Co-operation towards this noble cause.



**VERONICA ACHOM
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
PRINCESS DIANA**



SOROTI DISTRICT MOVEMENT COMMITTEE

P.O.BOX 1,
SOROTI
UGANDA

Our Ref: SDM/10/98

21st December, 1998

Her Excellency the Ambassador
The United States of America
P. O. Box 7007
Kampala, Uganda

Your Excellency,

RE: VOICE OF TESO

Further to our letter Ref: SDM/9/98 dated 21st December, 1998, I wish to re-echo my plea on the above subject matter.

We would be grateful for any gestures to link the Voice of Teso with the Voice of America through the auspices of the United States Information Service.

Our main interests lie in the area of capacity building in information networking in terms of the following equipment for net working with various international stakeholders and international players in the United States of America:

1. Basic Satellite receiver and Decoder
2. Computer and Accessories
3. The "Regular" information Bulletin

I look forward to your demonstration of goodwill and support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a series of vertical strokes.

Hon. Captain G. M. Mukula (MP)
CHAIRMAN, SOROTI DISTRICT MOVEMENT COMMITTEE

FAX

file
Uganda

*Office of the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa
U.S. Agency for International Development
Room 4.08C RRB*

Washington, D.C. 20523-4801

DATE: December 31, 1998

TO: Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady

PHONE: (202) 456-6266

FAX: (202) 456-6244

FROM: DAA/AFR, Carol Peasley

PHONE: (202) 712-0500

FAX : (202) 216-3008

NUMBER OF PAGES : 4

SUBJECT: Message from Uganda

MESSAGE: Attached is a rather lengthy e-mail reporting on one of the HIV/AIDS patients the First Lady met during her 1997 visit to Uganda. It's sad, but we thought you all would want to know. Let us all hope that there are fewer such messages in 1999 – but fear it will be many years before we can say that.

Carol

Please deliver upon receipt.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	re: personal medical (3 pages)	12/31/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20056

FOLDER TITLE:

Uganda Children's Rights

2013-0534-S

rc1858

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

file Uganda
Mr. Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
P.O. Box 14285
Washington, D.C. 20044-4285
703-941-8878
703-941-8879 (fax)

Ms. Melaae Virveer
First Lady Chief of Staff
Old Executive Building
Room 100
Washington, D.C. 20500

February 1, 1999

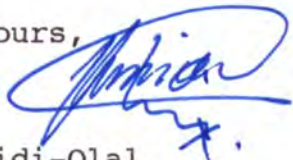
Dear Ms. Virveer,

I am writing to you to request you to forward this letter to the First Lady, and help to follow up on this.

I would also like to request that you arrange a meeting for me with the First Lady as soon as possible, to discuss the details on how we might proceed with securing the release of children from the captivity of the Lord's Resistance Army in southern Sudan.

I am looking forward to meeting with you soon. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,



Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC Special Projects
Chief of Staff

Mr. Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
P.O. Box 14285
Washington, D.C. 20044-4285
703-941-8878
703-941-8879 (fax)

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

February 1, 1999

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I am with the GIC Special Projects (Global Investment Company) under contract with the Office of U.S. Trade and Foreign Investments, and am also with the International Rescue Committee under the contract of the Department of State. I am an American, but was born in Northern Uganda.

I am writing to you to enlist your support in efforts now underway to secure the release of hundreds of children now under the captivity of Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). These children are either held in captivity on Sudanese soil, or are deployed as child-killers and soldiers for the LRA inside Uganda. In the last 10 years of the war between the cultish LRA rebels and the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, it is estimated by Unicef that as many as 10,000 children have been abducted by the LRA. Today, many of these children are full-fledged members of Kony's fighting force, having "grown up" in the LRA cult. Others are newly abducted young children who are forced to carry out duties at the rear camps in Sudan, including sex services for the LRA commanders.

There are now immediate prospects for the release of up to 200 of these younger children. As understood by the parties involved, this release would also be a first step in bringing about negotiations for a peace settlement with the LRA, which would end the war and bring all the children home.

I am seeking your aid because you have dedicated your life to the protection of women and children. And, as First Lady of the United States, you have visited

Uganda twice, and voiced your concern for the sufferings of the children of the north caused by the war.

Before proceeding further, please permit me to give you some background on the war.

The LRA war against the Museveni government began ten years ago. Before that the Ugandan Peoples Army and the Ugandan Democratic Peoples Army, which had fought the new Museveni regime from 1986-88, had reached an agreement with the government and laid down their arms. The war in Northern Uganda, which had been prosecuted by Museveni beginning in 1986, was perpetuated, however, by the cult leader Alice Lakwena and her Holy Spirit Movement. After Lakwena's forces were defeated in 1988, the fight was continued by her father Lukoya, and then by her cousin Joseph Kony. Kony's Lord's Resistance Army was comprised of remnants of the UPDA, and the Holy Spirit Movement. But for the most part, over the last ten years, Kony's recruitment method has been the abduction of children of Northern Uganda, from the Acholi community.

This war has caused unbelievable levels of suffering in the Acholi community. Parents have watched as their children are abducted and turned into sex-slaves or child-killers. The LRA has been able with virtual impunity to loot, kill, and kidnap in the two war districts of Kitgum and Gulu, the home of the Acholi people.

For the last ten years, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has vowed to militarily defeat the Lord's Resistance Army, but he has failed to do so. Nevertheless, President Museveni has refused to negotiate with the LRA. In 1994, peace negotiations between Kony and the Museveni government were carried out under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Bigombe, then Minister of Northern Reconstruction. The LRA showed that it was willing to come out of the bush, but at the last moment the government set new conditions which destroyed the talks. At that point, the LRA found safe haven and some logistical support from the government of Sudan. Since then, the LRA's attacks on the Acholi community have increased.

When the Acholi community demanded protection from the government against the abductions, killings, burning and looting by the LRA, the Museveni's government's only response was to herd the rural population of Kitgum and Gulu into "protected villages." This policy uprooted the Acholi from their homes and farms, destroying their means of livelihood. It placed them in camps, where there is even today no food, no medical services, no

sanitation, no clean water, no education for the children. Today, there are 474,000 Acholis in these camps, most of them widows and children. Children are dying of disease, particularly diarrhea and measles. Calls by Acholi religious leaders to the Ugandan government to declare the two war districts as disaster zones, permitting the influx of international relief, have fallen on deaf ears.

For the past two years, I and other Acholi leaders, both inside and outside Uganda, have been working to bring about an end to the war. In December and early January, I was able to carry out a peace mission, which took me to London, Cairo, and to Khartoum and Juba in Sudan. I was able to speak to Sudan government officials who then arranged for me to meet with Joseph Kony directly.

I requested of both the Sudan government and Joseph Kony the release of all the children in the captivity of the LRA and their cooperation in seeking a peace process to end the war. The LRA leadership welcomed this initiative and said the LRA would be able to release up to 200 children who are at the LRA base camp in Sudan. The LRA leaders indicated their understanding that this release would lead to additional steps for the securing of a peace settlement. The government of Sudan indicated to me that it would cooperate with this effort for peace, if the government of Uganda were also willing to negotiate.

Upon my return to Washington, in the second week of January, I conveyed to the Department of State what had transpired. I requested that the Department of State get involved in supporting the peace process, and place pressure on the governments of both Uganda and Sudan to end the war. I submitted a memorandum on my peace mission with recommendations for further steps for peace.

Since that time, I have received no response from the Department of State. Before my peace mission, the relevant State Department officials had indicated that they would support an ending to the war. However, now that the breakthrough has been made, there is silence.

This silence is one reason why I am seeking your help, either directly or indirectly. It is impossible to either secure the release of the children or to secure a permanent peace without the moral, diplomatic, and financial support from the relevant agencies in the United States.

I am enclosing to you the Memorandum and Recommendations I presented to the State Department. I would like to meet with you personally to give you a fuller understanding of how we might proceed to secure the release of the children and to end the war.

I know that bringing peace to Northern Uganda and securing the release of the children of Kitgum and Gulu who have undergone such terrible physical and psychological suffering will benefit the long-suffering Acholi people. I also believe that it is in the interests of the United States to aid in this process.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration to this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jongomoi Okidi-Olal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC/Special Projects
Chief of Staff

Mr. Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
P.O. Box 14285
Washington, D.C. 20044-4285
703-941-8878
703-941-8879 (fax)

Mr. Thomas Pickering
Undersecretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

January 22, 1999

Dear Sir,

I am herewith submitting to you a report and memorandum on my Dec. 20-Jan. 5 trip for peace in Northern Uganda, which took me to London, Cairo, Khartoum, and Juba. During the trip, I met with all the people I intended to meet, including the government official of the Sudan government that has been placed in charge of the Lord's Resistance Army. The Sudan government also put me in touch with Joseph Kony, the LRA leader. I discussed with Kony the release of children under his captivity on Sudan soil. Kony agreed to make arrangements to release over 100 of the younger children who are at the base camp in Sudan. We also discussed arrangements required for a peace process to end the long war in Northern Uganda. Kony agreed again that he would consult with his commanders, and that by the time of our next meeting would be prepared to proceed with arrangements for peace.

Upon my return to Washington, I gave a detailed report to the officials at the African Bureau of the Department of State. Two weeks ago, I submitted a formal report and my recommendations to Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice, with a copy also to Director of the East Africa Bureau David Dunn. Up to now, there has been no response. There is no sign that they will respond soon. However, this case requires urgent action, particularly in the case of the release of the children, who are currently living under intolerable conditions, physically and mentally.

Because of the total silence from this section of the State Department, I am turning to you, as the Undersecretary of State and someone who has long experience in Africa and has been working on similar cases, to help review the matter and help make decisions for future action. I believe that it is important that we work to secure these children's safety and proceed with arrangements to bring about a permanent peace in Northern Uganda, which will also aid in resolving

the conflict in southern Sudan. I believe that peace is the only way out of these conflicts, not more war. The continuation of the war will only prolong the violence, and thereby the suffering and death of the people in the region.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you soon. Thank you for your consideration of this serious matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jongomoi Okidi-Olal', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC Special Projects
Chief of Staff

MEMORANDUM ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND NEGOTIATION FOR RELEASE OF CHILDREN IN THE CAPTIVITY OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

The conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Yoweri Museveni government has gone on for 13 years, and it has cost a lot of lives for the Acholi people. They are the victims of this war, from both sides. Neither the LRA nor the Ugandan government has taken any steps to end this war. I and others have come forward for the last 18 months to find a means for a peaceful settlement to this conflict. We believe that after 13 years of war, the government of Uganda is not in a position to win a military victory over the LRA. The LRA is not in a position to overthrow the government of Uganda. Instead, the LRA concentrates on the killing of innocent people, on the abduction of innocent children. They are not always in a military confrontation with the Ugandan army; they turn most of their weapons against innocent civilians. At the same time, the government of Uganda is not protecting its own citizens.

1. A brief note on the activities of the LRA:

The LRA claims that they are fighting to overthrow Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, but in reality, they are engaged in killing the very people they claim to be fighting for.

- * They do not respect the human rights of the civilians in the area.

- * They continue to abduct young children and force the closing of all the schools, so there is no future for the education of these children. The LRA abductees are then turned into "child-killers," forced to kill their own people, their own families. The Acholi people do not blame the children for this, but see these children as victims, who are forced and trained to kill by the LRA commanders. The Acholi people see that these children need immediate help.

- * The LRA continues to destroy property, crops, and other foodstuffs in the two districts of Gulu and Kitgum in northern Uganda.

As a result of all this, the war has caused famine in the area, and the death toll is rising every day among civilians. The Acholi community has come to the point that it is committed to ending this war, because the conflict has caused so much suffering. The situation has been made all the worse, since the government of Yoweri Museveni does not protect the people. The reason for Museveni's failure to secure the safety of the Acholi people from the LRA, is that he had planned earlier to destroy the

Acholi community, with their properties, because he has long regarded the Acholi community as a threat to his power. But now, the LRA is doing even more against the Acholi people than Museveni himself would have planned.

Thus, the LRA is not engaged in fighting the military of Yoweri Museveni, but in fact is carrying out Museveni's mission for the destruction of the Acholi people, and the Acholi people are well aware of this reality. This is why the LRA has lost all respect and all support from the Acholi people on the ground.

The LRA has also lost support from all citizens of Uganda, and they have lost support worldwide.

2. On the side of the government of Yoweri Museveni, his government does not seem to care about the suffering of the Acholi people. Museveni seems to close his mind to the destruction that has been ongoing within the Acholi community. Instead of fighting the LRA and defeating them, he goes to fight in foreign countries, leaving his own people to be killed.

For Museveni, peace in the northern districts is a political gamble. His refusal to either make peace with or defeat the LRA, while the destruction of the lives and livelihood of the Acholi people continues, has lost him the support of the people. But that does not come as a surprise to some of us who know his theory of violence to maintain power. The Ugandan President is further empowered by the violent insurgent activity of the LRA. He is militarily and diplomatically capable of ending the conflict, and the people call upon him day and night--from the pulpits to the street, from the community to parliament, from educational institutions--to end the conflict.

However, Museveni is not willing to end the conflict for the following reasons:

a. Museveni and his family, which command the Ugandan army, make a lot of money from this war. The war has become a family business in which Museveni and his family make money out of the blood of innocent civilians.

b. As the war continues in northern Uganda, Museveni continues to claim that the support of the LRA comes from the Sudan, and as a result he is able to go to London and Washington and claim that the Sudan government is backing the rebels, or "terrorists," and is a threat to the national security of Uganda and the region. In this way, he receives a lot

of money to allegedly defend his country against the Sudan and its "Islamic fundamentalist" government. He can claim that he is not fighting the LRA, but the Sudan. For the last six years, Museveni has been able to come to Washington and make this claim, and to reap the benefits of it. When he is given this money from Washington, he does not use this money to fight the LRA or to defend the Acholi people, but he puts this money into his family's businesses, or diverts this money to fight other wars, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a war which he has also turned into a family business in gold, timber, and diamonds.

c. If there is peace in northern Uganda, there will be increased momentum for a peace process in southern Sudan, to end the 16-year civil war there. Museveni has been involved in this war through his support for the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army of John Garang. As even the SPLA has complained, however, Museveni also makes money from southern Sudan and the prolongation of the war there, and he wants to prolong the war to keep his family businesses going.

d. If peace is brought to northern Uganda, then Museveni is likely to face a stronger challenge from the citizens of Uganda for a full multi-party democracy in Uganda, which Museveni openly and directly opposes as a threat to the effective one-party rule of his National Resistance Movement.

In the last 13 years, over half a million people have died due to causes stemming from the war. Over 700,000 people are living in concentration camps in northern Uganda. Over 10,000 children have been abducted by the LRA over the last 13 years, and the whereabouts of most of these children is unknown. Schools in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum are closed.

This is a very serious matter. I and others have come forward and have been working for a peaceful settlement to this conflict, because a military victory for either side will not come. I personally wrote a recommendation to the Congress, to the Department of State, and to the White House, asking for support to advance this process. After several meetings in London and after a meeting of religious leaders and some legislators in northern Uganda, we have decided to proceed with finding ways of negotiating with Joseph Kony, and asking the government of Uganda to agree on a framework for negotiations and permanent settlement of this conflict.

Upon my recommendation to the U.S. Congress, in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, to the State Department, and to the White House to support this process, there was total silence from all branches of the government to support our efforts. Since then, the death toll continues to rise in northern Uganda; more children have been abducted; and more schools have been destroyed. At the same time, the Ugandan government, instead of using the Ugandan army to fight the insurgency in the north, has deployed those troops to fight in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Museveni does not care about his own people of the northern districts of Uganda.

After I had waited in vain for a response from the Department of State to support the process we have started, I did inform the East African Bureau that I was proceeding to go into the Sudan and find ways of talking to the government of Sudan, which supports the LRA, and to request that they permit me to speak to the LRA leader Joseph Kony directly.

My mission to Sudan, which started on December 21 and continued through January 4, took me to London to Cairo, to Khartoum, and to Juba, in southern Sudan.

My mission was as follows to talk to the government of Sudan to ask them:

- a. To arrange a meeting between myself and LRA leader Joseph Kony to discuss a peaceful settlement to the war
- b. To arrange for the release of all the children who are now in LRA captivity on Sudan soil controlled by the Khartoum government
- c. To ask the government of Sudan to urge Joseph Kony to stop killing innocent civilians in northern Uganda
- d. To urge the government of Sudan to stop supporting or supplying any arms, if they are doing that, to the LRA, and to cease giving the LRA safe haven, because the LRA military activity in northern Uganda is destructive to innocent civilians but not to the Ugandan military.
- e. To urge the government of Sudan to pressure Joseph Kony and his commanders to come to the negotiating table with a clear agenda of creating a permanent peace in northern Uganda.

- f. To request the government of Sudan to work with myself and others who are pursuing peace, security, and economic cooperation in the region.

All these requests in meetings with the Sudan officials. The Sudan government welcomed my peace initiative. Sudan government officials arranged to put me in touch with Joseph Kony, who was then on the border of Uganda. But they managed to track him down, and he and I had a discussion in the presence of Sudan military and civilian government officials. In our discussion I urged Joseph Kony the following:

- a. To stop killing innocent people in northern Uganda and to stop looting their properties.
- b. To arrange to release all the children who are under his captivity in order for them to be returned to their parents and to return to school, and to have a brighter future.
- c. To come to the negotiating table and settle this conflict peacefully, when the government of Uganda agrees to sit down.

Kony's general reply was that he does not trust the government of Yoweri Museveni, and will not surrender to the government of Museveni. If Museveni wants a serious and honest peaceful settlement, he, Kony, will be ready to sit down with respect, but only in the presence of third parties. Kony suggested that the government of the United States act as a third party, and he also requests that during the negotiation, the government of Sudan should be present, since the LRA is in their territory. He also agreed to the release of 130 children who are underaged who are with him. However, the other children that have been listed as being under the LRA captivity, have been trained and are part of his fighting force. It will be very difficult to secure their immediate release, since they are on the battlefield. He did agree to the 130 children, because of their young age and their presence in his camp. However, he said, he could only release them to the government of Sudan, and the Sudan government could then hand them over to a U.S. agency, to Unicef, or the International Committee of the Red Cross for their rehabilitation before they are returned back to their parents. He repeatedly said that he would never release the children to the government of Yoweri Museveni, because he said he does not trust that government. We ended our meeting by promising to meet again, in the presence of his of commanders to make arrangements for the children's release and proceed with a peace process.

Recommendations to the Department of State

Once again I am sending my recommendation to the Department of State. This is not the first time I have sent my recommendation on this issue. Now that I have made a breakthrough, I believe we are on the way to peace. In order to fulfill this mission and to build a framework for peace, I request the following:

The U.S. Department of State should support the peace process to end the war in northern Uganda, and this support should include:

- a. Urging the Administration to help in the process
- b. Support the peace process financially, enabling me to return to Sudan and continue negotiations for the release of the children and to build a framework for peace
- c. Support any resolution that might be brought by the Congress in support for peace, security, and economic development in northern Uganda
- d. Finance the rehabilitation of the released children, and rehabilitation and training of the rebel returnees after the peace agreement, so that they may have some skills which enable them to advance their lives, instead of returning back to the bush in despair.
- e. Pressure President Yoweri Museveni to join the peace process that we have already started to settle this conflict peacefully.
- f. Choose a few members of the Department of State to work with me in carrying out this peace process, and aid in the release of the children.

I am prepared to return to Sudan at any time, and both the Sudan government officials and Joseph Kony are waiting to hear from me on the next step. I go through Sudan government officials in order to get in touch with Joseph Kony, so I need the permission from the U.S. Department of State for this as well, in order to speak freely to Sudan government officials.

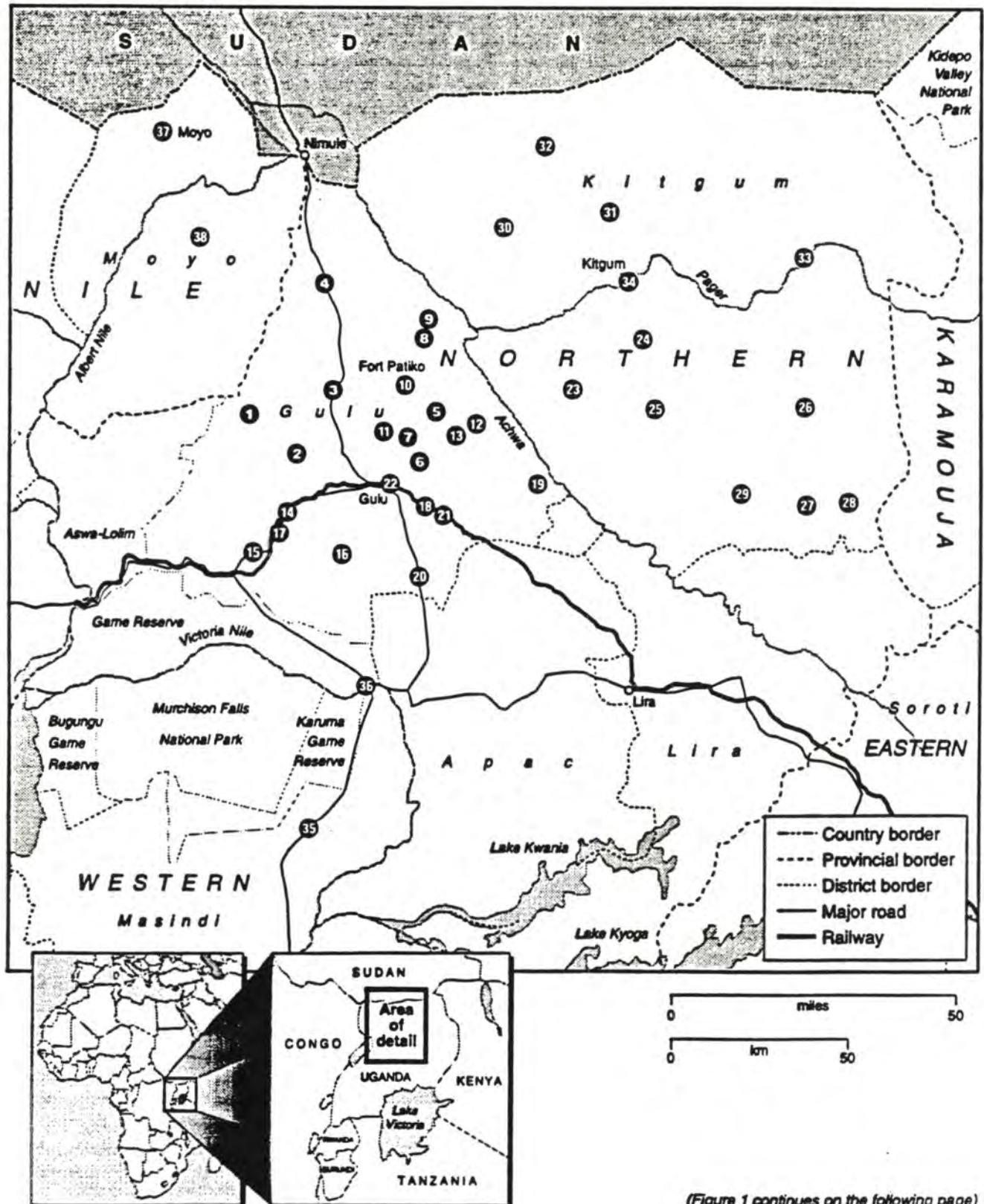
Submitted by Jongomoi Okidi-Olal
GIC/Special Projects, Chief of Staff

FIGURE 1 (continued)

Sub-division	County	Number of Persons
<i>Gulu District</i>		
1. Amaru*	Kilak	32,000
2. Awe	Kilak	11,000
3. Pabo*	Kilak	20,000
4. Atiak	Kilak	14,000
5. Awac	Aswa	8,000
6. Onyama	Aswa	6,000
7. Coo-pee	Aswa	9,000
Palaro	Aswa	
8. Made-ade township		4,000
9. Labwonyaro-moo township		5,000
10. Patiko	Aswa	7,000
11. Gwerya-deyo	Aswa	6,500
12. Cwero	Aswa	3,700
13. Paicho	Aswa	5,200
14. Alero*	Nwoya	28,000
15. Anaka (Payira)*	Nwoya	36,000
16. Koc-Goma	Nwoya	5,000
17. Koc-Ongako	Nwoya	7,000
18. Acet	Omoro	16,000
19. Odek	Omoro	11,000
20. Bobi*	Omoro	7,000
21. Lakwaramer	Omoro	6,000
22. Gulu City		50,000
<i>Gulu District Total</i>		<i>297,400</i>
<i>Kitgum District</i>		
23. Lacek-ocot*	Aruu	7,500
24. Acholibur	Aruu	5,000
25. Pajule	Aruu	22,000
26. Kalongo*	Agago	6,000
27. Patongo	Agago	21,000
28. Adilang*	Agago	approx. 5,000
29. Lira Patwo*	Agago	approx. 5,000
30. Palabek-Kal*	Lamwo	9,000
31. Padibe*	Lamwo	7,000
32. Lokung*	Lamwo	approx. 3,000
33. Naam-okora	Chua	20,000
34. Kitgum City		50,000
<i>Kitgum District Total</i>		<i>160,500</i>
<i>Masindi District</i>		
35. Kiryadongo		
36. Karuma		combined 26,000
<i>Moyo District</i>		
37. Moyo		
38. Adjumani	camps under construction	
<i>Grand Total</i>		<i>483,900</i>

* "Protected villages" that have come under military attack by the Lord's Resistance Army.

Museveni's 'protected villages' in northern Uganda



(Figure 1 continues on the following page)