

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, April 5th, 2010 (covering March 29th to April 4th 2010)**

**By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda**

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 29, 2010, in English**

**"Uganda Army disputes report on LRA killings in Congo" by Benon Herbert Oluka**

- The army has disputed a report that recent massacres allegedly committed by the Lord's Resistance Army in northeastern DR Congo proves that the rebel group remains a force to reckon with. The report, which was released yesterday by Human Rights Watch, says the LRA killed at least 321 civilians and abducted 250 others, including at least 80 children, during a previously unreported four-day rampage in the Makombo area of northeastern DR Congo in December 2009.
- According to the 67-page report, LRA forces attacked at least 10 villages, capturing, killing, and abducting hundreds of civilians, including women and children. It paints pictures of gruesome murders, where the victims were tied up and then hacked to death with machetes or had their skulls crushed with axes and heavy wooden sticks.
- "The four-day rampage demonstrates that the LRA remains a serious threat to civilians and is not a spent force, as the Ugandan and DR Congolese governments claim," said Anneke Van Woudenberg, a senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch.
- But Lt-Col Felix Kulayigye, the UPDF and Defence Ministry spokesman, took issue with the findings of the Human Rights Watch fact-finding mission, which visited the massacre area in February. "The population in DR Congo is not concentrated. So, for the LRA to get time to collect 300 people and kill them, they need days not hours to do so," he said, adding: "In Barlonyo, they were able to kill about 200 because people were in an IDP camp. What about people settled in their villages in a forested region?"
- Col Kulayigye wondered whether the DR Congo army would not have got wind of LRA activities within those four days and gone to rescue its people. He said the UPDF intelligence indicates that the LRA has less than 200 fighters who have no capacity to kill with impunity.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. March 30, 2010, in English**

**"Somali census halted" by Rodney Muhumuza**

- A census of Somalis living in Uganda ended prematurely after the government, responding to the concerns of a section of Somalis opposed to the exercise, withdrew its support. At least 400 people had been registered, according to Abdulahi Roble, the vice-chairman of the Somali Community Association in Uganda, one of at least two organizations that claim leadership over the Somali community.
- The forces that doomed the census represent the divisions that have plagued the Somali community at home and abroad, Mr. Roble, 65, said yesterday.
- In October 2009, when Mr. Roble's organization started to register Somalis in Uganda, they were responding to the threat from a Somali militant group, the Al-Shabab, which had threatened to attack Kampala in retaliation for the death of civilians accidentally killed by Ugandan peacekeepers in Mogadishu.
- The exercise, Mr. Roble hoped, would give them a clear idea of how many Somalis live in Uganda and, more crucially, instill in them a sense of vigilance against a common threat. But just as the census started, a rival organization of Somalis challenged the legitimacy of Mr. Roble's organization.

- If Mr. Roble's census had gone ahead as planned, he said, at least 3,000 of an estimated 10,000 Somalis would have been registered. Mr. Roble and Mr. Abdulkadir, a taxi driver, disagreed that the exercise brought stigma upon the Somali community. Instead, they said, a complete census would have given them the sense of unity that is often elusive.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. March 31, 2010, in English**

**"Man confesses to burning Kasubi" by Herbert Ssempogo, Annet Naluggwa and Edward Anyoli**

- A man yesterday walked to a Kampala Police station and allegedly confessed setting ablaze the Kasubi Tombs, a renowned world heritage site. The 16 March inferno at the royal tombs, locally known as masiro, sparked an emotional outcry from the Baganda, the biggest ethnic group in Uganda.
- According to Joseph Musoke, the "ungodliness" of the tombs was the cause of all the problems in Uganda and had to be destroyed for peace to prevail. The witchdoctor-turned-Catholic reportedly claimed he got a vision in which the Holy Spirit showed him the trouble emanating from the masiro.
- There are reports that he had been in and out of Police custody over various cases, which were never concluded because of his alleged mental disturbance. Musoke is the fourth suspect to be arrested in connection with the fire.