

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, June 7th, 2010 (covering May 31st to June 6th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 31, 2010, in English
"Rome statute review summit opens today" by Cyprian Musoke and James Bakama

- President Yoweri Museveni has warned perpetrators of war that they will be brought to book for committing crimes against humanity.
- Addressing spectators at a football match at Mandela National Stadium at Namboole to show solidarity with war victims yesterday, Museveni said impunity would no longer be tolerated. The match is a precursor to the ICC review conference that opens at Speke Resort Munyonyo today.
- Last week, the president assented to the ICC act that domesticates the Rome Statute, enabling prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes in Uganda. The judiciary has also established a war crimes division to prosecute war crime suspects.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 1, 2010, in English

"Ugandans want Museveni to quit, says opinion poll" [Author unknown]

- Ugandans are generally satisfied with the way President Museveni has led the country but almost seven out of every 10 citizens say he should not seek re-election in 2011, a new Daily Monitor poll reveals.
- Sixty-seven per cent of the respondents said they were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way Mr. Museveni had led the country. However, asked whether President Museveni should stand for re-election next year, 68 per cent said "no".
- The opinion poll was commissioned by Daily Monitor and the Deepening Democracy Program and conducted countrywide between 19 April and 6 May by TNS/Research International, an independent global research company.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 1, 2010, in English

"ICC prosecutor urges compensation for Ugandan rebel victims" [Author unknown]

- Millions of people who have suffered under the brutal hands of Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, should be compensated without further delay, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has said.
- Addressing delegates at the ICC Review Conference in Kampala yesterday, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, said: "The millions of LRA victims in northern Uganda do not need to wait for trial to be assisted. They need compensation and assistance now."
- According to Mr. Ocampo, the states' priority should be arresting Joseph Kony and stopping LRA rebels who have continued to cause havoc against humanity.
- He warned political leaders and military officers that no one is above the law. He observed that enforcing arrest remains one the ICC biggest test for states parties.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 2, 2010, in English

"ICC is told to probe army for war crimes" by James Eriku

- The International Criminal Court should investigate the UPDF for war crimes that were committed during the two-decade-old war in northern Uganda, victims of the insurgency have said.

- In two separate meetings with the ICC president Judge Sang Hyun Song in Gulu town and Lukodi village, where one of the worst killings took place, victims claimed that some of the atrocities were orchestrated by senior UPDF officers.
- Mr. Alex Okoya, a resident, said the UPDF forcefully arrested those they suspected to be LRA collaborators and killed them. "There is need to have fresh investigations. The time the ICC first came here was when people were still in camps but now time is ripe for witnesses and victims to openly testify even against the UPDF," Mr. Okoya said.
- Another resident, Mr. Christopher Okidi, said the UPDF committed offences in some areas but it was blamed on the rebels. "For justice to take course, the ICC should not leave any stone unturned because some of our relatives were killed by government soldiers," he said.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. June 2, 2010, in English

"Sudan's Al-Bashir will soon have nowhere to hide, says ICC prosecutor" [Author unknown]

- Hiding space for indicted Ugandan LRA rebel leader Joseph Kony, his commanders and Sudan President Umar al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity is growing smaller by the day. The International Criminal Court chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, said yesterday that new strategies are being employed to apprehend all suspects indicted by the Hague-based court.
- Mr. Ocampo, while giving the status of the cases currently under the ICC, also said investigations of the 2007 Kenyan post-election cases are progressing well and that at least two charges will be pressed against some Kenyan leaders by the end of the year.
- Mr. Ocampo said whenever Kony suggests peace talks, he only comes to collect money to re-organize and then he kills his people involved in the negotiations. "That's how he killed his number two, Vincent Otti. This is a clear case in which the arrest is what we need. The idea that Kony can make peace is just a fantasy," said Ocampo, adding that the ICC judges have maintained the indictment on Otti because they need to be convinced beyond reasonable doubt that he is indeed dead.
- The ICC official said he will on 11 June appear before the UN Security Council to report Sudan's refusal to implement the arrest warrant against the indicated Darfur warlords.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. June 4, 2010, in English
"ICC boss launches war victims office" by Cyprian Musoke

- The president of the International Criminal Court, Justice Sang-Hyun Song, has said the longer the arrest warrant for the Lord's Resistance Army leader, Joseph Kony, remains unimplemented, the more frustrated the people in northern Uganda would become.
- The office, the first of its kind to be established in this jurisdiction of the court, represents the public face of the ICC in the country, facilitates investigations, is responsible for security, defense, logistics, witness protection, victim participation and outreach activities, Song noted. "The people of northern Uganda have suffered for a long time. That is why they see hope in ICC's intervention," he observed.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. June 4, 2010, in English
"ICC prosecutor rejects Otunnu war case" by Cyprian Musoke and Milton Olupot

- Presidential aspirant Olara Otunnu yesterday failed to convince the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, that the UPDF and President

Yoweri Museveni are partly responsible for war crimes in northern Uganda. Ocampo instead challenged Otunnu to produce concrete evidence, and not engage in "political debate".

- Otunnu said Museveni should be investigated for his role in UPDF operations in the DR Congo in 1998, the deaths in the Kampala riots last September and the creation of internally displaced people's camps in northern Uganda over the last two decades.
- Ocampo, however, promised to assess Otunnu's information, provided the alleged crimes were committed after July 2002 when the court was founded under the Rome Statute.
- Ocampo further said he had received complaints against the UPDF, which he is analyzing. However, most of the issues pre-date 2002, meaning the court cannot handle them. In such a case, Ocampo advised, Otunnu should go to the High Court of Uganda.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. June 4, 2010, in English "Amnesty pardons Nyekorach Matsanga" by Reuben Olita, Barbara Among and Chris Kiwawulo

- Former Lord's Resistance Army spokesman David Nyekorach-Matsanga was yesterday granted amnesty in Nairobi. "I believe dialogue and diplomacy are the only ways Ugandans can attain long lasting peace," Matsanga told the amnesty chairman for Uganda, Justice Onega and the Uganda High Commissioner to Kenya Angelina Wapakhabulo at the Commission's Chancery.
- Onega told Matsanga that he was free to return to Uganda, adding that the amnesty period that ended last week had been extended by two more years, with over 24,000 Ugandans granted amnesty since 2000.
- He said he had talked to the LRA leader three days ago and told him about his amnesty plans. "Kony expressed optimism that he might also join me in seeking amnesty."
- The high commissioner, Angelina Wapakhabulo, appealed to other Ugandans in the diaspora to emulate Matsanga's example.
- Matsanga, like former rebel fighters and sympathizers who have surrendered, is eligible for amnesty as stipulated in the Amnesty Act of 2000. Close to 30,000 LRA rebels have returned home since the law came into place in 2000, over 18,000 of them combatants. The Act does not differentiate between low-level fighters and commanders. However, those captured in combat such as Thomas Kwoyelo have been taken as prisoners of war.
- He got involved with rebels attempting to overthrow Museveni in the late 1980s. He was the local guide who led ex-army chief-of-staff Opon Acak when the army ambushed them near Bududa Hospital in the late 1980s. Acak was arrested and Matsanga fled into exile in the UK.
- In a twist of events, he became the official spokesman of the LRA in early 1998. He later explained that he had wanted to turn the LRA rebels into a liberation front to rescue Uganda. "However, I found that LRA had sinned beyond repair and my efforts were not successful," he stated at a press conference in February 2000 when he apologized to Ugandans for his role in the rebel ranks.
- He bounced back as LRA chief mediator in early 2008 but was dropped when Kony failed to turn up for the signing ceremony in Ri-Kwangba.