

Advocacy talking points: Peace in northern Uganda

Use these message guidelines to:

- ❖ Craft your own message to send to your elected official;
- ❖ Serve as an outline for conversations with congressional staff during an office visit;
- ❖ Guide your comments at speaking engagements or other educational or awareness-raising functions.

- **For more than 20 years, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has been fighting the government of Uganda.** The war has created a regional humanitarian disaster, leaving generations of children in crisis.
- **LRA leader Joseph Kony has created his army primarily through the violent abduction and forced enlistment of children.** More than 30,000 children have been kidnapped by the LRA and forced to be laborers, frontline soldiers, and – in the case of girls – sexual slaves.
- **At one point, more than 1.8 million people had been forced from their homes into displacement camps.** These people were unable to farm due to war, and international food assistance is inadequate. Illness is still rampant. Despite improved stability, almost half of those displaced still remain in camps. They now face the difficult decision of whether to leave the crowded and disease-ridden camps for the uncertainty of life back home, where basic services such as schools, clean water, and health clinics are non-existent.
- **A ceasefire agreement was brokered in August 2006 between the Ugandan government and the LRA.** The ceasefire resulted in the Juba Peace Talks. Security in northern Uganda has increased, but the LRA is now attacking and abducting civilians in eastern Congo.
- **Leadership from the United States can help bring peace to this troubled region.**
Ask the U.S. government to:
 1. Call on the U.S. State Department to increase its diplomatic support to end this regional conflict.
 2. Hold public hearings about northern Uganda and the LRA-affected countries.
 3. Dedicate more assistance to help children and families in need in northern Uganda.

To learn more about the crisis in northern Uganda and take action on this issue, visit www.seekjustice.org.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

- Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)