

**FINAL DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM THE LRA AFFECTED AREAS IN DR  
CONGO, UGANDA, SOUTH SUDAN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC.**

**GULU, 11 – 14 FEBRUARY 2011**

We, members of the regional committee of religious leaders from the LRA affected areas in DR Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic and South Sudan, have met in Gulu 12-13 February 2011 to discuss the latest developments concerning the LRA and to determine the plan of action for this year.

The religious leaders from the four countries started their joint action early 2010 and realized the following activities in the course of the year:

- the organization of the international conference in Kisangani in February
- the diocesan congress in Dungu in July
- the organization of the international conference in Yambio in September
- the training on lobbying and advocacy in Entebbe in November
- the meeting of the Task Force in Nairobi in December
- the publication and wide dissemination of declarations and statements at all levels

The members of the regional committee of the religious leaders from the four countries concerned reiterate

- the need for dialogue and a negotiated solution for the long enduring conflict around the LRA
- the need for a regional approach in order to solve the LRA issue.
- The need for protection of all the communities
- The need for collaboration of all civil, military, administrative and international actors with regard to protection

The members of the regional committee of the religious leaders of the four concerned countries call upon:

- All parties involved to lay down the arms and cease all hostilities for the sake of peace and the suffering of the people in the affected region.
- All parties involved to be open for dialogue and negotiations.
- All involved governments to give clarity on the terms of reference of the presence of the UPDF in DR Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.
- the governments of DR Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan to improve their efforts for protection of the local communities
- the United Nations and its respective peace keeping forces to improve their capacity for protection of the local communities
- the African Union to organize a regional conference with participation of the four countries concerned, the network of the religious leaders and other representatives of the international community (UN, EU, others) in view of a regional approach and strategic coherence.

- the international community to increase humanitarian assistance to the suffering communities.

Considering the current situation and the above mentioned recommendations the regional committee of religious leaders of DR Congo, Uganda, South Sudan and Central African Republic is committed to make its contributions for peace and security in the region.

Members present:

His Grace Marcel Utembi Tapa  
(Archbishop of Kisangani;  
President Regional Committee of Religious Leaders)

  
His Grace John Baptist Odama  
(Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese)

Rt. Rev. Richard Domba  
(Bishop of Dungu-Doruma)



Sheik Al Hajj Musa Khalil  
(Khadi of Acholi Muslim District)

  
Rt. Rev. Madoerd Baker Ochofa II  
(Retired Bishop, diocese of Kitgum)

  
+ MPO