



Last week was the beginning of a global campaign to arrest Joseph Kony, the first militia leader indicted by the International Criminal Court. On Wednesday, the Court will make a final decision in the case against Thomas Lubanga, the second militia leader indicted. Both commanded militias of children. The Lubanga decision will be taken after a fair trial, and The Office of the Prosecutor expects that Joseph Kony could also face justice for the crimes he committed.

First Arrest Warrants:

On 8 July 2005, the Pre-Trial Chamber II issued warrants of arrest against Joseph Kony and four other LRA's leaders. Kony was charged with 12 counts of crimes against humanity including enslavement, sexual slavery, rape and murder, and 21 of war crimes including intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population, recruiting children under the age of 15 and inducing rape and pillaging. The crimes charged were committed between 2002 and 2004.

Second Arrest Warrant

On 10 February 2006, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, charging him with the war crime of recruiting children under the age of 15 and using them in hostilities. On 17 March 2006 Mr Lubanga was surrendered to the Court by the Democratic Republic of Congo and his trial started on 26 January 2009. The final decision on the criminal responsibility of Mr Lubanga will be taken on Wednesday, 14 March 2012.

Background on Joseph Kony.

LRA terrorized the people of the North of Uganda from 1988 until 2006. According to the UN OCHA Humanitarian Update of May 2005, there have been 1,363,990 internally displaced persons (IDP's) in northern Uganda and over 60,000 Sudanese that have been displaced or have sought refuge from the violence in IDP and refugee camps. In

addition, as of March 2005, some 30,000 individuals per night (mostly children) commuted from rural areas to town centers seeking refuge from attacks.

As a consequence of the issuance of the arrest warrant, the agreement of the Office of the Prosecutor with the Government of Sudan to arrest Joseph Kony, the military activities developed by the Government of Uganda and other efforts, the LRA moved to DR Congo and Central African Republic. The LRA is not committing crimes in Uganda at the moment.

However, since 2007, the LRA is reported to have killed more than 2,000, abducted almost 2,500 and displaced well over 300,000 in the DRC alone. In addition, over the same period, more than 120,000 people have been displaced, at least 450 people killed and more than 800 abducted by the LRA in Southern Sudan and in the Central African Republic. Last January people were killed by the LRA in CAR.

As a consequence of LRA's actions, the United Nations Security Council has issued repeated Resolutions since 2009 calling on the LRA to "cease their attacks against the civilian population". The African Union has condemned the LRA on numerous occasions and is organizing a regional military effort. Currently, the Ugandan Army, with the approval of the territorial states and the support of US, is making efforts to stop Joseph Kony activities in Central African Republic and DR Congo.

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court appreciates all these institutional efforts, the advocacy carried out by different civil society organizations and is aiming to keep its activities to galvanize efforts to arrest Joseph Kony and stop LRA crimes.