

USCMA Resolution on Uganda
2005 Annual Meeting
Tucson, Arizona

Since 1986, a civil war fought by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against the Government of Uganda and the local population has devastated Uganda's northern region. Children are the primary targets and victims. As the war has been largely neglected by the international community, we call upon the U.S. and U.N. to make protection of children in northern Uganda a priority.

Whereas, since the war in northern Uganda began in 1986 at least 30,000 children have been abducted by the rebel LRA and forced into soldiering or sexual slavery;

Whereas, approximately 1.6 million people, or 90% of the population of northern Uganda, is confined to camps for the internally displaced, and according to the World Health Organization 1000 people are dying every week in the camps due to the effects of the war;

Whereas, civilian protection is so inadequate that 50,000 children walk up to 10 kilometers every night and morning from the camps into the relative safety of town centers, where they sleep on sidewalks, under verandas, and in makeshift tents;

Whereas, serious human rights violations are committed against the local population by the Ugandan defense forces with near complete impunity;

Whereas, the social and cultural devastation taking place in the Acholi, Lango, and Teso tribes due to the war will take multiple generations to heal;

Be it resolved that:

USMCA members join in solidarity with the membership of the Africa Faith and Justice Network in calling for the following specific actions—

1. Call on the Bush Administration to appoint a senior envoy to bring visibility to the mediation efforts of Betty Bigombe, to underscore the need for peaceful resolution to the conflict, and to act as a partner of Ugandan President Museveni in seeking peace;
2. Call on Congress to approve \$1.3 million to support Bigombe's mediation efforts;
3. Call on the Bush Administration to see that Roger Winter, the State Department Special Representative to Sudan, ensures that the Government of Sudan is not providing arms or safe haven to the LRA;
4. Call on Congress to tie conditions of improvement in the military's human rights record to the approximately four million dollars in military aid provided by the U.S. to Uganda;
5. Call on the Government of Uganda to immediately begin dismantling camps in the outlying regions where the LRA is no longer active;
6. Call on the Government of Uganda as well as local and international stakeholders to develop a truth commission to confront the two decades of trauma that has been experienced by the population in northern Uganda.