UGANDA

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Country Information & Policy Unit

IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE

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1 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information and Policy Unit, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Home Office, from information obtained from a wide variety of recognised sources. The document does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum / human rights claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a six-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum-seeker producing countries in the United Kingdom.

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2 GEOGRAPHY

2.1 The Republic of Uganda has a total area of 235,887 square kilometres, with an area of 20% covered by inland water and swamps. The rest is a mixture of tropical rainforest, savannah and mountains on the western borders. It is a land-locked equatorial country in East Africa bordered by Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) to the west, Kenya to the east and Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Victoria to the south. The climate is tropical, with temperatures moderated by the altitude of the country, varying between 15 and 30 degrees centigrade. The January 1991 census enumerated a population of 16,671,705. The latest estimates put the population at 21 million. Average life expectancy between 1990 - 1995 was 45 years according to UN estimates. The official language is English and there are many local languages, the most important of which is Luganda. More than 60% of the population follow Christian beliefs, while estimates of the Muslim population vary between 5% and 15%**.** The capital city is Kampala. **[1][16b][38]**

(For further information on geography, refer to Europa World Yearbook publication 2001 - 42nd Edition, source [1])

3 Economy

3.1 Fifty per cent of the population are under 16 years of age. Demographic patterns in the later 1990's and beyond were expected to be significantly affected by the high incidence of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which by the early 1990's had reportedly reached epidemic proportions in Uganda. However, infection rates (once the highest in the world) have reportedly fallen, from 30% of the population at the highest point in the early 1990s, to 12%, after a Government campaign to increase awareness. Agriculture forms the mainstay of Uganda's economy, employing an estimated 83.3% of the labour force. The principle cash crops are coffee, cotton, tea and maize. The main subsistence crops are plantains, cassava, sweet potatoes, millet, sorghum, maize, beans, groundnuts and rice. In 1998, foreign investment in Uganda topped $200 million and now accounts for at least 2% of GDP. **[1][7][27][64c]**

4 HISTORY

4.1 On 26 January 1986 the National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Yoweri Museveni took control of Kampala by force and dissolved the Military Council. On 29 January 1986, Museveni was sworn in as President and in February 1986 he announced the formation of a new cabinet, comprising of mainly members of the NRA and National Resistance Movement (NRM - the political wing of the NRA), but also representatives of other political groups including the Democratic Party (DP), the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), the Federal Democratic Movement (FEDEMO) and three members of the previous administration. A National Resistance Council (NRC) was formed to act in place of a legislature pending the introduction of a new constitution. All activity by political parties was banned in March 1986, although political parties were not proscribed. He began implementation of his "Ten Point Plan" which the NRA had worked on from 1981 to 1986. During 1986 the Museveni Government developed a nation-wide system of

resistance committees at local and district level; their responsibilities were to include the maintenance of security and the elimination of corruption. **[1][39]**

(For history prior to 1986 refer to Europa World Yearbook publication 2001 - 42nd Edition - Source [1])

1989 Elections

4.2 In February 1989 the first national election since 1980 was held. The NRC, hitherto composed solely of Presidential nominees was expanded from 98 to 278 members, to include 210 elected representatives. While 20 ministerial posts were reserved for nominated members of the NRC, 50 were allocated to elected members. In October 1989 (despite opposition from the DP) the NRC approved draft legislation to prolong the Government's term of office by five years from January 1990 (when its mandate was due to expire). In March 1990 the NRM extended the national ban on political activity (imposed in March 1986) for a further five years. **[1][7]**

4.3 In January 1994 the Ugandan National Democratic Alliance (UNDA) and the Ugandan Federal Army (UFA) agreed to suspend their armed struggle under the provisions of a Government amnesty, and in March 1994 senior members of the Rwenzunuru Kingdom Freedom Movement in the south-west surrendered, although they were later replaced by the ADF and NALU. **[1][4][19][26][30][32]**

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5 State Structures

The Constitution

5.1 A draft Constitution was prepared by a constitutional commission appointed in 1989 and presented to the Government in December 1992. The draft was published in March 1993, and in the following month, the NRC passed legislation authorising the establishment of a Constituent Assembly, (CA). The newly elected members of the CA debated and amended the draft constitution and it was finally enacted in September 1995 and promulgated on 8 October 1995. **[18]**

5.2 The Constitution confers fundamental human rights and freedoms on every person in Uganda including equal protection under the law, equality between men and women in all aspects of life and guarantees the enjoyment of individual rights without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, social standing or political opinion, and without interference with the rights of others. **[18]**

5.3 In addition to the protection for those accused of crimes, individual freedoms include freedom of speech, expression, and the press and other media; freedom of thought, conscience and belief, including academic freedom; freedom to practice any religion and freedom of peaceful assembly, association and movement. **[18]**

5.4 The Government of Uganda set up a Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) in February 2001. The Commission have a wide remit to consider including decentralisation; the relative powers of the executive, the judiciary and the legislative;

the electoral system; the scope for federalism and the role of traditional leaders. The commission is due to report its findings within 18 months. In May 2001 the CRC launched a programme to collect views from members of the public on the amendment of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. A statement made by the secretary of the CRC, Dr Higiro Semajege Friday said that the terms of reference of the commission will be, among other things, to examine the consistence and compatibility of the constitutional provisions relating to the sovereignty of the people, political systems, democracy and good governance. He also said that the purpose would be to make recommendations as to how best to ensure that the country is governed in accordance with the will of the people at all times. **[31ae][50h]**

5.5 On 28 March 1994 elections to the 288-member Constituent Assembly (CA) took place and more than 1,100 candidates contested the 214 elective seats. Although the elections were officially conducted on a non-party basis, NRM members were believed to have secured the majority of votes in the centre, west and south west of the country, whereas UPC and DP members, who advocated an immediate return to multiparty politics, secured the most seats in the north and parts of the east. The Constituent Assembly, which also comprised nominated representatives of the armed forces, political parties, trade unions and youth and disabled organisations, debated and amended the draft Constitution, finally enacting it in September 1995. The Constitution, under whose terms a national referendum on the future return to a multi party system, took place on 29 June 2000, was promulgated in October 1995. **[1][64d]**

5.6 In June 2002, President Museveni signed the Political Organisation Bill (POB). The POB provides that no party or organisation shall "open branches below national level". The resulting Act is the Political Parties and Organisation Act, which stipulates that parties and political organisations are also prohibited from holding "more than one national conference in a year". They are prohibited from holding public meetings except for the national conference, executive committee, seminars and conferences at the national level. Party leaders could be imprisoned for a number of years or made to pay fines if they contravene the Act. In early July 2002, Ugandan opposition groups filed a petition against new restrictions on political parties. The chair of the Reform Agenda, Sam K Njuba, condemned the Act as being a violation of human rights. **[28e][69l]**

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Citizenship and Nationality

5.7 The 1995 Constitution of Uganda on Citizenship states that every person born in or outside Uganda of which one parent or grandparent was at the time of that person's birth a citizen of Uganda, shall be a citizen of Uganda. A child of not more than 5 years of age found in Uganda, whose parents are not known, shall be presumed to be a citizen of Uganda. On application, a child under the age of eighteen years, neither of whose parents is a citizen of Uganda, and who is adopted, shall be registered as a citizen of Uganda. Citizenship can also be registered when an application is made after marriage to a Ugandan citizen, or someone who has voluntarily migrated to and has been living in Uganda for at least ten years. **[78]**

5.8 A person may be deprived of their citizenship, if acquired by registration, if they have voluntary acquisition of another country, voluntary service in the armed forces or

security forces of a country hostile to or at war with Uganda, or acquisition of citizenship by fraud, deceit or bribery. **[78]**

Political System

5.9 The country's first ever presidential election took place on 9 May 1996. Museveni won with 74.2% of the votes cast. International observers judged the elections generally reflected the preference of the electorate. Legislative elections took place in June 1996. As with the CA elections they were conducted on a non-party basis, but NRM supporters won a large majority of the seats. Multiparty supporters won seats in the north. Voting took place in June 1996 for local councils. Further local elections were held in November 1997. **[1][14a][15]**

5.10 A referendum was held on 29 June 2000 on the future of politics in the country - whether to adopt Movement or Multiparty. Under the provision of the Referendum a vote for the movement amounted to a vote in favour of the existing political system and associated restrictions on political activity. Over 9.6 million Ugandans were reported to have registered to vote in the referendum. When polling took place on 29 June 2000 there were no significant reports of violence or intimidation. Official observers declared the voting to be free and fair, but said that the campaign process fell short of providing a 'level playing field'. The Donor Referendum 2000 Group, which included Uganda's 14 main bilateral donors, criticised the limitations placed upon the activities of political parties prior to the referendum. Meanwhile, a Human Rights Watch report said that the referendum was "incompatible with human rights standards". **[54a][69a]**

5.11 The final result of the referendum was announced on 2 July 2000 – a decisive victory for the Movement system of Government. The Electoral Commission reported turnout to have been 51.1%; however, other sources put the figure at around 45%. **[64d]**

	Votes Cast	**% Total**
Votes for the Movement System of government	4,322,901	90.7
Votes for the Multi-party System of government	442,823	9.3

There were also 148,800 invalid votes cast, 3% of the ballot, which electoral officials attributed to a lack of civic education and illiteracy. **[48][64d][65a]**

5.12 Campaigning began in early January 2001 for the presidential elections set for 7 March 2001 in which President Museveni faced his most prominent opponent, Kizza Besigye, a doctor who became a guerilla fighter alongside Museveni in the early 1980s. The other main candidates for the presidency were Karuhanga Chapaa, Muhammad Kibirige Mayanja, Francis Bwengye and Aggrey Awori. President Museveni, in power from 1986, won 70% of the vote in the last presidential elections in 1996. **[54b][68b]**

5.13 On 2 March 2001, Uganda's electoral commission announced that the date for the elections had to be pushed back by five days to 12 March. The commission said this was done to allow extra time for the display of voters' register and the distribution of

voters' cards. The issue of the electoral registers was controversial, as there were believed to be over a million more people on the rolls than of eligible voting age in the country. On 30 January 2001, police recorded 65 election-related offences since the campaign began; stating that most of the friction existed between the Besigye and Museveni camps. **[31ad][69c]**

5.14 There were reports of pre-election violence and on 8 January 2001 three people were injured when armed men shot at a convoy of vehicles carrying Dr Besigye's supporters. UPDF commanders, who were operating in the district, were accused of engaging political campaigns and threatening supporters of some presidential candidates. On 19 January 2001, surprise presidential candidate and Bakayimbira dramactors director, Charles James Ssenkubuge released a press statement saying that he was quitting the race for presidency due to intimidation. He claimed that he had received anonymous phone calls of a threatening nature. His campaign had been dogged by under-funding. **[31g][31h][31i]**

5.15 On 15 January 2001, police set up a team to fight election-related violence. The day before campaigning began on 11 January 2001, President Museveni's campaign manager in Uganda's central region was shot and killed after attending a strategy meeting. On 20 February 2001, Ugandan security agents forcibly arrested a senior aide of Dr Besigye, Major Rabwoni Okwir. This followed the arrest of two of Dr Besigye's prominent allies the previous week. Besigye blamed the arrest on President Museveni whom he said wanted to sabotage the campaigns and continue in office without an election. Major Rabwoni was forcibly arrested by the Military Police at Entebbe Airport just before he and Dr Besigye's campaign team were to board a flight to Adjumani in Northern Uganda. A statement by Rabwoni on 21 February said that he had withdrawn from presidential candidate Dr Besigye's Task Force, but he later claimed that he was intimidated with death threats to sign the press release withdrawing from the Task Force. Rabwoni was released from custody and taken to his home.
[31j][31k][50f][65e][67a]

5.16 A newspaper article dated 28 February 2001 stated that Major Rabwoni Okwir had left Uganda to go into exile in the United Kingdom. Uganda's external donors expressed concerns about reports by local election monitors of increasing violence and intimidation of voters, particularly by Government agents. In a statement issued on 20 February 2001 and signed by the Danish Ambassador Flemming Bjork Pedersen, the Post-Referendum Support Group (PRSG) also called for the display of the voters' register in public places. The donors urged the Government to uphold the law and ensure impartiality. PRSG members include Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA and UNDP. **[32k][50g]**

5.17 A report broadcast on Ugandan radio on 17 December 2000 stated that all aspiring candidates were required under section 3 of the Presidential Elections Act Number 17 of 2000, to submit to the commission a certificate issued by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), as evidence of Advanced Level Standard or its equivalent. The commission advised all aspiring candidates to present their academic qualifications to UNEB and obtain a certificate of clearance, which would be required by the commission on nomination day. **[49e]**

5.18 The electoral playing field in Uganda was "definitely not level" and serious human rights concerns in the lead-up to Uganda's presidential elections cast doubt on whether they could be free and fair, the US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated on 4 March 2001. It said that the Government of President Museveni was "trying to win this election by bullying the opposition", which had been threatened by violence, arrests and intimidation since campaigning started in January 2001. The NGO Election Monitoring Group-Uganda (NEMGROUP-U) blamed the violence that occurred on 3 March 2001 in Rukungiri town on the Presidential Protection Unit (PPU). The violence was as a result of clashes between the PPU and supporters of Dr Besigye at the instigation of the PPU. The monitors called for the Government to demilitarise the electoral process and immediately withdraw PPU soldiers like Rukungiri where the president is not present and to let the police be on charge. The NEMGROUP-U also asked that the electoral commission to enforce the provisions of section 12(1)(e) of the Electoral Commission Act 1997 which requires it to ensure that the electoral process is conducted under conditions of freedom and fairness. **[31l][68b]**

5.19 70.3% of eligible voters turned out to vote on 12 March 2001. An excerpt of a report on Ugandan Radio, on 12 March, stated that voting in most parts of the country was conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. At midnight on 12 March 2001 top officials of the President Museveni camp celebrated after indications that their candidate was winning in most parts of Uganda. Deputy publicity secretary of Museveni's National Task Force, Ofwono Opondo, said that the most significant aspect of the election was that Besigye had lost in his home subcounty of Nyakagyeme in Rukungiri district polling only some 2,000 votes against Museveni's 7,000. Ofwono said in the whole country, Museveni lost only Lira, Arua and Gulu districts. The final results were announced at the International Conference Centre on 14 March 2001 by the chairman of the Electoral Commission, Haji Aziz Kasujja. **[49f][49g]**

5.20 The results of the presidential elections on 12 March 2001 were as follows:

Candidate	**Votes**	**%**
Lt. Gen Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI	5,123,360	69.3
Dr Kizza BESIGYE	2,250,795	27.8
Other Candidates	210,036	2.9
Total	**7,584,191**	**100.00**

[34][68c][69d]

5.21 Following the elections two people were killed and six injured in two explosions in Kampala. One explosion went off at Nakivubo Mews in central Kampala and the second took place on a taxi minibus 100km (60 miles) south west of Kampala. These explosions occurred as President Museveni's supporters were out on the streets of

Kampala celebrating his victory. Two men were arrested in connection with the explosions. **[60][69d]**

5.22 On 20 March 2001, defeated presidential candidate Dr Besigye was summoned to CID police headquarters to explain comments he had made, which were allegedly uttered with seditious intent. As a result, a travel ban was directed by the Head of Military Intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel Noble Mayombo, who said the move was necessary following the bomb blasts which, he said, could be linked to politicians unhappy with the election results. A senior Government official said that the reason for the ban was that Besigye was going to South Africa to meet with Rwandan President Kagame who was due to arrive there on the same day. Earlier in March 2001, Uganda declared Rwanda a hostile nation. This move was instigated because Uganda feared Rwanda, who was once the Government's staunchest ally, was funding Dr Besigye's bid for presidency. **[69b]**

5.23 Dr Kizza Besigye, who finished second in the presidential elections, challenged the results. He challenged both President Museveni and the Electoral Commission over the alleged irregularities and alleged rigging of the final results. The hearing in the Supreme Court opened on 5 April 2001. The Supreme Court threw out Besigye's petition 2 weeks later. The court's five judges ruled by a majority of 3-2 that, although there had been irregularities in the poll, these had not substantially affected its outcome. **[31s]**

5.24 On 17 August 2001 Col Dr Besigye reportedly beat a 24-hour surveillance by military intelligence personnel and fled to the United States of America. It was reported that since the March 2001 elections he had been under a travel ban and 24-hour surveillance by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence. It was also reported that Col Besigye had links with the ADF and that he had supplied 200 guns to the rebel organisation but this was denied by both the ADF and Besigye. In an American radio interview, Besigye said that he left Uganda mainly because he 'felt that his security was quite compromised and in danger' but this was refuted by a presidential spokesman who claimed that this statement was not true. However, his wife, Mbarara Municipality MP Winnie Byanayima still remains in Uganda. Besigye is now reportedly in South Africa. **[31t][31u][31aj][50al][69h][72b]**

5.25 Winnie Byanayima is currently 3rd Vice Chairperson and Secretary for Political Strategy and Mobilisation of the Reform Agenda. In July 2002, the Reform Agenda had elected Dr Besigye as National Chairman in absentia. The group is a pro-reform, pro-democracy pressure group and resolved not to register under the newly passed Political Parties and Organisations Act. **[50am]**

5.26 Legislative elections took place on 26 June 2001 to elect the new Ugandan parliament. The Members of Parliament elected would form the country's seventh parliament since Uganda gained independence in 1962. There were reports of election related violence marring the voting. The Post Referendum Support Group (PRSG) together with local election monitors concurred that although the atmosphere during the elections was calm and conducive for people to exercise their democratic choice, "there were widespread, worrying instances of election mal-administration, malpractices and excessive violence". **[56d][67c][69e]**

5.27 President Museveni made wide-ranging changes in his new Cabinet and relinquished the portfolio of the Minister of Defence to Amama Mbabazi, which he held for the last 15 years. The 64 strong Cabinet and junior ministers has 17 new entrants, eight ex-officio members and 16 women including Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe as vice president. After the appointment of Dr Kazibwe, President Museveni said that some men didn't like the fact that a woman had been appointed as vice president. But the President said that he did this so that she could be a role model for girls. **[31q][56c][65i]**

5.28 On 4 April 2002, a democracy advocacy group (NGO) called RESPOND Uganda was launched in Washington DC in the United States of America. The launch was hosted by Besigye's former campaign manager, Anne Mugusha. The group have promised to work with democracy advocates across Africa. Colonel Besigye was highly praised at the launch. The Chairman Board of Directors is Joseph Angole who is an economic consultant with the International Finance Corporation. **[31a]**

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Judiciary

5.29 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary. The President has extensive legal powers that influence the exercise of independence. The President nominates, for the approval of Parliament, members of the Judicial Service Commission, which makes recommendations on appointments to the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The lower courts remained understaffed and weak. **[2a]**

5.30 The highest court in Uganda is the Supreme Court, followed by (in descending order) the Court of Appeal (which also functions as the Constitutional Court for cases of first instance involving constitutional issues), the High Court, the Chief Magistrate's court, and local council (LC) level 3 (subcounty) courts, LC 2 level (parish), and LC level 1 (village) courts. A minimum of six justices may sit on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal or Constitutional Court. However, bribery and corruption are widespread amongst officers of the lower courts and the LCs have been described as the most corrupt apparatus of the state. There is also a military court system. **[2a][31ag]**

5.31 The courts were impaired by a 4-year civil service hiring freeze, which relaxed in 1998. The average time in pre-trial detention is 2 to 3 years. The civilian judicial system contains procedural safeguards, including the granting of bail and the right of appeal to higher courts; however, an inadequate system of judicial administration and a lack of resources, resulting in a serious backlog of cases, have circumscribed the right to a fair trial for many years. For example, a woman was released from custody by the High Court in June 1999 after having been imprisoned since 1991 without trial. She was accused of murdering her husband, but whenever she was scheduled to appear in court, no representative from the Prosecutor's office ever appeared, so she was remanded on each occasion. **[2a][31ac]**

5.32 Many defendants cannot afford legal representation. The Constitution requires that the Government provides counsel for defendants accused of capital offences, but

there is rarely enough money to retain adequate representation. The Uganda Law Society (ULS) operates Legal Aid clinics in four regional offices. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiatives practice public-interest law from offices in Kampala. **[2a]**

5.33 In July 2002, the Chief Registrar of the High Court announced that Chief Magistrates Courts will start handling cases of defilement and rape and shall have high powers to grant bail. It was agreed that the age of consent remains 18, but the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. Chief Magistrates are also to be increased from 29 to 59 in order to handle the backlog of cases in courts. **[50ak]**

Treason

5.34 The Government continued to arrest people on treason charges, especially captured rebel fighters, in numbers greater than the judicial system could manage. In the past, numerous human rights abuses were committed in connection with treason cases, including political detention, detention without charge, detention in unregistered and unofficial places of remand, and mistreatment, including torture. At the end of 2000, prison officials put the number of those on remand on the charge of treason at 145, none of whom were children. Detainees included members of the Islamic Tabliq group suspected of supporting the Allied Democratic Forces rebels (ADF) some of who refused amnesty under the Amnesty Act of January 2000. They remained in detention at the end of 2001. The Government released treason convicts and suspects under the terms of the Amnesty Act signed by President Museveni in January 2000. In July 2002, fifteen Tabliq Muslims were acquitted of treason by the High Court on 12 July 2002. On their release they were taken to a religious leader for counselling and then were allowed home. **[2a][31m][50an]**

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Legal Rights/Detention

5.35 Members of the security forces at times arrested and detained citizens arbitrarily. According to the Constitution, a suspect must be charged within 48 hours of arrest and be brought to trial or released on bail within 120 days (360 days for a capital offence). The Constitution also provides that detainees should be informed immediately of all the reasons for their detention; however, in practice the authorities did not enforce these procedural protections. Although some laws conflict with the Constitution, for example, the Public Order and Security Act, which provides for unlimited detention without charge, these laws have never been invoked formally by the Government. Legal and human rights groups, including the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), sharply criticised the excessive length of detention without trial. In many cases amounting to several years for alleged offences under other laws. **[2a]**

Death Penalty

5.36 In July 2000 President Museveni commuted the sentences of 16 prisoners on death row to life imprisonment and pardoned over 500 other prisoners. Uganda still retains the death penalty and at the end of 2000 it was reported that 260 prisoners were on death row. The last executions in Uganda took place on 29 April 1999 when 28 men (26 convicted of murder and two of aggravated robbery) were hanged. Prior to April 1999 there were no executions in Uganda since 1996. In December 1999 the Ugandan

Cabinet rejected recommendations by the Law Reform Commission to end the death penalty for rapists and defilers. On 12 September 2000, former Prime Minister of Toro kingdom and two of his accomplices were sentenced to death for the murder of the Prince of Toro in 1999. **[2a][9][22][23][31e][48b][61d]**

5.37 In August 2001 leading Human Rights campaigner Livingstone Sewanyana called for the Ugandan Government to abolish the death penalty as part of its ongoing constitutional review. In August 2001 leading Human Rights campaigner Livingstone Sewanyana called for the Ugandan Government to abolish the death penalty as part of its ongoing constitutional review. In October 2001, the Director of Operations in the Uganda Prison Service, Mr Moses Kakungulu, proposed that the execution of convicts be privatised if the death penalty cannot be abolished. Kakungulu said the hanging of convicts brutalises the prison service whose role is simply to reform and rehabilitate offenders into good citizens. **[2a][50c][68o]**

5.38 In July 2002, a prisoner on death row committed suicide in Luzira Prison. He had been sentenced to death by the High Court, in 1997, but the court did not specify his crime. In August 2002, a Special Police Constable attached to Kikooge Police Post in Nakasongola district was sentenced to death by hanging for the murder of George Kidega in February 2000. Amnesty International condemned the execution of two UPDF officers, which was carried out on 25 March 2002. They said that the executions were carried out without recourse to a fair and independent trial. The use of the death penalty as a form of punishment by the Ugandan army was also condemned by Amnesty International. The international human rights organisation stated that they were further alarmed by reports that indicate the Ugandan army might be considering this extreme type of measure to discipline soldiers. **[31e][48b][74]**

Internal Security

5.39 Since January 1986 the internal security situation has much improved, especially in Kampala and the south, although many weapons remain in private hands and lawlessness is rife. The army has found it difficult to establish its authority in the north. There continues to be sporadic lawlessness in the Karamoja region due to traditional cattle-rustling activities and the wide availability of arms. In August 1999, the UPDF reported that they had found the bodies of at least 140 people, including 70 children, close to the borders with Sudan and Kenya in the remote northeastern region. They blamed the Karamojong, backed by 500 Turkana tribesmen from just over the border in Kenya. The UPDF were ordered to shoot on sight any armed Karamojong warriors found "loitering" by the highway. **[2b][62][66b]**

5.40 In September 1999 the UPDF, on a pacification mission in the area, interrupted a gun battle between rival factions of the Karamojong and opened fire on both sides. Unconfirmed reports estimated "hundreds" of warriors were killed. The ADF, who are located in the west of the country, traditionally operated across the border from bases in the DRC until 1997 when the newly-established Kabila Government gave the UPDF access to the bases. **[2b][11][28a]**

5.41 The Government announced in August 1998 that they had sent troops across the border in the DRC not to join the fighting in the rebellion there, but merely to

establish a buffer zone along the border to prevent raids by the ADF. The Government of the DRC began action in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague claiming that Uganda was in the DRC illegally and has caused harm to DRC citizens by their actions. **[26][66a]**

5.42 In 1999 all warring sides in the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed a peace agreement in Lusaka, Zambia. The Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement is designed to bring democracy to the DRC and provides for a cessation of hostilities, the establishment of a commission to investigate cease fire violations, work out mechanisms to disarm militias and monitor the withdrawal of foreign troops. President Museveni threatened to withdraw from the accord stating that "owing to the indifference to Africans suffering in the world, owing to ideological confusion and fragmentation in Africa where you cannot tell who is an enemy or who is a friend, I have decided to withdraw from the Lusaka peace process"; however, he did not do so in the end. Uganda therefore is still committed to the Lusaka Agreement. Uganda withdrew over 3,000 troops from the DRC by April 2001. **[67d][69g]**

5.43 A UN report released earlier in April 2001 implicated Uganda, members of the president's Government and his family in the alleged plundering of resources from the DRC. The report showed that since the military occupation of areas of the Congo, at the beginning of 1998, Ugandan exports of gold and diamonds sharply increased, although gold production in the country remained level and Uganda has no diamond production at all. Appearing before a state enquiry, on 16 August, President Museveni denied the UN allegations and the Government criticised the report for inconsistency and inaccuracy and has refuted the allegations made in the report. **[20][70b]**

5.44 In August 2002, the Governments of the DRC and Uganda reached an accord in the Angolan capital of Luanda whereby Uganda agreed to withdraw its remaining troops, without condition, from the DRC and the two countries will normalise relations. Even though Uganda had already withdrawn the majority of its army from the DRC before this accord they had dispatched additional forces in the wake of recent fighting among Ugandan-backed Congolese rebel armies and ethnic militias in northeastern DRC. The normalisation of relations between the two countries, including restoration of diplomatic relations, will begin following the complete withdrawal of Ugandan forces. The Congolese Government laid down a deadline, in the agreement signed by both presidents on 6 September 2002, of the end of 2002 for the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the DRC. **[20][68ae][69j][69k][70b]**

5.45 There were no confirmed reports in 2001 of politically motivated killings by Government forces, but the security forces and the police do still commit extrajudicial killings. Neither were there reports of politically motivated disappearances, due to action by Government forces. A number of Muslims believed to be missing in 1999 were released. In the course of official operations, police, UPDF, LDU and DMI personnel sometimes used excessive force, resulting in deaths. **[2a]**

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5.46 Unlike 2000, there were no reports that security officials mistreated Muslims or that Muslims suspected of being ADF rebel collaborators or involved in terrorist activities died as a result of torture by DMI officials. On 8 November 2000, there were reports from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that UPDF soldiers allegedly

shot and killed nine persons at a wedding party in Northern Kivu Province, DRC. The soldiers believed the village to be sympathetic to the Mai Mai. The attack reportedly followed violent clashes between UPDF and Mai Mai forces in the surrounding area. Government cases against two UPDF soldiers accused of killing five youths in Fort Portal, Kabarole district in 1999, were still pending at the end of 2001. The two soldiers were on remand in Katojo prison facing murder charges. **[2a]**

5.47 The police occasionally treat criminals in a degrading and inhumane manner. The Government investigated some cases of abuse, and tried and punished some offenders. In May 1999 the Government launched a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into police corruption. The Commission probed a wide range of police abuses, including abuses committed by senior police officials. The inquiry resulted in the arrests of several police officers on charges of abuse, rape, extortion and robbery including a police officer accused of raping a 16 year old girl. In May 2000, the independent Judicial Commission of Inquiry submitted its report to the Minister of Internal Affairs. During the course of the investigation, the Commission uncovered incidents of killings, brutality, theft and robbery by police in general, and by the CID in particular. **[2a]**

5.48 The Commission's proceedings were open to the public and received extensive press coverage. The report, with recommendations, was made public in May 2001. In January 2001, the Inspector-General of police admitted the presence of corrupt officers in the Uganda Police Force and warned the concerned officers that if caught they will be dealt with firmly. **[2a][66g]**

5.49 In April 1999, 8 foreign tourists, including 4 British nationals, were massacred by Rwandan Interahamwe guerrillas whilst holidaying in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest close to the Rwandan border. They are reported to have separated the tourists into 2 groups - French speakers, who were released and English speakers, who were killed. **[63a]**

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Security Forces

5.50 The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) is the key security force. The Constitution provides for civilian control of the UPDF, with the President designated as commander in chief. The UPDF was more active, in part due to the continued instability in the north and west but mostly because of the country's involvement in the conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). UPDF soldiers and members of the local defence units (LDU) assist the police in rural areas, although the LDU's continued to operate without a legal mandate. **[2a]**

5.51 War broke out in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in August 1998, Congolese Tutsis as well as the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda all relied on the Rwandan military presence for protection against hostile armed groups operating out of the eastern part of the DRC. These groups included, among others, the Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF). In the ensuing war, elements of the armed forces of Rwanda and Uganda operated inside the DRC in support of the Rally for the Congolese Democracy (RCD) and the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC). **[24]**

5.52 It was reported, in May 2000, renewed fighting broke out between Uganda and Rwanda who were supposed allies in the fight against President Kabila's Government. The two allies have never agreed on strategy – with Uganda saying that Rwanda wants to install a 'puppet regime' in the DRC. By the middle of May 2000 the leaders of both countries met in an attempt to heal the rift. A communique issued at the end of the talks said that Uganda and Rwanda had pledged to forge ahead with their declaration, made on 8 May 2000, to demilitarise the town of Kisangani and remove troops from each other's borders. There were allegations of human rights violations during fighting between UPDF and Rwandan army troops in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in May and June 2000. Sources from the DRC claim that Rwandan and Ugandan troops raped many women and shot persons during extensive fighting in the city. **[2a][56a]**

5.53 On 31 August 2000, it was reported that Congolese warriors had attacked the Ugandan customs border post. The UPDF rounded up over 40 attackers whose motives were unclear according to security forces. This incident caused fear and uncertainty among Ugandans along the border. Unlike 2001, there were no reports from the DRC that UPDF and Rwandan troops abducted young women from the villages they raided. **[2a][50s]**

5.54 The Government is also tackling corruption and inefficiency in the army - soldiers who ran away from an ADF attack on Kichwamba Technical Institute in June 1998 in which at least 45 people died and over 100 were abducted, were court martialled. The UPDF have established a special pay unit to curb fraud and corrupt practices, they will be in charge of procurement of goods and supplies. President Museveni estimated that US $4.8 million was lost annually through fraud in salaries and food supplies by one division alone. In addition, the Government has raised the pay of soldiers by 5% to discourage pilfering. **[2c][28a][28d][40][66d]**

5.55 The Internal Security Organisation (ISO) remains under the authority of the President and although primarily an intelligence-gathering organisation the ISO also has the power to arrest and detain civilians. The Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) comes under control of the UPDF and also takes an active part in anti-terrorist activities. It has been accused of serious human rights abuses. The Ugandan police have now established their first dedicated anti-terrorist squad following bomb blasts in Kampala in early April 1998 called the National Task Force Against Terrorism. Overall, however, the most recent figures available indicate a drop in the number of serious crimes, including murder and armed robbery. In May 2001 the Ugandan police asked the Government to enact a separate law on domestic violence saying that under the current law the police are in a weak position to handle serious domestic violence cases like marital rape, defilement, incest and wife battering. **[2a][28c][64b][64f]**

5.56 Although reported to be declining, fraud continues in the armed services. In August 1999, it was reported that food rations purchased from South Africa and intended for Ugandan troops serving in the DRC were well past their sell-by date and therefore unsafe. Additionally, six MIG-21 fighters purchased recently from an unspecified vendor for over US $500,000 each were found to be outdated and in need of overhaul. **[72b]**

5.57 On 11 May 1999, a newspaper published a photograph of a naked woman being held down by a group of men in military uniforms while they shaved her head. The local press contained highly inflammatory and contradictory reports, one claimed that the woman had been arrested for shoplifting, another that she was being forced to take part in a voodoo ritual. One Kandida Lakony came forward and claimed to be the woman in the picture and that UPDF soldiers in Gulu were responsible, adding that she had been forced to remain naked in a cell for two days. Army officers confirmed it was normal practice to hold women naked and to shave their heads with blunt razors as punishment. However, in October 1999, a court rejected her claims and sentenced her to 12 months imprisonment for giving false information to the police. On 29 June 2000, Kandida Lakony was released from Luzira prison after serving her sentence. On 27 June 2002, three UPDF soldiers and two civilians were arrested by police for allegedly waylaying traders and robbing them of 15m shillings. A fourth suspected UPDF officer escaped. **[2a][2b][50k]**

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Prisons & Prison Conditions

5.58 Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening. Conditions for the estimated 15,000 inmates in the various prisons and police cells are particularly bad. The 1999 UHRC report released in December 2000 cited severely inadequate medical services, seriously unhygienic conditions, and "semi-starvation" among prisoners in several prisons. The investigator also received complaints from female prisoners that prison authorities tortured them. In March 2001, inmates staged a protest at Mbale central prison to protest inadequate food and delays in the judicial review of their cases. **[2a]**

5.59 Authority over the local prison system remained with the Ministry of Local Government. According to the United States Department of State report for 2002 covering 2001, both civilian and military prisons were believed to have high mortality rates from overcrowding, malnutrition, diseases spread by unsanitary conditions and HIV/AIDS; however, no accurate estimates were available on the number of deaths in detention due to the harsh conditions and lack of medical care; however, NGOs estimated that the mortality rate in the central prison system decreased. Unlike 2000, in 2001 there were reports of detentions of civilians in military barracks, and unregistered places of remand. **[2a]**

5.60 In April 1999 a court in Masindi heard that five inmates died in detention. On 6 August 2000, armed police suspected to be rebels attacked Malukuhu Government Prison in Mbale and abducted 139 prisoners. A prison warder on guard when the attack happened said that the attackers cut the prison fence and locks. All inmates from 2 of the prison wards were abducted. It was reported on 9 August 2000 that a joint operation between the Uganda army and police force rescued 14 of the prisoners. A police spokesman, Eric Naigambi, said that a number of the prisoners had escaped from their captors and reported to the authorities in Mbale. **[2a][31f]**

5.61 In July 2001 the Masaka High Court judge, Justice Solome Bbosa was angered by prison warders who allegedly battered an inmate into a coma. Justice Bhosa said that she would be writing to the Prisons Commissioner to take disciplinary measures against the warders. In September 2001 President Museveni ordered the release of

Lieutenant-Colonel Nasur Abdalla who was a former aide to Idi Amin. He had been convicted of murdering the mayor of Masaka in 1972. **[50n][61c]**

5 62 In 2000, President Museveni signed the Community Service Act, designed to reduce prison congestion by allowing minor offenders to do community service instead of being imprisoned. The Community Service Act was implemented in November 2001, with the sentencing of three offenders to 80 hours of community service. **[2a]**

5.63 Female prisoners have segregated wings with female staff in most prisons. Rape is not generally a problem but they share the same sub-standard conditions as their male counterparts. Juveniles are often incarcerated with adults due to lack of space. The central prison system maintains one juvenile prison and 4 lower-security remand homes. The remand home in Kampala was designed for 45 inmates and now holds 120 children. School and health facilities in all 5 juvenile institutions are now defunct; prisoners as young as the age of 12 perform manual labour from dawn until dusk. Severe overcrowding is also a problem at juvenile detention facilities and women's wings. The remand home in Kampala, which was designed for 45 inmates, currently holds approximately 164 children. **[2a]**

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Military Service

5.64 There is no military conscription in Uganda. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) is under full civilian control. The recruitment criteria is a minimum age of 18, recommended by the local council structure, medically fit and educationally literate. However, in practice some recruiters have allowed 17 year olds to enlist. LDUs may recruit children under the age of 18 with parental consent. There have been several reports from concerned parents of forced recruitment. This may be due to the massive levels of recruitment since the start of the conflict with the DRC and also high levels of unemployment making the army a relatively attractive option for out of work youngsters. **[2a][14b]**

5.65 There is no provision for conscientious objection. In 1991, under the National Resistance Army (NRA) Code of Conduct, applications from professional serving soldiers for discharge were made under an individual basis. Apparently, leaving the armed forces for professional serving soldiers may prove difficult. **[17]**

Medical Services

5.66 Health services in Uganda collapsed during the troubles of the 1970s and for most of the 1980s. The 1993 Health Policy clearly set out consolidation and rehabilitation as the main strategies. This is currently being updated by the Government and has entered into negotiations with donors with a view to implementing a sector wide approach. The Ministry of Health produced a 5 year Health Policy and Plan. The underlying theme of this is to increase access to a minimum essential package of health services. This allows for limited expansion of the health infrastructure. Services are currently being provided by a mix of public and private providers with the public sector playing a key role. With decentralisation, the districts have taken on the responsibility for delivering district health services receiving block grants from the Ministry of Health. The role of the Ministry of Health is now focussed on

providing technical support, supervision and monitoring, setting norms and standards, mobilising resource and donor co-ordination. The NGO sector also plays an important role. **[19]**

5.67 According to a report issued in July 2002, by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Uganda's HIV infection rate has declined from the 17th highest in the world to the 20th highest. In December 2000, Ugandan radio reported that HIV and AIDS in urban areas had dropped by 30%. Also in December 2000, the Bill Gates Foundation donated US$15.3m (over sh27b) to Uganda for the implementation of national population programmes focusing on adolescents and HIV/AIDS. In December 2000, the Government of Uganda signed an agreement with two US based drug manufacturers to reduce the prices of two new anti-AIDS drugs, Crixivan and Stockrin, by 70% and 50% respectively. A report in May 2001 stated that the Government of the United States of America was to introduce two new development programmes and inject a total of $50m to help fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Uganda. **[31p][50ai][61f][61g][66j]**

5.68 In September 2000, the town of Gulu in northern Uganda was struck by the Ebola virus (haemorrhagic fever) leaving 149 dead out of 357 reported cases. The virus had spread to Mbarara, in south west Uganda, and Masindi, just south of Gulu. The World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative for Uganda, Dr Walker, said that the mortality rate was low and credit should go to the national task force for putting up the idea of active searches for potential cases. In November 2000, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) sent a team to assist in containing the outbreak. At the end of November 2000 the number of Ebola cases began to fall and the WHO reported that the epidemic had been contained**. [68d][68e]**

5.69 In September 2001 the Government of Uganda, with the assistance of the African Development Bank established a support to health sector strategic project. A statement issued by the permanent secretary, Ministry of Health, Richard Muhinda, said the project is aimed at strengthening mental health services in Uganda and added that it will also serve to address primary health care in northern Uganda. In October 2001, a new hospital opened in Gulu. The new hospital promises to perform specialist services that will minimise travel for medical treatment outside Uganda. In an effort to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic the Government promised to soon start distributing free condoms in villages countrywide according to a UN Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) report issued on 17 January 2002. Uganda has been cited as the success story in Sub-Saharan Africa in an effort to reduce HIV-prevalence levels, according to the joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS. **[28g][49j][49k][68r]**

5.70 Uganda plans to offer free AIDS treatment for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV infection throughout the country by the end of 2002. In June 2002, officials from the Ministry of Health and the United Nations children's fund announced that they would be expanding the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) project following successful pilot trial at six sites in four districts. Under the project, all mothers attending antenatal clinics will be counselled about the need to take HIV tests. Those who test HIV positive as well as their babies receive free doses of the drugs, which reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission. They also receive counselling and support.

In August 2002, the Government announced that they plan to provide free anti-retroviral treatment for more than 2,000 AIDS patients countrywide. **[28g][50aj][65h]**

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Disabilities

5.71 The Constitution provides that persons with disabilities have "a right to respect and human dignity" and requires that authorities take appropriate measures "to ensure that they realise their full mental and physical potential"; however, despite this provision, there is no statutory requirement for Government services or facilities, such as accessibility to buildings for the disabled. Most buildings have one storey, but in larger towns with multi-storey buildings, there are often no elevators; even where they do exist, they rarely are reliable. Widespread discrimination by society and employers limits job and educational opportunities for those with physical disabilities. In 1998 the Government appointed a Minister of State for Disabled Persons. A Department for Disabled Persons also exists under the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development; however, these bodies and positions have little funding to undertake or support any initiatives. Five seats are reserved in Parliament for the disabled. **[2a]**

Educational System

5.72 The Universal Primary Education (UPE) program continued to expand its reach. The program is intended to provide education through seventh grade for a maximum of four children per family. The UPE program remains only partially implemented due to strained finances, instability in some areas, infrastructure problems and inadequate teacher training. Although the UPE program makes education more accessible financially, parents must still pay for books, uniforms and some school costs. Approximately 95% of primary school-age children are enrolled in school. Since the implementation of UPE, primary school enrolment has increased from 2.9 million in 1996 to 6.8 million in 2000. Girls and boys have equal access to education and lower grades are divided almost evenly by sex; however, the proportion of girls in higher school grades remains low. Only 54% of adult females are literate compared with 74% of adult males. **[2a]**

5.73 The Finance Minister, Gerald Ssendawula, announced that Government sponsorship of university education would end in 2001 and that they were currently considering several proposals to reorganise radically the way university students are selected, on the grounds that children from wealthier families who attended good schools dominated the selection process. The Minister for Higher Education, Dr Abel Rwendeire also drew attention to the lack of graduates in "useful" subjects such as medicine and engineering, as opposed to the social sciences and said the Government was considering withdrawing sponsorship from the latter. Speaking at the eighth graduation ceremony at Mbarara University on 2 February 2002, President Museveni said that the Government planned to expand the Mbarara University Science and technology (MUST) to enable it to absorb more students of medicine. **[12][31r][31af][50v]**

5.74 A small Islamic University is sited in Mbale. There are also several Christian universities: the Ugandan Christian University, which is close to Makerere and with

which it shares several theological courses; a Roman Catholic campus at Nkozi in Masaka District; a Seventh Day Adventist campus near Entebbe. More universities are planned, such as the one at Kasanga near Kampala, and Namasagali in Kampala, which received its licence in September 1998. The Director of Planning at Makerere University announced in July 2001 that the university was set to increase student intake from 22,000 to 35,000 in the next five years. The number of female graduates at Makerere University has increased by 14 per cent, from 28% to 44%, in the last 10 years. The female students were among the best performing. **[7][31v][50l][52a][52b]**

5.75 Political education and military science courses known as "Chaka Mchaka" were suspended prior to the June 2000 Referendum on political systems but resumed in August 2000. These courses are criticised as indoctrination in Movement political philosophy. There continued to be reports that the techniques used in some of the courses included intimidation and physical and mental abuse. There were also no reports that some of the instructors demanded payment for the courses and that persons were coerced to them. **[2a]**

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6 Human Rights

6A Human Rights Issues

Overview

6.1 Since taking power in 1986 President Museveni's National Resistance Movement (NRM) continued to govern through what it called the "movement" or "no-party" system of Government, justifying its restrictions on political participation as essential in order to prevent a return to Uganda's violent past. Violent opposition groups of several years standing fought in the north and the west of the country, and renewed rebel activity emerged in eastern Uganda. These groups, particularly the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the west, continued to carry out brutal assaults on civilians, brutalising, killing, looting and abducting adults and children alike. The Ugandan army was also responsible for serious abuses against civilians in areas of conflict, for which individual soldiers were rarely held to account. **[35][50t]**

6.2 Museveni inherited a country where 1 million had been killed by war, 2 million uprooted as refugees, 500,000 seriously injured and the economy in ruins. Considerable progress has been made in restoring peace across Uganda and in rebuilding infrastructure shattered by civil war. Rebel attacks continue to be a major problem for President Museveni's Government. Three main rebel groups are involved; the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which operates in the north with Sudanese support, the West Nile Bank Front (WNBF), based in the far northwest, and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), from the Ruwenzori mountains on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. The LRA under the leadership of Joseph Kony, is the longest-running insurgent organisation, with links back to the resistance against President Museveni in northern Uganda during the years after 1986. **[70a]**

6.3 The war in northern Uganda is in its sixteenth year. The districts of Gulu and Kitgum, home of the Acholi ethnic group, have been ravaged. According to the UN agency, Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are

approximately 550,000 people who remained internally displaced by February 2002. The rural economy is greatly reduced. In 1997 Amnesty International published a report on human rights abuses against children by the LRA, one of the parties to this war. However, this is only part of the dynamic of war in northern Uganda. The control of civilian population is a strategic issue for the Government's Uganda Peoples' Defence Force (UPDF) as well as the LRA. This put civilians of all ages at the heart of the conflict, rendering them especially vulnerable to human rights abuse on both sides. Largely obscured by the scale of LRA violence is a pattern of human rights violations involving UPDF soldiers. Since 1996 Amnesty International has documented scores of killings, dozens of rapes and hundreds of beatings. **[43a][43b][57]**

6.4 There is a general problem of impunity for soldiers who have committed serious crimes against civilians. While many have been arrested and charged, few have been tried. The reasons for this are a series of institutional failures in the administration of justice. The increased monitoring activity of the human rights community is at least partly due to the work of the governmental human rights commission, which has demonstrated that the Government is willing to allow some monitoring of sensitive human rights issues such as abuses by the army and security organisations. The UPDF was also responsible for serious human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture and summary executions. In February 1999, the badly mutilated body of Patrick L Ocan was found by relatives near Gulu, he was bound at the hands and feet. Ocan was reportedly seen in UPDF custody days before his death. He appeared to have been castrated and had several stabwounds and a gunshot wound to the head. There was neither any investigation nor action taken. **[2b][44]**

6.5 Unlike 2000 there were no reports that security officials mistreated Muslims or that Muslims suspected of being ADF rebel collaborators or involved in terrorist activities died as a result of torture by DMI officials. In February 1999, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), an independent local human rights organisation began an investigation into allegations that two policemen, Moses Lutaya and Ephraim Magala, were tortured by their superiors for stealing bananas while on duty. Subsequently, the two police officers were compensated by the district administration with approximately US $750 (1.26 million shillings) and were reinstated in their jobs. The senior officers were transferred but no additional action was taken against them. In conjunction with the UHRC, the police force continued a training program for police officials in order to gain respect for internationally recognised human rights standards. **[2a][35][44]**

6.6 International observers agree that the human rights situation in Uganda is not only better now than under the regimes of the 1970s and early 1980s but has also improved significantly since the early years of the NRM Government, although there is still a long way to go. **[2a][14a]**

6.7 There is also widespread agreement that Uganda has an increasingly forceful, democratically elected Parliament in which "opposition" voices are widely heard; a lively and pretty much free press; an independent judiciary; that there is no systematic persecution based on political beliefs or tribal origin etc and that large numbers of political exiles have returned to Uganda in recent years to live and do so free from

persecution. The new Amnesty came into force for all members of rebel groups on the 17 January 2000. **[14a][66h]**

Human Rights Monitoring

6.8 Numerous human rights groups operate in Uganda. Among them are The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative; a chapter of FIDA; the Prisoners' Aid Foundation, which monitors prison conditions; the National Organisation of Civic Education and Election Monitoring, which deals with problems related to civil society and political rights; Human Rights Focus, based in the northern town of Gulu; the National Association of Women's Organisations of Uganda (NAWOU), an umbrella group; the International Federation of Human Rights; and the Human Rights and Peace Centre, based at Makerere University. These groups operate without Government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The Constitution established the Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) as a permanent independent body with quasi-judicial powers. Under the Constitution the UHRC can subpoena information and order the release of detainees and the payment of compensation for abuses. **[2a]**

6.9 HURINET, a human rights network and an umbrella organisation for nine human rights organisations active in the country also continued to be active. The Government allowed visits by international human rights NGOs including Amnesty International and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). The Government also co-operated with the UNHCR. Government officials were generally co-operative and responsive to NGO views. They frequently attended conferences and seminars hosted by NGO'S on social problems. The Government also continued to co-operate with NGOs on legal and prison reforms. **[2a]**

Uganda Human Rights Commission

6.10 The Constitution established the UHRC as a permanent independent body with quasi-judicial powers. Under the Constitution, the UHRC may subpoena information and order the release of detainees and the payment of compensation for abuses. The UHRC Human Rights Court continues to function, and received 759 complaints during 2001, including ones in which the accused were senior Government leaders and military and police officials. Of these complaints, 434 were pending investigations; 159 investigations were completed and awaiting judgements; 112 were referred to other bodies, such as the Inspector General of Government, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Public Service; 23 were resolved through mediation; 13 were dismissed as outside the mandate of the office; 8 were determined not to be human rights cases; 7 complainants lost interest; and 3 were time barred. **[2a]**

Insurgency

6.11 Widespread disruption was caused in 1987 by a rebellion that had arisen in northern and eastern Uganda in late 1986 by the cultish 'Holy Spirit' movement. Between December 1986 and November 1987 some 5,000 ill-equipped 'Holy Spirit' fighters were reportedly killed in clashes with the NRA. By December 1987 the

rebellion had been suppressed and its leader had escaped to Kenya. Surviving members of the movement, comprised mainly of Acholi, later regrouped to what is now the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), aka Kony rebels, which has continued its armed attacks in the northern districts of Gulu and Kitgum. The LRA has been guilty of widespread atrocities against the civilian population, including murder, mutilation, rape and child abductions. The LRA were allegedly supported by the Government of Sudan and had bases inside southern Sudan. **[1]**

6.12 During April 1990 the NRA initiated a campaign to eradicate continuing rebel activity in the north and east. By July 1990 it was reported that at least 1,500 guerrillas had been killed and more than 1,000 arrested. An Amnesty International report dated December 1990 accused the NRA of torturing and summarily executing prisoners during their anti-insurgency operations. **[1]**

6.13 Following a collapse in the negotiations between the Government and the rebel LRA in 1994, fighting intensified. From 1994 onwards the Government deployed large numbers of security forces in northern Uganda but has so far failed to suppress the rebellion. **[1]**

6.14 From late 1996 the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF as the NRA had become) has fought intermittently with Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in Western Uganda. ADF rebel activity decreased in the latter months of 1997 following the fall of Mobutu in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) on whom they apparently relied for support. There has also been sporadic instability in the extreme northwest (West Nile area) of Uganda. It is thought that a further rebel group, the West Nile Bank Front (WBNF), backed by Sudan, had ceased to operate (some of its followers joined the LRA), others surrendered and joined the UPDF, although there have been reports of WBNF activity in 1997, 1998 and 1999. **[1][2b][31ab][50w]**

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Amnesties

6.15 In June 1987 the NRC offered an amnesty to all rebels (except those accused of murder or rape). The period of this amnesty has been periodically extended, and widened to subsequent rebel groups. Many past rebel figures have returned to Uganda, and the Government confirmed that the 1987 Amnesty remained valid until the new Amnesty law passed through parliament, although, not having been renewed in law, it was an administrative arrangement rather than a legal one. The debate on the bill began in August 1998 and continued intermittently for over a year. The Bill finally passed into law on 17 January 2000 and was to be in force for 6 months. No formal announcements have been made regarding an extension to the Amnesty Law. The law allows for extension beyond the initial six-month period, and despite the lack of formal notification, the amnesty has remained in force. It can be extended further as and when necessary. **[1][2a][9][25a][29][53][66h]**

6.16 President Museveni had initially wanted the Amnesty to apply only to the rank and file but was prevailed upon by parliament to widen the scope to encompass all levels within the rebel movements. There are mixed reports of how the Amnesty is being implemented with The East African newspaper commenting, on 14 February 2000, that UPDF commanders in the extreme north "are behaving as though the

amnesty does not exist". Implementations of the practical provisions of the act have been slow and it is too soon to assess its effect, especially in the more remote areas of the country. **[2a][66h][72a]**

6.17 In May 1999, President Museveni made an offer of amnesty to Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army fighters, which was not taken up. President Museveni said he had been motivated by the pleas of the people of northern Uganda who were desperate for a solution. In July 2000, former rebels of the Lords Resistance Army 'hanging out' in Nairobi's Uhuru Park explained how they were recruited to fight in places as far away as Angola and Ethiopia and that they were awaiting to take advantage of the amnesty offer. **[65c][65d][68a]**

6.18 In April 2001, more than 50 Allied Democratic Forces rebels were freed in the first application of the amnesty law. As reported in the 'New Vision' Ugandan newspaper on 22 August 2001 over 5,000 current and former rebels have appealed to the Ugandan Amnesty Commission to be allowed to return peacefully to their homes but the outcome is yet unknown. On 30 August 2001, the Amnesty Commission chief Justice Onega said that rebels convicted of treason were eligible for pardon under the amnesty initiative. Increasing numbers of LRA combatants have taken up the offer of amnesty over recent months. This may be as a result of increased information about the amnesty being made available in Northern Uganda. **[68p][68q]**

6.19 Between July 2000 and January 2002, 1671 rebels had surrendered under the amnesty law and given certificates by the Amnesty Commission. According to the Amnesty Commission over 700 other rebels based in Sudan have also sent "signals" that they are willing to surrender under the law. According to the Government-owned newspaper, the New Vision, dated 16 July 2002, the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs said that during the last financial year the Amnesty Commission had granted 5,000 people amnesty. They also expect to grant another 6,000 reporters. **[50p][50ah]**

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Freedom of Speech and the Media

6.20 The Constitution provides for freedom of speech, and the Government generally respected this right. At the end of 2001, there were at least 40 radio stations, mostly private, operating throughout the country. The Monitor Group Limited expanded its services and introduced Kampala's first all-talk and issues-oriented FM radio station. The number of media broadcast sources increased during 2001. Several independent media outlets in Kampala broadcast daily or weekly political talk shows, in several languages, which were often critical of the Government and individual officials, including President Museveni. High-ranking officials often participated in these programs and debated issues with political opponents, particularly during the 2 months prior to the March 2001 presidential election. There was no censorship of these programs; however, there were reports that local Government officials or politically connected business leaders interfered with programming on local radio stations in the smaller towns. **[2a][81]**

6.21 A considerable degree of academic freedom exists at the two public and more than nine private universities, with no Government interference in teaching, research, or

publication. Students and faculty have sponsored wide-ranging political debates in open fora on campus. During 2001, the police dispersed at least one student demonstration that became violent. Political education and military science courses known as “Chaka Mchaka” continued during 2001 although they were suspended during the elections. **[2a]**

6.22 The Constitution provides for freedom of the press and the Government generally respects this right; however, there were instances where the Government infringed on these rights. Police at times harassed journalists by holding them at police stations for several hours of questioning. The media are generally free and outspoken, and there are many privately owned publications and broadcasters. The New Vision is a Government owned daily newspaper, with a circulation of 35,000, which is of fairly high quality and sometimes included reporting critical of the Government. The Monitor, another newspaper, has a daily circulation of 22,000 and was consistently critical of the Government. The Monitor's circulation rose significantly during 2001, particularly prior to the March 2001 presidential elections. **[2a]**

6.23 In December 2000, the Government banned the regular opinion of four journalists with the New Vision newspaper due to past commentary critical of the Government; they allegedly were told to stop writing until after the presidential campaign. On 6 February 2002, The Human Rights Network (HURINET) strongly condemned the beating of two journalists by military policemen. The two New Vision journalists had gone to witness an eviction exercise involving the Military Police. HURINET Co-ordinator described the beating as unfortunate and a violation of the citizens' human rights. The East African, a Nairobi, Kenya-based weekly publication that provides extensive reporting on the country, continued to circulate without Government interference. **[2a][31w][81]**

6.24 A print media law and a broadcast media law require journalists to be licensed and to meet certain standards, such as holding a university degree in journalism or an equivalent. The law also provides for a Media Council that can suspend newspapers and deny access to state information; the Media Council was staffed but not operational during 2001. Government officials have failed to enforce either of the laws in recent years. **[2a]**

6.25 Uncensored Internet access is widely available through three commercial service providers in the major cities, although its price was prohibitive for all but the most affluent non-institutional users. There are now over a dozen cyber cafes in Kampala and other cities and several NGOs offer Internet access. **[2a]**

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Freedom of Religion

6.26 The Constitution provides for freedom of religion and the Government generally respects this right in practice; however, in the past the Government forcibly disbanded several religious groups. There is no state religion. Religious groups and foreign missionaries, like other non-governmental organisations, must register with the Government. The Government continued to refuse to grant registration to the World Last Message Warning Church, due to the leader's pending criminal charges and continuing suspicions following the cult killings of more than 1000 citizens in 2000.

There were no reports that the Government refused to grant registration to any other religious organisation. Permits were necessary for the construction of facilities, including religious facilities. Mosques operated freely, Koranic schools were common, and Muslims occupied positions of authority in local and central Government; however, some Muslim leaders claim that the number of positions did not reflect their percentage of the population. 38 members of the Islamic Tabliq group remained in detention after refusing to take up the offer of amnesty and chose to stand trial. **[2a]**

6.27 Following the 16 March 2000 murders of more than 500 Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God followers and the discovery of mass graves of approximately 500 other on properties in Kanungu belonging to the group, the Government launched investigations into numerous religious groups. Three groups were forcibly disbanded and one religious leader was arrested. In 2000, police in Rukungiri district arrested Innocent Bitungwabariho, a leader of the Jesus Christ the King of Salvation Church who had allegedly confined his family to their house for 5 years in order to prevent them from being exposed to sin. In August 2000, he appeared in court on charges of participating in an unlawful assembly, being idle and disorderly, and child neglect under section 15 of the Penal Code Act. He remained in detention at the end of 2001. **[2a]**

6.28 In March 2002, police arrested 16 members of a religious cult that eschews medical treatment. Police raided the headquarters of Believers in God in Akworo and rescued a 3 year old sick child who had been denied medical treatment. The leader of the group is currently on the run. The Government owned New Vision newspaper said that at least 10 people had died in the Believers of God camp in Akworo; however the privately owned Daily Monitor said the bodies of 30 members who had died after failing to receive medical treatment had been secretly buried. **[67e]**

6.29 Prisoners are given the opportunity to pray on the day appropriate to their faith. Muslim prisoners are usually released from work duties during the month of Ramadan. **[2a]**

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Freedom of Assembly & Association

6.30 The Constitution provides for some degree of freedom of assembly for non-political groups, however, the Government restricts the right in practice. The Constitution bans political parties from holding national conventions, issuing platforms, endorsing candidates or opening branch offices outside the capital, and on several occasions, police disrupted or intervened and dispersed opposition demonstrations and other events. The Constitution also forbids other activities that would interfere with the movement system, an elastic provision that the Government, in the past, has interpreted adversely to the detriment of political groups' interests. Permits are not required; however, groups are required to notify the police prior or public gatherings. Police denied permission to hold public rallies to several non-Movement groups during 2001; however, in practice many groups held rallies and large gatherings prior to and following the presidential and parliamentary elections, of which some were declared illegal or disrupted by the authorities. **[2a]**

6.31 On 3 June 2000, police in Gulu prevented a meeting of the Uganda Youth Congress, the youth wing of the Uganda People's Congress. On 25 June 2000, police beat and arrested 11 Makerere University students after they disrupted a referendum rally held by the President. They were subsequently charged with "misconduct and alarming the President" and released on bail. During 2001, all charges were dropped against the students. At the end of August 2002, in the eastern region of Jinja a rally organised by the Uganda Young Democrats was broken up by police. DP loyalists claimed that this was the beginning of a battle for political supremacy. **[2a][72c]**

6.32 There were credible reports from opposition candidates that security personnel, including UPDF soldiers, intimidated them and disrupted their rallies and that local Government officials deliberately obstructed opposition political events. On 18 January 2001, police in the south-western town of Kabale blocked Rabwoni Okwir from addressing a rally, allegedly because the organisers had not sought permission from security personnel in the area. Okwir was also blocked from addressing rallies in Kikinzi County in Kanungu district in the southwest. On 28 February 2001, UPDF soldiers in Tororo, in the east, arrested several supporters of presidential candidate Besigye for participating in a demonstration in which they protested against army torture. **[2a]**

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Employment Rights

6.33 The Constitution provides for the right of every person to join workers' associations or trade unions and the Government respects this right in practice; however, it has not responded to a 1997 application for registration by the Uganda Allied Teachers' Union. Employers often do not observe the requirement to reorganise a union. The rights to form unions extends to civil servants. However, many "essential" Government employees are not permitted to form unions; these include police, army and permanent secretaries in the ministries, heads of departments and state owned enterprises, school principals and other management level officials. The Government has failed to enforce the rights of some employees to join unions in newly privatised industries and factories. The law allows unionisation if 51 percent or more of the work force supports it and of the proposed union represents at least 1,000 employees. **[2a]**

6.34 The Constitution confirms the right to strike but Government policy requires that labour and management make "every effort" to reconcile labour disputes before resorting to strike action. On 6 February 2001, more than 400 workers, including top managers, of the Kampala-based Crown Beverages Limited went on strike for the second time in a month demanding the resignation of the Chief Executive, whom they said was responsible for poor working relations. **[2a]**

6.35 The law prohibits forced or compulsory labour, including forced and bonded labour by children; however a lack of resources prevented the Government from enforcing this prohibition effectively. The UPDF at times detained the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) child soldiers at Gulu military barracks for a few weeks or several months. Unlike 2000, there were no reports that the UPDF used children to help find LRA landmines as arms caches. **[2a]**

6.36 The law prohibits employers from hiring workers under the age of 18; however, child labour is common, especially in the informal sector. The Ministry of Gender,

Labour and Social Development is charged with enforcing the law on child labour, but it has limited financial means to do so. Many children leave school and go into domestic or agricultural work in order to help meet expenses or perform the work of absent or infirm parents, a situation common throughout the country. **[2a]**

People Trafficking

6.37 The law prohibits trafficking in persons; however, there were reports that persons were trafficked to and from, or within the country. There were unconfirmed reports that Government officials were complicit in the illegal trafficking of Asian workers to the country. The Government made significant efforts to combat trafficking in persons despite severe resource constraints and the civil conflict with the LRA. The Criminal Code prohibits slavery with penalties of up to 10 years in prison. The CID is mandated to combat trafficking. The CID did not keep records of the magnitude of the problem, and it was unknown if its efforts have been effective. **[2a]**

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Freedom of Movement

6.38 The Constitution provides for freedom of movement and the Government generally respects this right in practice; however, there were some limits. Some local officials reportedly demanded payment of fees for permission to change a place of residence. A married woman must obtain her husband's written permission on her passport application if children are travelling on her passport. **[2a]**

6.39 During 2001, the DMI twice imposed travel restrictions on former presidential candidate Kizza Besigye; on 17 March 2001, Besigye was stopped from boarding a plane to South Africa, and again on 25 March 2001, he was prevented from travelling to Nairobi, Kenya. He petitioned the UHRC Tribunal against the Government for wrongful restriction of movement; the case was still pending at the end of 2001; however on 17 August 2001, Besigye beat a 24-hour surveillance and escaped from Uganda. (See section 5.18) **[2a][31t]**

Internal Flight

6.40 There are no restrictions on internal flight within Uganda. The situation in the north of the country demonstrates this clearly. During the conflict with the LRA, some Acholi fled rebel attacks and sought safety near army barracks. There were also reports that Government forces used threats to compel citizens to leave their homes and move to areas under Government protection. During 2001, attacks by LRA terrorists and armed Karamojong raiders caused many Acholi and Iteso to leave their homes for urban centres, displaced person camps, and villages guarded by the UPDF and LDUs. Although the armed Karamojong raiders did not attack the Acholi during 2001, increased incursions by the Karamojong raiders to raid cattle and food had led to the displacement of approximately 81,000 people, particularly in Katakwi. Further attacks, in 2002, by the rebel organisation the Lords Resistance Army caused more displacement (see section 6.81). **[2a][53]**

Refugees

6.41 There are no laws that provide for the granting of refugee and asylum status in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; however, the Government does grant such status in practice. The Government co-operates with the Office of the UN Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with other humanitarian organisations in assisting refugees. The Government has continued to provide asylum as well as land for temporary resettlement to citizens from neighbouring countries, extending this practice to significant numbers during 2001. More than 85 percent of the approximately 180,000 refugees in the country are from southern Sudan; there are also refugees from the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi. **[2a]**

6.42 In August 2001, 50 refugees who were living in refugee resettlement camps in western Uganda were expatriated to the United States of America under an arrangement between the US Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia and the Sudan had been living in Nakivale resettlement camp in Mbarara and Kyangwali camp in Hoima, some of them for up to 11 years. **[31o]**

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6B Human Rights - Specific Groups

Ethnic Groups

6.43 Approximately 40 African ethnic groups constitute the vast majority of the population of Uganda, with a small percentage of Asians and Europeans. Asians, expelled from Uganda under the Amin regime have continued to return to Uganda following President's Museveni's formal invitation in May 1991. **[16a]**

6.44 There is a major ethnic division between Bantu groups who live mainly in the south, and Nilotic groups who live mainly in the north. The main Bantu groups which make up about two thirds of the population are the Ganda, (Baganda, the largest tribe with 16% of the population), Soga (8%), Nyoro, Nkole (Banyankole 8%), Toro, Chiga (Kiga), Gisu, Gwere and Nyole (Banyuri). The West Nile tribes have only 6% of the population and are divided into the Lugbara, Alur and Madi tribes plus the smaller Kakwa. This smaller ethnic group ruled the country from 1971 - 1979. **[16a]**

6.45 There are distinct tensions between ethnic groups in Uganda, particularly between the north and the south, and this is one element used to explain the relative wealth and development in the south as opposed to the poverty and lack of resources in the northern districts. Membership of a marginalised Ugandan ethnic group does not automatically imply exclusion or discrimination. **[3]**

6.46 The principle Nilotic groups are the Acholi, Langi, Karamojong, Teso, Madi and Kakwa. In the early years of independence there was an important community of about 70,000 Asians of Indian and Pakistani origin and about 10,000 Europeans. However, since the expulsion of "non citizens" (as they were described by the Amin Government) in 1972, both these groups have fallen to negligible sizes. The most widely spoken

indigenous language is Luganda (the language of Baganda) although English and Swahili are widely used as common languages. **[11]**

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Acholi

6.47 The Acholi account for around 4.6% of Uganda's population. They live primarily in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum, in northern Uganda where communications are poor and villages isolated. **[11]**

6.48 The Acholi dominated the officer corps of the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) which was the Government army between 1979 and 1986. The UNLA had an appalling human rights record and in particular targeted the population of the Luwero Triangle, northwest of Kampala, who had voted against the UPC in the 1980 elections. It is reported that when Museveni took control there was resentment among the NRA because of the atrocities committed by the UNLA in the Luwero Triangle. **[21]**

6.49 Thousands of Acholi soldiers fled home to the North. However, their activities in Luwero had alienated them from their compatriots who believed that the returning soldiers had brought *cen* (the revengeful spirits of those killed by the soldiers) down on the region although it was not the actual killings that agitated the *cen,* but the fact that the soldiers had failed to observe the traditional purifying rituals (known as *Mato Oput*) followed by warriors after a slaying. In pre-colonial times a warrior would bring home the head of a dead foe as evidence of his deeds then spend several days in seclusion until he was purified by the ritual and the spirit of his victim pacified by a sacrifice and sent away. The warrior then received a *moi-name* as a sign of his bravery and new, higher, social status. **[58][59]**

6.50 Even during the First and Second World Wars, when many Acholi served in the King's African Rifles, they would bring home mementoes of enemies they had killed, such as a uniform button or cap badge to use during the purification rituals, but the confusion of the civil war, coupled with the shame felt at their actions, meant that many were unwilling or unable to undergo the ritual and remained unpurified. This, in turn, brought the rage of the unpacified spirits of their victims down on the whole community. The elders regarded the historical fall of the Acholi, the loss of state power, AIDS, the growing internal conflicts and the increasing use of witchcraft as a sign of condemnation resulting from transgression against the moral order. Thus when Alice Lakwena launched the Holy Spirit Movement (which later became the Lord's Resistance Army) and invented a ritual of purification which cleansed her soldiers from witchcraft and the *cen*, she achieved what the elders had been unable to - she reintegrated and rehabilitated her soldiers. **[58]**

6.51 Initially, Alice and the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) were seen as the salvation of the Acholi as she led her troops into battle against the NRM and achieved many early victories. However, as her demands on her adherents became more complex and bizarre and her victories fewer, her power waned and she fled into exile in Kenya, where she has remained to date. Her mantle was assumed by a cousin, Joseph Kony, under disputed circumstances. He presided over a dramatic shift in the character of the movement, effectively marginalising it, and taking a polarised position against those

Acholi who did not actively support him. He also renamed the HSM the Lord's Resistance Army. **[59]**

6.52 The continued instability in the north led to violations of the rights of some Acholi. Most of these violations were as a result of actions by the LRA. The Acholi have become soft targets for the LRA and remain frequent victims of serious atrocities. The UHRC opened an investigation into a 1998 incident in which UPDF forces, while combating suspected LRA rebels, reportedly killed 30 Acholi children abducted by the LRA in Ogok village, Kitgum district. Increased attacks by LRA rebels and Karamojong warriors have caused many Acholis to leave their homes for urban centres, displaced camps and villages guarded by the UPDF. **[2b][5]**

6.53 There is no credible evidence to suggest that the Acholi people support the LRA or actively fight against the UPDF. Thousands of Acholi people have sought protection from the UPDF against the attacks by the LRA. The Government has responded by setting up "protected villages" which are guarded by UPDF forces. Whilst there have been reports of criticism of the UPDF for the sometimes heavy handed way in which they operate in protecting the population, there is little evidence to dispute that the "protected village" tactic has resulted in fewer attacks and abductions of civilians, although they do generate problems of their own, such as preventing farmers from tending their land or planting crops. **[14a][51]**

6.54 There is no credible evidence to suggest that the Government persecutes the Acholi people or that UPDF personnel routinely target Acholi people as being rebels or rebel sympathisers. There are Acholi living in Kampala, a multi-ethnic city, and in all areas of Uganda. All citizens, including Acholi, are free to reside anywhere they wish and there is no formal obligation to register with the local authorities. All citizens, including Acholi, are entitled to vote and the local elections that took place in Acholi early in 1998, as well as in the rest of the country, have been accepted as free and fair. There are a number of Acholi MPs, some of whom are outspoken critics of the Government, such as Norbert Mao and Ronald Reagan Okumu (sic). Both are part of an informal parliamentary group of Acholi MPs who operate without restriction. None of these MPs have claimed that their activities have been restricted by the state because they are Acholi. **[14a][47a]**

6.55 The Commander of 4 Division of the UPDF, who is responsible for security in northern Uganda, including the fight against the LRA, estimated recently that 40% of his soldiers are ethnic Acholi and while it is true that few officers are Acholi, there is no bar to them entering the service. There is no evidence to suggest that the Acholi are systematically denied access to education or medical services although attacks by the LRA on schools and hospitals, for example, can interrupt the delivery of such services. Nor is there evidence to suggest that the Acholi are singled out for questioning about terrorism. In Acholiland it is obvious that investigations into acts of terrorism by the security forces will naturally involve interviewing Acholi, but it should be noted that the Acholi are predominantly the victims of LRA terrorism. There is also the view held by some Acholi and some sympathisers outside the country, that they are unfairly targeted by the Government or tainted by the activities of the LRA, who are, of course, virtually all Acholi. **[2a][47a]**

6.56 A full examination of the conflict in northern Uganda and the position of the Acholi is contained in "The Bending of the Spears", which is attached as source. The continued instability in the north led to violations of the rights of some Acholi. Most violations of Acholi rights resulted from LRA actions. In October 2001, the Resident District Commissioner in Gulu said that up to 5,000 Acholi children were still under captivity in southern Sudan by the LRA. **[49i][51]**

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Karamojong

6.57 The Karamojong descended from a group of people referred to as the Nilotes. They migrated from an area near the Nile Valley in Southern Sudan and Ethiopia. A portion of these groups settled on the high, dry plateau of Karamoja. Karamoja lies mostly in the northeastern region of Uganda and nearly straddles Uganda's border with Kenya. They built a culture revolving around the herding of cattle and the raiding of cattle from neighbours have been part of the Karamojong culture for centuries. **[6]**

6.58 Since the start of 2001, the Karamojong have carried out 52 attacks in and around sub-counties, which border on the Karamoja sub-region. In 2000, many Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) fled to camps when the Karamojong carried out the worst recorded raids against the population of Katakwi. In August 2001 Katakwi District Council declared Katakwi District a state of emergency following repeated attacks on the population by Karamojong pastorialists. There are currently 88,000 displaced people in Katakwi. In September 2001 the Ugandan army deployed a battalion of soldiers in the northeast of the country to counter Karamojong cattle raiding and civil unrest. **[68j][68k][68l][68m]**

6.59 Throughout 2001, general insecurity and incidences of cattle rustling persisted in the north east of Uganda but there were renewed efforts to bring peace to Karamoja, through community-level initiatives and notably by way of a Government-sponsored disarmament programme, which began in December 2001. Between 2 December 2001 and 29 December 2001 the Karamojong had voluntarily handed in 7,000 illegal firearms. The deadline for handing over the illegal firearms expired on 15 February 2002 and at this time only 7,676 had been handed in. Over the weekend of 23 and 24 February 2002, the Ugandan army launched a forcible disarmament operation following the expiry of the deadline. **[68t][68u]**

6.60 In May 2002, the Ugandan army killed thirteen people during clashes with a herder and community soldiers. In August 2002, the Government-owned newspaper the New Vision reported that suspected Karamojong warriors attacked a camp for internally displaced persons in Katakwi District killing two people and leaving four critically wounded. In the incident it was reported that about 80 warriors attacked the camp which was being guarded by 13 members of the LDU and stole 140 heads of cattle. However, the Ugandan Government said that they are seeing a marked improvement in Katakwi since the disarmament process began. **[68ad][69z]**

Women

6.61 Domestic violence against women, including rape, remained common in 2001. According to the United Nations statistics, 31 percent of women have experienced

domestic violence. There are no laws that specifically protect women from battery and spousal rape, although there is a general law concerning assault. Law enforcement officials, reflecting general public opinion, continued to view wife beating as a husband's prerogative and rarely intervened in cases of domestic violence. Women remained more likely to file for divorce than to file assault charges against their husbands. These problems continued to receive increasing public attention. Numerous women's rights NGOs sponsored conferences, empowerment sessions and training programs throughout the country. **[2a]**

6.62 There are active women's rights groups, including FIDA, Action for Development, the National Association of Women's Judges (NAWJ), Akina Mama Wa Afrika, the Forum for Women in Democracy and NAWOU, which promote greater awareness of the rights of women and children. Between February 2000 and July 2000, Karamojong warriors raped approximately 20 women during raids on neighbouring districts in the northeast. The police have trained community liaison officers to conduct seminars and workshops to help stop brutal acts. **[2a]**

6.63 Traditional and widespread discrimination against women continues, especially in rural areas, despite constitutional provisions to the contrary. Many customary laws discriminate against women in the areas of adoption, marriage, divorce and inheritance. For example, female police officers must obtain the consent of the Police Inspector General before getting married, whilst their male counterparts do not. Polygyny is legal under both customary and Islamic law and a wife has no legal right to prevent her husband from taking more wives. Men often "inherit" the widows of a deceased brother. The divorce laws set a higher evidentiary standard for women than men. Women do most of the agricultural work but own only 7% of the agricultural land. There are limits on a married woman's ability to travel abroad with her children. **[2a]**

6.64 Uganda became a signatory of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in July 1980. In their first annual report (14th Session) on Uganda on 31 May 1995 many issues were raised among them was that unlike male citizens in Uganda, women did not enjoy the right to extend their citizenship to their children born outside the country and the Committee wanted to know why it was that 49 percent of households were headed by a single woman. In October 2000, the Committee reviewed the progress in advancement of women's issues. It was noted then that the human rights of women and girls were being increasingly respected although obstacles to their advancement were numerous. **[45][46]**

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Children

6.65 The Government has demonstrated a commitment to improving children's welfare. The Universal Primary Education (UPE) program continued to expand its reach. The program provides free education through to 7th Grade for a maximum of 4 children per family; however, education is not compulsory. Girls and boys theoretically have equal assess to education, and lower grades are divided almost evenly by sex; however the proportion of girls in higher school grades remains low since families traditionally have favoured boys when making financially related educational decisions. The Government continued several programs to promote a national plan for the education of girls; only 54 percent of adult women are literate compared with 74 percent

of adult men. The Government has not yet implemented effectively the 1996 Children's Statute, which outlines broad protection for children. The Children's Statute also requires children with disabilities to be treated and given necessary special facilities, however provision for this has been hampered by inadequate funding. **[2a]**

6.66 According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) just over half of Uganda's one-year-olds are fully immunised against measles, only about 38 percent of births are attended by skilled health staff and an estimated quarter of the children under five years old are estimated to be underweight for their age. It was announced in June 2002, that Ugandan children were to benefit from a new vaccine, which offers protection against five major childhood diseases in a single shot. This comes as part of the country's new initiative to strengthen the process of the routine immunisation of infants before their first birthday. **[68f][68s]**

6.67 Child abuse remains a serious problem, particularly the rape of young girls or defilement. Many of these incidents are never reported, especially if the perpetrator is a neighbour, family member or teacher, as is often the case. During 2000, there were 4,209 reported cases of defilement, an increase from 2,637 in 1999; 2,410 of the cases were investigated, and 2,317 arrests made. Increasing numbers of accusations reached the courts, although neither conviction nor punishment was common. The most severe penalty allowed under the law for rape is death, although that has never been meted out to a convicted rapist. The most common outcome is some form of payment to the girl's family. According to the chairperson of an organisation established to help rape victims, Hope After Rape, 40 percent of children in Uganda have suffered some form of sexual abuse with a quarter of these boys. **[2a][31x]**

6.68 The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and LRA abducted many children, using them as guards, labourers, soldiers and in the case of the LRA forced sex. At the request of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights a mission was set up early in 2002 to investigate the case of abducted children in northern Uganda. According to the Abducted Children Registration and Information System, a database developed and maintained jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Uganda, it was estimated that about one-third of the 26,365 cases of abductions recorded in the database involved children under the age of 18. Roughly 20 percent of the abductees were female. Most of the girls who have been abducted and retained by the LRA were taken to serve as "wives" for the LRA commanders. Those who did not comply with the sexual demands were beaten or killed. **[2a][55]**

6.69 At the end of March 2002, the Ugandan army overran the LRA camps in southern Sudan and said that thousands of children had been handed over to the Sudanese Government and that they would release them to humanitarian agencies; however UNICEF executive director said that she is yet to see evidence that the children had been rescued. In May 2002, the Ugandan National Rescue Front (UNRFII) chief Major Bambuze, who is currently negotiating peace with the Government, handed over 135 child-soldiers to UNICEF for rehabilitation. **[50ag][69f]**

6.70 There are over 1.7 million AIDS orphans in Uganda, defined as having lost one or more parent. A large number of which resulted from previous civil wars, the internal displacement of persons and HIV/AIDS. There are a significant number of child headed

households where children as young as twelve take responsibility for the other siblings. AIDS orphans are cared for within the community and a network of Government Community workers support and supervise this system. In July 2001 the Government drew up a plan to focus on women, children and adolescents in a bid to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. The minister in charge of the Presidency, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda said that due to the magnitude of the disease and in particular, the plight of orphans and impoverished HIV/AIDS stricken households, there is need to pay attention to vulnerable groups. **[2a][3][31n]**

6.71 According to UNICEF child mortality rate had slowed down but remained a threat and some 300,000 children were also estimated to be victims of conflict - with almost all of these suffering some form of increased stress, be it from experience of death, separation, displacement, abduction, sexual abuse or other traumas. In June 2002, a Ugandan child advocacy group expressed alarm at the results of a recent survey indicating that over 50 percent of children in Uganda below the age of ten years have experienced various forms of sexual abuse. **[68s][68ac]**

6.72 Many schools still use corporal punishment, although the Government banned its use on secondary students in 1997. In June 1999, a fourteen-year-old student died at Kibuli hospital in Kampala after a beating by the school's director, Hamidulah Llukwago. The case is still under investigation. **[2a]**

6.73 The Government has banned the activities of migrant witchdoctors after numerous cases of alleged child sacrifice and abuse, which the police are apparently unwilling to investigate. There were fewer ritual killings of children during 2001 and there were no confirmed reports of such killings. In December 2001, police in Mbala arrested Sheikh Hamdan Madanga, a witch doctor, for possession of a human head in his shrine. **[2a][50x]**

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Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

6.74 Female genital mutilation, which is widely condemned by international health experts as damaging to both physical and psychological health, is practised only by the Sabiny tribe, located in the highly rural Kapchorwa district in the east, and by the Pokot tribe (also known as the Upe), which spans the remote north-eastern border with Kenya. There are approximately 10,000 Sabiny and approximately 20,000 Upe who live in the country. Among the Sabiny, initiation ceremonies involving FGM have been carried out every 2 years. In December 2000, there were reports that approximately 121 Pokot girls and 621 Sabiny women and girls had been circumcised during the biannual ceremony. **[2a]**

6.75 An international human rights NGO offered cattle, goats and money for scholarships to Sabiny parents who did not allow their daughters to be circumcised during the ceremony last held in 2000. There is no law against the practice, but Government and women's groups working with the UN Population Fund continue to carry out a program to combat the practice through education. The program has received strong Government support and some support from local Kapchorwa leaders. The program emphasises close co-operation with traditional authority

figures and peer counselling. Significant press attention to these ongoing efforts brought public attention to the problem throughout the year. **[2a]**

Homosexuals

6.76 Under the Ugandan Penal Code homosexuality is illegal for men. Homosexual acts between women are not mentioned. The maximum penalty for homosexuals in Uganda is life imprisonment. Gay activists in Kampala have formed a civil rights association for the first time and are planning to launch their own radio station. In a report on Ugandan radio on 3 February 2001, the Church of Uganda House of Bishops has advised the Government to reject the establishment and registration of a homosexual and lesbian group called Integrity Uganda Chapter. The House of Bishops said that this organisation is an unbiblical and inhuman movement and that the organisation is a move by gays and lesbians from the United States who want to establish themselves in the African continent using Kampala as their base. **[22b][63b][79][82]**

Religious Groups

Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God

6.77 On 17 March 2000 several hundred members of The Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God were burnt to death at the sect's headquarters in Kanungu in southwest Uganda. The incident was initially treated as a mass suicide, however as further bodies of cult members were found buried in the gardens and beneath the floorboards of houses used by the sect it became clear that cult members had been massacred. On 28 July 2000 the police announced that most of the hundreds of people who died at Kanungu, whose bodies had been found in buried pits had been poisoned to death. Hundreds of bodies were discovered in various places in the country including Kampala where the cult had branches. **[64a][73]**

6.78 A wealthy Catholic businessman, Joseph Kibwetere, who was referred to as Jesus by some of his followers, led the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God. Within the sect there was a strict hierarchy, with divisions between the leaders, the 12 'apostles' and sect followers. Many sect members, the majority of whom were women and children, lived on communes in Kanungu and Rugazi. They lived a strictly regulated life in which food and sleep were in short supply, there was a vow of silence, and sign language was the only form of communication permitted. Children were forbidden from attending school, modern medicine was strongly discouraged, and followers were urged to sell their property and give their money to the cult. When local officials tried to ban the cult sect leaders appealed to the District Government HQ and were given a licence to preach. The group was also granted charitable status. Police are now investigating claims that the sect had friends in high places. **[36][71a][73]**

6.79 Credonia Mwerinde, a former prostitute who reportedly founded the sect in the late 1980's (some reports say it was not established until 1994), warned followers that the world was about to end, but said her followers would enter an ark and be saved. The sect had been predicting that the world would end on 31 December 1999. When

the end did not come, sect leaders rescheduled the date for the end of June 2000. However Father Dominic Kataribabo, one of the 12 'apostles', talked of another date - 17 March 2000. On this date sect members entered their church in Kanungu. The doors were locked and the windows boarded and nailed shut from the outside. Villagers said there was a huge explosion at about 10.00am followed by the screams of people beating on the wooden windows. A lack of forensic expertise made it impossible to establish how many people perished in the fire. By 28 July 2000 the death toll from the fire was put at 500. Local officials said it was not known whether any of the cult leaders died with their followers or whether any survivors had fled. **[36][64a][71b][73]**

6.80 Investigations following the fire led to mass graves of sect members being discovered on the property of various members of the sect, including the homes of Father Kataribabo in Rugazi and Joseph Nyamwrinda in Bushenyi District. On 31 March 2000 police arrested Robert Mutazindwa, an assistant resident district commissioner who was formally in charge of Kanungu. This was the first arrest made in connection with the deaths. President Museveni accused district and regional officials of suppressing intelligence reports on the activities of the cult and said he had heard reports that the official arrested was a cult member. **[36]**

6.81 By 1 April 2000 a total of 389 bodies had been found; all bodies exhumed had been killed within a period of two months. This lends weight to the theory that sect leaders decided to kill their members after their prediction that the world would end in 2000 failed to materialise. In a telephone interview on 28 July 2000, Police Spokesman Asuman Mugenyi said that the death toll in the cult killings registered at 778. However, the motive behind the massacre remained unknown. Speculation has included a financial scam, pressure on the cult to return members' property, and a fanatical belief. **[73]**

6.82 On 2 April 2000 a prayer meeting was held in Kanungu for victims of the cult. Vice-President Dr Kazibwe who was in attendance said there was "overwhelming evidence" that what happened in Kanungu and other locations were "callous, well-orchestrated mass murders, perpetrated by a network of diabolical, malevolent criminals masquerading as holy and religious people". She also stated that the total number of dead at Kanungu and other sites would surpass 1,000. Dr Kazibwe apologised on behalf of the Government for the fact that the cult's activities had escaped the scrutiny of senior officials, she said that those at a lower level who had failed to pass on information or take action would be punished. The Catholic Archbishop of western Uganda said he was not convinced that sect leader, Joseph Kibwetere was dead. On 1 April 2000, police dispersed an alleged cult gathering in Kikandwa, Mubende district, on suspicion that Joseph Kibwetere was hiding in the crowd. **[2a][71a]**

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Rebel Groups

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

6.83 The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) originally had a Christian basis although there have been unsubstantiated rumours that its current leader, Joseph Kony**,** a cousin of the founder, may have converted to Islam in Sudan. It is an offshoot of the Uganda

People's Defence Army, which signed a peace agreement with the Government in 1988. The LRA is active in northern Uganda, specifically the districts of Gulu and Kitgum and is said to be the most brutal rebel group in sub-Saharan Africa. Their favoured method of recruitment is to abduct local children, which means mostly Acholi, brutalise them then force the boys to join their ranks and the girls to serve either as prostitutes or 'wives' for the officers. One boy who escaped estimated that he had been forced to kill over 300 people. **[4][5][25b]**

6.84 Rebel activity in the north of Uganda has been active since President Museveni took power in 1986 when Alice Auma (also known as 'Lakwena' - Acholi for 'messenger') created a force which became known as the Holy Spirit Movement. It was based on the powerful combination of local ideas about the spirit world and Christian beliefs and Auma mobilised deserting soldiers from the UPDA, Acholi and Langi citizens to fight against the Government. She attracted many followers because her group offered her own design of cleansing rituals, which would stand in place of the traditional *Mato Oput* (in which a warrior is cleansed after combat and simultaneously pacifies the spirits of his victims). The returning soldiers were unable to complete *Mato Oput* as a token of the victim is needed (anything from a severed head to a tunic button will serve) and they had been forced into committing such numerous atrocities that obtaining and preserving individual relics was completely impossible. **[5][37][58][59]**

6.85 The absence of the cleansing rituals agitated the *cen* (the vengeful spirits of the slain), which in turn led to a torrent of misfortune descending on the Acholi, such as AIDS and the loss of their power and status in the country. It was into this vein that Alice tapped. In November 1987 her forces were comprehensively defeated and she fled into exile, but a charismatic cousin, Joseph Kony, emerged to take the leadership under disputed circumstances. He presided over a dramatic change in the character of the movement, marginalising it and ranging it against not only the Government but also those Acholi who did not actively support him. He also renamed the group The Lord's Resistance Army and introduced the policy of child-abduction. **[58][59]**

6.86 The LRA was believed to have been backed by the Sudanese Government as a direct response to the perceived backing by the Ugandan Government of Sudanese rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) based in southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government had supplied military equipment and a safe haven for the LRA and in return uses the LRA as a militia group to fight the SPLA and destabilise Uganda. Kony appointed a London-based spokeswoman for the group, Josephine Apira. **[5][31ai]**

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Aims of the LRA

6.87 The LRA appears to have no political aims beyond opposition to Museveni but they are conducting a vicious campaign of terror to punish the local Acholi population for failing to support their cause. This includes massacres of whole villages, the abduction of children who are then forced to fight with the LRA, ambushing vehicles, laying of mines and looting shops. **[19]**

6.88 The methods used to punish the Acholi are particularly brutal, effectively spreading terror and damaging any kind of normal life. Up until March 1999 nearly 50%

of the population of Gulu and Kitgum (approximately 400,000 people) had been forced to flee their homes. The worst affected area was Gulu, where approximately 80% of the population were displaced. Numerous attacks and abductions occurred in December 1998 and January 1999. During the rest of 1999 there was cautious optimism in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum as the level of LRA activity was low. However, this positive trend turned in the beginning of 2000, when renewed LRA attacks forced people to return to Internally Displaced Persons' camps. Relief activities were brought to a near halt because of the renewed attacks in January 2000. Schools are a favourite target of the LRA, which means that education of children is almost non-existent. **[2a][5][37][44]**

6.89 The security situation remained unstable during the first half of 2000, and the United Nations reported that nearly the entire population of Gulu had sought refuge in camps or urban centres. The LRA abducted civilians for training as guerrillas and most of the victims were children and young adults whom the LRA terrorised into virtual slavery as guards labourers, soldiers and as sex slaves. As many as 5,000 Ugandan children abducted by the LRA were held in the southern part of Sudan. In the past years, the LRA have sold and traded some children, mostly girls, or provided them as gifts to arms dealers in Sudan. In December 1999 in Nairobi, Kenya, the Governments of both Sudan and Uganda signed an accord agreeing to cease supporting rebel groups and to return abductees. **[2a][37]**

6.90 In advance of President Museveni's referendum campaign visit to Gulu and Kitgum on 24 May 2000, LRA rebels were reported to have abducted some 200 children aged between 8 and 15. As the children were taken across into Sudan a fresh infiltration of 100 rebels crossed into Uganda in an attempt to divert the attention of the UPDF. On 23 May 2000 it was reported that the UPDF had killed 16 rebels and captured a further 5 during operations in the region. In the course of his campaign meetings on 24 May 2000 President Museveni referred to the agreement signed with Sudan in December 1999 to disarm and disband armed opposition groups based in each other's countries. He said that Uganda fulfilled its part of the bargain by releasing all Sudanese POWs but still waiting for the Sudanese Government to stop LRA leader Joseph Kony using bases in southern Sudan. **[31d][49a]**

6.91 The President added that if the Sudanese failed to stop LRA activities within their country, Ugandan forces would pursue rebels into Sudan. President Museveni also announced that forces in Gulu and Kitgum districts would be increased while Government negotiations continue to dislodge Kony from Sudan. Uganda has since released dozens of prisoners of war and Sudan had begun the process of returning thousands of children being held by the LRA at bases in Sudan. In August 2001 Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir appointed an envoy to Kampala and said that he was no longer backing the LRA. **[22a][22b][49a][49b][50a][50b][65g]**

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6.92 Early in October 2000, Ugandan officials said that rebels in the north had killed at least 8 people in a series of attacks in the Gulu area. The local council chairman, Walter Ochora, said that the rebels then attacked people near Gulu Cathedral, before attacking a nearby village where they also abducted a boy. In early November 2000, the UPDF killed two rebels after the rebels had moved out of their hideouts in the bush looking for food. A report in the Ugandan newspaper, The New Nation, on 10

November 2000 and the minister of Northern Uganda reconstruction Programme, Mr Omwony Ojwok stated that the Government was prepared to talk with Joseph Kony. **[28b][66l]**

6.93 He said that the Government was trying hard to normalise relations with the Sudanese Government and that Uganda had already freed captured Sudanese soldiers and was waiting for the Sudanese to set free Ugandan children abducted by the rebels. The UPDF killed 5 more rebels in December 2000, as they were fleeing from the army. In a raid at the beginning of February 2001, it was reported that 10 rebels from the LRA attacked the town of Kitgum, robbing homes and kidnapping children. The rebels abducted 7 children. In March 2001, more than sixty children abducted as schoolchildren by the LRA were flown home after escaping from their captors – 24 are still under the age of 18. A BBC correspondent on Uganda said that at least ten thousand children have been abducted by the LRA over the past six years. **[61a][61b][66m][67b]**

6.94 In June 2001 one of the senior LRA rebel commanders abandoned the rebellion and came out of the bush in Gulu. Several rebels of the LRA were killed by the UPDF during battles in May and June 2001. In June 2001 Joseph Kony and 50 of his combatants relocated their base in Juba to a new camp in Lamaraki, about 5km near the Uganda-Sudan border. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, an umbrella group of NGOs campaigning on the issue reported that in June an estimated 700 children had been abducted in 2000 alone. In August 2001 over 800 Ugandans resident in Kenya formerly members of the LRA appealed to the Ugandan Government to speed up plans to repatriate them in line with the terms of its amnesty offer to rebels. The Ugandans had fled to Kenya in 1999 after the army had flushed them out of LRA bases in Southern Sudan. **[10a][49h][50j][61k][68h][68i]**

6.95 LRA attacks decreased during 2001, however, there were numerous LRA attacks on villages and displaced person camps in which persons were killed, injured, raped or abducted. During 2001, LRA attacks resulted in approximately 115 deaths, including children, numerous injuries and the destruction of homes and property. Unlike previous years there were no reports that the LRA used landmines. In October 2001, three rebels of the LRA escaped from their camp in Sudan and surrendered to the UPDF. Reports from Southern Sudan said that the rebels were facing acute food and drug shortage. **[2a][50e]**

6.96 On 23 February 2002, about 300 LRA rebels attacked a local defence unit detachment in Agoro Market area, Kitgum District and kidnapped around 100 people, mostly men between the ages of 15 and 25. Two civilians and two soldiers were reportedly killed in the attack. An army spokesman confirmed reports that Joseph Kony had been involved in the incident and claimed that Kony's presence indicated that the rebel group was now in desperate need of reinforcements. Later in February 2002, seven top LRA commanders who defected from Sudan promised to work with the UPDF in their search for Kony. Following the killing of three more people and the injuring of eight more in the northern town of Gulu, the Ugandan Army sent more troops into Sudan in pursuit of the LRA. **[50m][68v][69i]**

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Latest LRA attacks

6.97 In March 2002, the Ugandan army started carrying out a military campaign called "Operation Iron Fist" to flush out the LRA from their bases in southern Sudan. Operation Iron Fist was launched in co-operation with the Sudanese Government. The overall commander of the campaign, Brigadier Nyakairima Aronda, said he was in no doubt that despite the difficult terrain the LRA and Joseph Kony would be defeated. However, in May 2002, some Ugandans doubted the UPDF's ability to defeat the rebels. It was reported on 3 May 2002, according to a senior Ugandan army spokesman, that the LRA and Joseph Kony had killed up to 300 Sudanese civilians in southern Sudan during the previous week. **[68ab][69y]**

6.98 Since March 2002, when the operations against the LRA began, thousands of parents in northern Uganda desperately tried to find out what happened to their children who were abducted by the group. Program manager of the Children and Adolescents Project of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Allison A Pillsbury, said that parents are concerned that their children have been sacrificed in a war that does not distinguish between hostage and fighter. Uganda admitted that its forces have been unable to protect civilians in southern Sudan and children have been killed rather than rescued during the military attacks on the LRA. However, a Ugandan army spokesman announced that Ugandan soldiers had rescued 43 women and 47 children who were abducted but later abandoned by the LRA. **[76][77]**

6.99 In June 2002, Ugandan military sources said that a group of 300 armed rebels and 200 family members had entered Kitgum District on 9 June 2002. This group was under the control of Vincent Otti, who is one of Kony's most senior and brutal commanders. Reports from Kitgum District indicated that the rebels had been suffering in the previous weeks from lack of food and water. The rebels had raided a trading centre at Pangira in the Lokum Sub-Country of Kitgum District. This raid provided for several of the abducted LRA members to escape. They are currently being debriefed by the Ugandan army and would be benefiting from the existing Government amnesty. The remaining LRA rebels and captives are reportedly still in southern Sudan. On 12 June 2002, security sources said that Otti had entered Atiak sub-district on the Gulu road, on 9 June 2002, with 700 fighters. The group had entered Uganda from Atepi, near Kitgum. **[50af][69x]**

6.100 In June 2002, Ugandan military sources said that the LRA had attacked Cwero Camp. The sources also confirmed that 100 rebels under the command of Major Kwayelo had, earlier in the week attacked another camp for internally displaced people near the village of Pabo in Gulu District where they burnt more than 500 huts. The LRA made several attacks throughout July 2002. These included a Catholic Mission where three teachers were abducted and a pupil killed in the attack (as reported on 9 July 2001); six people were killed when the LRA attacked a UN-run refugee camp in Adjumani District north-western Uganda (as reported on 10 July 2002) where between 50 and 100 rebels burnt more than 100 houses before looting the camp's dispensary. **[69v][69w]**

6.101 On 24 July 2002, there was a further attack on a village in Kitgum District (this attack came just two days after the LRA released more than 30 women and children who had been in captivity; on 30 July 2002, an unknown number of Sudanese civilians

in the border region of Teretenya were killed; on 5 August 2002, there was an attack on Acholi-Pii camp (a UN refugee camp) - killing, abducting and forcing 24,000 refugees to flee - the refugees were temporarily moved to Masindi District in the centre of Uganda but as reported on 19 August 2002, the UNHCR were relocating more than 20,000 of these refugees from the temporary camp in Masindi to safer grounds; - six days later (11 August 2002)the LRA freed five aid workers; on 6 August 2002, fifteen rebels were killed in northern Uganda when they attacked two army units.
[50ae][67f][68aa][69s][69t][69u]

6.102 On 3 August 2002, President Museveni moved to the north of Uganda to take charge of operations against the rebel. In early August 2002, according to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the LRA issued an ultimatum for the UN and aid agencies to pull out of northern Uganda and southern Sudan. The NGOs operating in northern Uganda ignored the ultimatum. An army spokesman said that on 17 August 2002, Vincent Otti, who is second in command of the LRA, was wounded during a clash in Gulu District. On 18 August 2002, the Ugandan army said that they had discovered two mass graves at Awich, Aswa County in Gulu near the battle scene where Otti was wounded. **[31b][50ad][61e][68z]**

6.103 The LRA continued their attacks in August 2002 including abducting 120 civilians in Padar. One of the aid workers freed by the LRA on 11 August 2002, was Paul Kalama who works for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). He had exposed the gravity of the conflict in northern Uganda and said that the LRA were well-equipped and indicated that they have the potential of causing serious damage - "The LRA are well-equipped with small arms - guns and rapid guns, as well as missiles, anti-aircraft and anti-tankers". On 24 August 2002, President Museveni offered to halt operations against rebels for one week if they stopped abducting children and attacking Government troops. Residents of northern Uganda cautiously welcomed the cease-fire offer. The LRA agreed to declare a unilateral cease-fire. **[50ac][69q][69r][75]**

6.104 However, on 25 August 2002, according to an army spokesman rebels attacked the town of Bobi, near Gulu, and abducted 16 people, mostly children. At the end of August 2002, the Ugandan army captured three European priests during a clash with the LRA rebels in the north of Uganda. The soldiers held them for 24 hours on suspicion of co-operating with the LRA. However, religious leaders said that the priests were holding peace talks with the LRA. At the beginning of September 2002, the LRA attacked a mission hospital in northern Uganda and stole medicines. The LRA were short of medicines and finding drugs had been a priority for them. Despite the LRA cease-fire they continue to attack and kill Ugandan soldiers and abduct civilians.
[69m][69n][69o][69p]

6.105 According to a UN report in September 2002, unrelenting attacks by the LRA have created a "horrendous" humanitarian situation and stretched local resources in northern Uganda beyond their limits. The report also added that that the main town in the region - Kitgum, Gulu and Pader - had become overcrowded with displaced people seeking refuge in hospital grounds, schools, churches and shop verandas. **[68y]**

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UPDF reception of LRA adherents

6.106 LRA soldiers who are captured by the UPDF or who surrender to them are often abducted children of varying ages who have been forced to fight for the LRA. Many of the children have been subjected to serious abuse and brutality and it is recognised that this often leads to their own brutality when fighting for the LRA. The UPDF has, since 1995, handed captured or surrendered LRA child soldiers over to two non-governmental organisations; The World Vision Uganda and Gulu Support for Children Organisation, (GUSCO), where they receive psycho-social counselling, therapy and vocational training if appropriate. **[5][25b]**

6.107 Despite official policy, in a minority of cases UPDF soldiers have taken a more aggressive line with reporting children, effectively holding them in detention and on occasion, ill treating them. **[5]**

6.108 The UHRC opened an investigation into a 1998 incident in which UPDF forces, while combating suspected LRA rebels, reportedly killed 30 Acholi children abducted by the LRA in Ogok village in the Kitgum District. However, during 2001 the UHRC closed the case for lack of evidence. **[2a][2b]**

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)

6.109 The ADF is led by a Muslim, Jamir Mukulu and operates in western Uganda. Historically it has used Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) territory for its bases. However, the ADF was initially severely crippled by the establishment of Laurent Kabila's Government in the DRC in May 1997 and by its subsequent provision to the UPDF of access to rebel bases in the DRC. **[4][19][26]**

6.110 It was reported that The United Arab Emirates is the ADF's main arms supplier. Iran, another Islamic State, is also supplying arms to the ADF via an Islamic foundation based in South Africa. In western Uganda, the ADF continued their abusive campaign in the Rwenzori mountain region, brutalising and killing civilians and looting. Hundreds of civilians were killed in ADF raids and ambushes on unprotected civilian homes throughout 1999. Some of those killed by the ADF were mutilated, sometimes by beheading. **[35]**

6.111 Civilians, both adults and children, have been abducted during ADF raids to serve as porters or for forced recruitment into the rebel army. International aid agencies, including the World Food Program, Medecins sans Frontieres and Action Aid were repeatedly forced to suspend their life-sustaining humanitarian activities in western Uganda due to security threats. As a result of this the local population suffered from shortages of food, medicine and shelter. There were repeated outbreaks of cholera caused by poor sanitation and overcrowded living conditions in displaced persons camps. **[35]**

6.112 In July 1999, The Monitor newspaper estimated that 1500 of 2000 ADF rebels had been killed, leaving only 500 in hiding in the Rwenzori mountains and in August 1999 they allegedly wrote to the UPDF Commander in the region asking for peace talks, saying they were tired of fighting. The UPDF had guaranteed their negotiators'

safety but remained sceptical as to the real intentions of the group. However, there were attacks during the first half of 2000 which, caused increased displacement especially around the Rwenzori region. On 17 May 2000 UPDF forces in the DRC captured Ali Bwambale Mulima the secretary general of the ADF along with three other rebels. Mulima was later reported as saying ADF rebels were criminals begging for forgiveness. He also said the ADF had received arms and US$20,000 from DRC and Sudan in October 1999. Bwambale also claimed that local support for the ADF was not as much as people thought. **[31c][31ah][37][66e]**

6.113 In mid-June 2000 the UPDF were reported to have killed 12 ADF rebels and rescued 13 civilians during the clashes on the DRC border. Also in mid-June 2000 three suspected ADF co-ordinators in Masindi district, north west of the country, were arrested. In August 2001 the UPDF rescued 15 child soldiers who had been serving under the ADF. The children had been rescued in separate mop-up operations on the western slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains. **[49c][50d][64e][68g]**

6.114 In a message delivered on 5 February 2001, by former ADF rebel, Zarome Bwambale to Zedekiya Karokora, District Commissioner of Kasese, he stated that at least 30 rebels said that they wanted clearance for them to surrender. They also wanted to be reassured that their lives are safe. According to a Reuter's news report on 2 April 2001, 53 rebels from the ADF were freed in the first application of the Amnesty Law, which was enacted more than one year ago. In October 2001, the Army Chief of Staff of the UPDF's operations against the ADF deployed former ADF Chief of Staff Benz alias Chris Tushabe to fight his former allies. Since he denounced the rebellion together with 12 others, over 500 former rebels have either surrendered or been captured as a result of his efforts. In February 2002, as a result of intensified UPDF operations in the Rwenzori region 20 ADF rebels and seven others, including two commanders, have been captured. **[31y][50o][65d][38f]**

6.115 As reported in May 2002 in the New Vision newspaper, over 500 ADF rebels had surrendered under the Amnesty Law in Kasese, since the Act came into force. Their former Chief of Staff Chris Tushabe Benz surrendered two years ago and is now a UPDF Major. **[50ab]**

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West Nile Bank Front (WNBF)

6.116 The West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) rebel movement operates from Sudanese bases and are supported by the Government of Sudan. Their new leader is said to be Moses Chaku, a former captain of the Ugandan Army. In September 1998, The Monitor newspaper in Kampala reported that the WNBF were active and had abducted c.220 people since August 1998 and killed several others in the Arua area. However, in 2000 there were no reports of new attacks by the WNBF. It was reported in June 2001 that the group commander Juma Oris died in March and was already buried. He had suffered a stroke in 1999. **[2a][31ab][35][56b]**

Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF II)

6.117 The United National Rescue Front II operates from Sudanese bases and are also supported by the Government of Sudan. In mid-January 1999 the UNRF (II) killed

7 people and abducted 56 civilians, mostly school children, in an attack in Arua district. It was reported that the UNRF (II) have split into two factions, the original led by Juma Oris and the breakaway group by Ali Bamuzes. There were no credible reports that UNRF II was responsible for the death of civilians during 2000. **[2a][31ab]**

6.118 In April 2002, about 1,350 UNRF rebels and their families returned to Uganda. In May 2002, the Government of Uganda sent a nine-member team led by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs to talk peace with the UNRFII rebels in Yumbe District. After four days of talks the two sides agreed to formalise a cease-fire agreement between them. The peace process started in 1998. On 15 June 2002, the Government of Uganda and the UNRF signed a formal cease-fire agreement. **[28f][50z][50aa][68x]**

National Army/Union for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU/NULU)

6.119 NALU was based in western Uganda, the home area of its leader, Amon Bazira, who was killed in mysterious circumstances in Kenya in 1993. Its aims were unclear and most of its operations were aimed against the local peasant population. It faded from view in 1994 and was thought defunct, most of the members having been absorbed into the ADF. However, they re-emerged in 1997 under the leadership of Jafari K Salimu and issued both a manifesto dedicated to overthrowing the Government and an invitation to President Museveni to meet them. It is still unclear whether the President ever received the invitation. **[30][32]**

6.120 NALU/NULU had threatened further atrocities against both Ugandans and nationals of western countries that have supported President Museveni. They also claimed responsibility for the massacre of 8 tourists on a gorilla-watching holiday in the southwest of the country in March 2000. However, informed sources have attributed that attack to the Hutu Interahamwe, who crossed the nearby border from Rwanda. NALU repeatedly claimed responsibility for bomb attacks that occurred in or around Kampala since 1997 in which at least fifty-five people lost their lives. During UPDF's operations in the Rwenzori region in February 2002, when 20 ADF rebels were killed by UPDF operations, 12 former fighters of NALU reported to the UPDF. **[35][50o][65b]**

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Miscellaneous New Groups

CAMP

6.121 The Citizens Army for Multiparty Politics (CAMP) was originally led by Brigadier Smith Opon Acak, (who had been Obote's army chief of staff). He was shot by the UPDF in July 1999 when they raided his camp near the town of Lira in northern Uganda. Of the 43 others present, 4 were captured and the others escaped. There were no confirmed reports that CAMP was responsible for the death of any civilian in 2000. **[2a][66f]**

Unknown Group

6.122 A new group of Kenyan refugees opposed to the Kenyan Government has been operating in the Nakivale refugee camp in Uganda, led by Kenyan Lt. Raphael Osumba. Name or aims are not known. **[66c]**

6C Human Rights - Other Issues

Mob Violence

6.123 During 2001, incidents of vigilante justice increased and were reported almost daily. Authorities rarely prosecuted persons who engaged in mob violence, which frequently resulted in death. Most mob attacks targeted witches. Often motivated by widespread distrust or misunderstanding of the justice system, mobs engaged in stonings, beatings and other forms of mistreatment, such as tying suspects' wrists and ankles together behind their backs, stripping suspects of clothing and parading them through streets, or forcing suspects to hop painfully on the sides of their ankles. Unlike previous years, there were no reports that vigilantes stripped prostitutes who dressed "indecently" or "provocatively". **[2a]**

6.124 In February 2002, Mpigi Resident District Commissioner cautioned residents to refrain from taking the law into their own hands. She said that if mob justice goes on unpunished, a society of lawlessness would eventually emerge. She was reacting to a recent incident in which seven members of the Local Council I committee allegedly banished a resident whom they accused of having bewitched and killed five people. **[31z]**

Treatment of Failed Asylum Seekers

6.125 The Ugandan Department of Immigration confirmed that only failed asylum seekers who had previously committed a crime in Uganda, and are on their wanted list, would be arrested on arrival in the country. Someone would not be imprisoned simply for being returned to Uganda as a failed asylum seeker. **[14c]**

Treatment of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

6.126 NGOs are required to register with the Non-Governmental Organisations Board, which includes representation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as other ministries. The Government approved most NGO registrations. Government officials frequently attended conferences and seminars hosted by NGOs on social problems. The Government continued to co-operate with NGOs on legal and prison reforms. The Government allowed visits by international human rights NGOs, including Amnesty International, the ICRC and the UNHCR. The Government has worked with NGO to combat the practice of FGM, which occurred on a limited basis. The UHRC and NGOs conducted programs with the UPDF to foster respect for internationally recognised human rights standards. The central prison system continued to work with NGOs and the donor community to improve prison buildings, water and sanitation systems, food and uniforms. Media access to prisons remains limited, however the Government permitted full access to prisons by the ICRC and local NGOs. **[2a]**

6.127 According to a Human Rights Watch report dated 2 October 2001, Uganda's parliament is due to consider a new draft law proposed by the Government that aims to increase state control over the country's NGOs. The new law would also stiffen the penalties for operating without official sanction, thus raising the possibility that legitimate NGO activities may be criminalised. **[33]**

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Internally Displaced Persons

6.128 Internal displacement in Uganda has been caused by separate armed conflicts in northern and western areas as well as violent looting and cattle raids in the east of the country since the middle of the 1990s. Conflicts have affected about a quarter of the country's 45 districts, and about 550,000 people remains internally displaced by February 2002. According to Government estimates there are 550,000 internally displaced people who are mainly in the north and west of the country. The spate of attacks, in 2002, by the LRA produced a new wave of internally displaced persons. **[57]**

6.129 According to a humanitarian worker in the northern town of Gulu, all roads linking the northern districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Pakwac became unsafe due to increased rebel activity and limited the movement of relief workers. In June 2002, the Ugandan media also reported that residents were fleeing camps set up by the army for internally displaced people in Gulu District. In July 2002, the Government of Uganda launched an appeal requesting over US $21.5 million to help civilian victims of the increased attacks by the LRA. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OHCA) and other UN agencies in the region are supporting the Government appeal. **[68n][68w]**

Humanitarian Aid/International Assistance

6.130 The United Kingdom has a warm bilateral relationship with Uganda. There exists a significant development partnership between the United Kingdom and Uganda, which is one of the largest recipients of UK development assistance. Britain has provided around £670 million in development assistance since President Museveni came to power in 1986. The UK is Uganda's largest bilateral donor providing a 6th of all assistance. The UK also provides a substantial share of European Commission and United Nations assistance. **[16b]**

Health Issues

6.131 At a conference organised, by the World Health Organisation, to build partnership for reduction of maternal mortality in October 2001, the assistant commissioner in-charge of reproductive health said Uganda's maternal mortality rate was currently estimated at 496 per 100,000 live births, which is a reduction from 506 in 1995. The Minister of Health promised that the Government would introduce a mini-hospital in every county so women who get complications during delivery are rescued promptly. **[50q]**

6.132 Uganda has one of the highest sickle cell prevalence rates in Africa although the exact numbers are not known. Health officials estimated, over 25,000 children in Uganda are born every year the disease. According to experts on the disease most of

the deaths can be avoided by simple interventions if the communities are sensitised. Chairperson of a new body, The Sickle Cell Association of Uganda, to be launched said the association would offer counselling and sensitisation to reduce the stigma among the sufferers. **[50r]**

6.133 A statement from the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative said that, in 2003, trials would start for the testing a new human vaccine for HIV/AIDS, which prevents the spread of the virus. The new vaccine is designed specifically for use in developing countries and thus expected to significantly reduce the spread of the virus. **[31aa]**

6.134 According to Government figures Uganda has an estimated 5.3 million cases of malaria for a population of 21.1 million. According to Medecins Sans Frontieres, in Bundi Bugyo hospital in the east of the country next to the border with Democratic Republic of Congo, 60 percent of hospital stays in the paediatric department are linked to malaria. Reducing malaria morbidity and mortality is one of Medecins Sans Frontieres's priority objectives. **[80]**

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Annex A

Chronology of Major Events

1962 On **9 October** Uganda became Independent member of the Commonwealth, led by Milton Obote.

1963 On **9 October** Uganda became Republic of Uganda.

1966 In **February** Obote lead successful coup against Kabaka (King) of Buganda. In **April** Obote became executive President.

1967 In **September** a New Constitution is introduced; establishes unitary Republic and Buganda region brought under control of central Government.

1969 In **December** there was an assassination attempt on Obote: all opposition parties were banned.

1971 In **January** Obote was overthrown by army - led by Maj. Gen. Idi Amin Dada who assumed full executive powers and suspended political activity. In **February** the National Assembly was dissolved, Amin declared himself Head of State, took over legislative powers and suspended political activity. Obote fled to Tanzania.

1972 In **August** Amin declared "economic war" - mass expulsion of non-citizen Asians from Uganda.

1976 In **February** Amin declared large areas of Western Kenya were historically part of Uganda.

1977 In **February** Anglican Archbishop of Uganda and two Government Ministers were murdered.

1978 In **November** Uganda annexes the Kagera Salient from Tanzania.

1979 Invasion force comprising Tanzanian troops and Uganda national Liberation army (UNLA) gain control of southern region of Uganda. In **April** Amin's forces capitulate - Tanzanian assault force enters Kampala. Also in **April** provisional Government - National executive Council established from ranks of Uganda National Liberation front (UNLF) - President is Dr Lule. In **June** remaining pro-Amin troops defeated, Amin fled to Libya. Also in **June** Lule resigned after attempted cabinet reshuffle - succeeded by Binaisa.

1980 In **May** Binaisa overthrown by Military Commission of UNLF. In **December** Parliamentary elections contested by four parties and won by UPC with Obote

becoming President for second time. Defeated parties complain of gross malpractice by UPC supporters.

1981 In **June** Tanzanian troops withdraw from Uganda.

1982 In **January** Ugandan Popular Front formed to co-ordinate from abroad activities of the main opposition groups in exile; Uganda freedom Movement (UFM), Uganda National Rescue Front and the National Resistance Movement (NRM, led by Lule) and its military wing National Resistance Army (NRA, led by Museveni).

1983 In **March** massacres occurred at refugee camps - 100,000 people displaced. Fighting between UNLA and NRA. NRA denied any involvement in massacres.

1985 In **July** Obote overthrown in military coup. Military Council, headed by Lt. Gen. Tito Okello established to lead country pending election in one year's time. In following months, opposition groups to Obote (except NRM & NRA) reach agreement with new regime and accept positions on Military Council. Amnesty declared for exiles who supported Amin. In **August** NRA (led by Museveni) entered negotiations with Government whilst simultaneously conducting military campaign to overthrow Okello. In **December** NRA and Okello Government sign peace agreement - but terms not implemented.

1986 On **26 January** NRA takes control of Kampala by force and dissolves Military Council. On **29 January** Museveni sworn in as President. In **February** Museveni announced formation of new cabinet, mainly NRA and NRM and other representatives of DP, UPC, UFM and FEDEMO. National Resistance Council (NRC) formed. In **March** all activity by political parties banned but not proscribed. In **May** Uganda People's Democratic Movement (UPDM) formed. In **May** and **June** two commissions of enquiry appointed to investigate, respectively allegations of Government corruption and violations of human rights since independence. In July 80% of police force dishonourably dismissed following examination. In **December** disruption in northern and eastern Uganda by cult 'Holy Spirit'. Between December 1986 and November 1987, 5,000 Holy Spirit fighters killed by NRA. Cult suppressed by December 1987 and its leader escaped to Kenya. Remaining force regrouped and formed Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

1987 In **March** Andrew Kaiiya was murdered, UFM withdrew support for Government. In **June** NRC offered Amnesty to rebels, except those accused of rape or murder. In **August** UPDM joined with a faction of FEDEMO and another opposition group - UNF to seek alliance and overthrow Museveni.

EARLY 1988 Amnesty extended to rebel groups - 30,000 rebels surrender by mid April 1988.

1989 In **February** First National elections since 1980 held. Museveni appointed a Constitutional Commission to assess public opinion on Uganda's political future and to draft new Constitution. In **October** NRC approved draft legislation to extend Governments term of office by five years from January 1990.

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1990 In **March** a ban on political parties was extended for a further five years. In July leader of UPDM - Eric Otema Allimadi signed peace agreement with Government.

1991 In **January** Prime Minister since 1986, Samsen Kisekka replaced by George Adyebo. In **April** NRA launch campaign to eradicate rebel activity in the north and east. In **May** Museveni formally invited all former expelled Asians to return.

1993 In **March** a draft Constitution was published. In **April** the NRC passed legislation authorising establishment of Constituent Assembly (CA). In **July** a Constitutional Amendment: abolition of traditional rulers revoked. In **September** nine army officers (arrested and detained between 1988 & 1990 and detained without trial) released.

1994 In **January** UNDA & UFA agreed to suspend their armed struggle, under the provision of Government amnesty. Also in **January** intensified guerrilla activity by LRA following breakdown of Government negotiations. In **March** surrender of senior members of Rwenzunuru Kingdom Freedom Movement in southwest and signified end of conflict dating from Independence. On **28 March** elections to 288 member Constituent Assembly held.

1995 In **October** the Constitution was promulgated.

1996 On **9 May** Presidential election - Museveni took 74.2% of votes. In **June** Legislative elections held and Local council elections held - to replace resistance committees. In July Museveni appointed 57-member Government.

1997 In **February** Industrial Court upheld a 1993 pay increase award to employees of foreign-owned banks. In **March** local Government Bill passed through Parliament. In **April** Constitutional Court ruled unanimously against the Government in case of Major General David Tinyefuza. In **August** Military authorities granted the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) access to military places of detention. Implementation of Children Statute began. In **November** Local Government elections began - due to be completed by end of first half 1998.

1998 Early in the year Ugandan troops were deployed in eastern DRC to counter the ADF threat but the DRC Government claimed they were supporting the rebellion. In **August** Uganda entered the DRC conflict providing military support to the rebel force - Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD).

2000 On **17 January** the new Amnesty Law came into effect and was open to all levels within the rebel movements. On **29 June** a Referendum was held on the future of politics in Uganda. On **2 July** the final result of the Referendum were announced and there was a decisive victory for the Movement system of Government.

2001 On **12 March** Presidential Election - Museveni took 69.3% of votes. On **17 August** Dr Besigye beat 24-hour surveillance by military personnel and fled to the USA.

2002 In **April** the Ugandan army started carrying out a military campaign to flush

out the LRA from their bases. Operation Iron Fist was launched in co-operation with the Sudanese Government. The LRA continued to attack civilian camps including UN Refugee camps. On **24 August** President Museveni offered to halt operations against the LRA for one week if they stopped abducting children and attacking Government troops and the LRA agreed to a unilateral cease-fire. However, the attacks continued at the time this document was prepared.

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Annex B

Political Organisations

Political parties were ordered to suspend active operations, although not formally banned, in March 1986. A referendum on the future restoration of a plural political system is scheduled to take place in 2000.

Main parties

National Resistance Movement (NRM)
Founded in 1981 as the political wing of the guerrilla National Resistance Army in opposition to the Obote (UPC) Government. The NRM assumed power in 1986 and is the dominant force with the present Government.

Democratic Party (DP)
Founded in 1954 and led by Paul Ssemogerere. Main opposition party to UPC Government in early 1980's. Under Museveni's NRM-dominated Government the DP has gravitated towards an UPC alliance. The UYD (Uganda Young Democrats) is the youth wing.

Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM)
Co-founded by Museveni in 1980, is now led by Jaberi Ssali. Initially the movement dissolved when Museveni left to form his own NRM but re-emerged following the NRM's successes in 1986. Several of its members have ministerial positions.

Uganda People's Congress (UPC)
Formed following independence in 1960, led by Milton Obote (in exile). The UPC was the ruling party from 1962 until 1971 and from 1980 until 1985. UPC members are represented within the present Government. A more progressive, anti-Obote group within the UPC have split under the leadership of Celia Ogwal.

Other parties include:

Conservative Party (CP)
Founded in 1979.

Bazzukulu ba Buganda (Grandchildren of Buganda)
Bagandan separatist movement.

Buganda Youth Movement
Formed in 1994 and seeks autonomy for Buganda, led by Stanley Kato.

Movement for New Democracy in Uganda
Formed in 1994 to campaign for a multi-party political system. Headed by Dan Okello-Ogwang and based in Zambia.

National Freedom Party
Formed in 1995 by Herman Ssemuju, an eccentric not generally considered to be a serious political figure. The NFP has no agenda, no resources and a negligible following.

Nationalist Liberal Party (NLP)
Formed in 1984 by a breakaway faction of the democratic party and led by Tiberio Okeny.

Uganda Democratic Alliance (UDA)
Formed in 1987 as a grouping of anti-Government elements and led by Apollo Kironde.

Uganda Islamic Revolutionary Party (UIRP)
Formed in 1993 to promote Ugandan Muslim rights.

Uganda National Unity Movement
An anti-Government formation led by Alhaji Suleiman Ssalongo.

Uganda People's Democratic Movement (UPDM)
Formed in 1986 by disparate anti-Museveni forces active mainly in the north and northeast of the country: signed a peace agreement with the Government in 1990.

Forum for Multi-Party Democracy
Headed by Jesse Mashate.

Uganda Independence Revolutionary Movement
Formed in 1989 and led by Maj. Okello Kolo.

Uganda Progressive Union (UPU)
Led by Alfred Banya.

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Rebel Movements

LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA)
Led by Joseph Kony, a rebel guerrilla group claiming to be fighting a "holy war" against the Government.

ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES (ADF)
Led by Jamir Mukulu, the group operates in western Uganda.

WEST NILE BANK FRONT (WNBF)
Operates in far north-western Uganda. The WNBF's agenda is unclear.

UGANDA FREEDOM FRONT/ARMY
Launched in London in February 1999 by Herman Ssemuju, disgraced and exiled eccentric lawyer/politician and former leader of the National Freedom Party. Specific aims as yet unclear.

UNRFII
An offshoot of WNBF with similar hazy objectives.
[7] [8] [41] [42] [55]

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Annex C

Prominent People

ALI Brig. Moses
Currently Minister of Internal Affairs and Second Prime Minister. Charged with plotting terrorist action in April 1990. Acquitted of these charges but found guilty in January 1991 of illegally possessing ammunition. He was appointed Minister if the Interior after a cabinet reshuffle in which he swapped jobs with Rugomayo.

AMIN DADA Idi
Maj. Gen. (later field Marshall), led coup to overthrow Obote in January 1971.

AMIN Taban
Son of Idi. Currently commanding a unit of Ugandan rebels deployed in eastern DRC and recently named Chief of Staff of the ADF.

APIRA Josephine
London-based spokeswoman of the LRA.

BINAISA Godfrey
Successor to Lule as President of NEC from June 1979 - May 1980.

KAYIIRA Andrew
Minister of Energy and leader of UFM, charged with treason in October 1986 (charges withdrawn Feb 1987), murdered in March 1987 by unknown assailants.

LULE Dr Yusuf
President of NEC from April - June 1979.

MUSEVENI Yoweri
President of NRM Government from 1986 to present.

MUSOKE Kintu
Succeeded Adyebo as Prime Minister in November 1994.

MUTESA II
Kabaka (King) of Buganda, first president of Republic of Uganda.

OBOTE Milton
Leader of Uganda People's Congress (UPC) from 1960 and Prime Minister from 1962. Returned to office in December 1980 until July 1985.

OKELLO Basilio
Brigadier - succeeded Obote in military coup in July 1985.

OKELLO Lt.Gen.Tito
Headed Military Council established in July 1985.

ORIS Juma
Leader of West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs under Amin Government. Juma Oris died in March 2001. He had previously suffered a stroke in 1999.

SALEH Salim
Maj. Gen. - younger half-brother of President Museveni. He was appointed Army Commander in 1989 but was soon relieved of his position allegedly due to corruption apart from other reasons. He was then appointed to the job of Commander of the Reserve forces and went into private business. Since then he has built up a considerable business empire, including banking, property, air transport and cargo handling and a security firm among others. In 1996 he was re-appointed by President Museveni and he played a significant role in Uganda's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Saleh became involved in the 1998 Uganda Commercial Bank privatisation scandal and was forced, by Museveni, to resign. In 2001, the Porter Commission (a judicial commission set up to consider the allegations made by the UN panel into the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources) exonerated Saleh of any wrongdoing over allegations that he was involved in the DRC plunder.

SSEMOGERERE Paul
Chairman of DP - won 23.7% of votes in May 1996 elections.

SSEMUJU Herman
"President General" of the National Freedom Party (NFP). Generally considered not to be a serious political figure. Had to withdraw from 1996 Presidential election through lack of support. Often claims to have foiled assassination attempts. Now President of new rebel group, the UFF/A(see below).
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Annex D

Glossary

ADF	ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES
CA	CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
CAMP	CAMPAIGN FOR MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY
DP	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (FORMERLY ZAIRE)
FEDEMO	FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
FGM	FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
FIDA	UGANDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS
GDP	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
IC	INDUSTRIAL COURT
ICRC	INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
ISO	INTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
LC 3	LOCAL COUNCIL - SUBCOUNTY
LC 2	LOCAL COUNCIL - PARISH
LC 1	LOCAL COUNCIL - VILLAGE
LDU	LOCAL DEFENCE UNIT
LRA	LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY
NALU/NULU	NATIONAL ARMY (UNION) FOR THE LIBERATION OF UGANDA
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION
NRA	NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY
NRC	NATIONAL RESISTANCE COUNCIL
NRM	NATIONAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
NUSh	NEW UGANDAN SHILLING
SPLA	SUDANESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY
UFA	UGANDAN FEDERAL ARMY
UFF/A	UGANDA FREEDOM FRONT/ARMY (NEW GROUP IN 1999)
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNDA	UGANDAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
UNHCR	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
UNLA	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY
UNLF	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT
UPC	UGANDA PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
UPDA	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE ARMY
UPDF	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE
UPDM	UGANDAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
UPFM	UGANDA PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT
UNRF II	UGANDA NATIONAL RESCUE FRONT
US	UNITED STATES
Ush	UGANDAN SHILLING
WBNF	WEST BANK NILE FRONT

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