



JOINT STATEMENT BY VICTIMS OF CONFLICTS FROM NORTHERN AND RWENZORI REGIONS OF UGANDA, PRESENTED TO THE STATE MINISTER FOR LUWEERO RWENZORI ON THE 21ST OF SEPTEMBER 2023 AT TOORO BOTANICAL GARDENS, FORT PORTAL CITY

Supported by Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) and Foundation for Justice and Development Initiative (FJDI), we, the undersigned victims of different wars and conflicts from the Northern Uganda and Rwenzori regions, gathered at Tooro Botanical Gardens, in celebration of the International Day of Peace, under the theme: "Actions for Peace"; and in memory of the fallen Ugandans due to violent conflicts in both regions;

Being representatives of millions of other victims of the different wars and violent conflicts in Uganda;

Gathered to appreciate the sacrifice made by our loved ones who bore the brunt of past and recent violent conflicts, characterized by extreme radicalization, indiscriminate killings and destruction of livelihood and property;

We hereby appreciate that victims suffered unspeakable human rights abuses and violations at the hands of LRA, ADF and several other local, regional and transnational actors in the Northern and Rwenzori regions of Uganda;

We also appreciate that issues of victims are a national concern, and recognize that the Government of Uganda has taken some steps to address them by passing the 2019 National Transitional Justice Policy, and providing amnesty to fighters and former fighters;

Through you Honourable Minister, we implore the Government of Uganda to;

• Work with relevant stakeholders and hasten the process of enacting the Transitional Justice Law and consequently, give victims more support and attention; (1) GRMUKHMHA SIMON MUKIDI (2) MUKING DOGGE

3) NAHHUEERA REBECCARBONIA

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(DKnasika Faridah (10) MUHINCHO MANGA

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(8) MARIE BISWANIKIA

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- Fulfill all the promises made to amnesty recipients as one way of giving them hope and fostering healing, reconciliation and resilience;
- Work out mechanisms of ensuring that thousands of our brothers and sisters still trapped in the enemy territories are brought back to rejoin their families in the Northern and Rwenzori regions;
- Ensure that victims be incorporated in committees of Government under the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Management, and Amnesty Commission, to give victims representation on these bodies to enable victim-centred response especially in times of crises;
- Roll out a national survey on victims of different atrocities to know where they
 are, what they are doing and the kind of livelihoods they live when they returned
 to their communities;
- Work out modalities with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) and local leaders to provide for the identification of children born in captivity;
- Support the organization of memorial events in all affected regions to promote healing, reconciliation and peace;
- And, guarantee security to victims, as well as transparency in addressing issues of victims in Uganda.

END

Signed;

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