

July 25, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your continued efforts in conjunction with the White House National Security Council to implement a strategy to defeat the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We write to express our support for maintaining U.S. engagement in working with regional governments to apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield, defeat the LRA, protect civilians, and increase stability in the region.

As you know, LRA leader Joseph Kony is a U.S. designated global terrorist and wanted war criminal, most recently indicated by the U.S. Department of State's issuance of a reward for information leading to his arrest, transfer, or conviction under the Department's Rewards for Justice Program. Kony and the LRA have spread terror and lawlessness in the areas where they operate; creating conditions that could enable the spread of other extremist and terrorist organizations that are expanding operations throughout the African continent. The LRA has terrorized civilians for nearly three decades, accounting for the deaths of at least 100,000 people and the displacement of more than 400,000. Thousands of children have been abducted and then either killed, turned into 'Child Soldiers,' forced to serve as sex slaves or mutilated by having their limbs, noses, lips and ears cut off.

The presence of U.S. advisors as well as U.S. logistical and intelligence support is making a difference in the region and improving overall security in the central Africa. With U.S. support, local governments, civil groups, and security forces have enhanced their capacity to coordinate and fuse intelligence. They have captured two senior LRA commanders, seen the defection of nearly 15 percent of the LRA's fighting force, and decreased the number of LRA attacks on civilians. Interviews with recent defectors suggest the group's morale is at an all time low and that many more fighters are considering defecting.

Mr. President, we believe that with continued U.S. support, local governments can help stabilize the region. U.S. intervention in this humanitarian crisis is not only the right thing to do, but African stability impedes the emergence and spread of transnational security threats, such as disease, crime, narcotics flows, proliferation and terrorism. The U.S. must stay committed to the mission or risk reversing hard-won gains, and so we respectfully request that the White House reiterates its support for ongoing missions to eradicate the LRA in Africa.

To support this letter, please contact the staff of Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) in the Senate Armed Services Committee or the Office of Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA).