

The LRA, known as The Lord's Resistance Army perpetrated a twenty-year conflict with the Ugandan government. This complex conflict was rooted in British "divide and rule" colonialism, then perpetuated by subsequent governments. In 1989, after former president Milton Obote's government was overthrown, the LRA, led by Joseph Kony initiated an armed struggle against current president Yoweri Museveni's government. The LRA soon began terrorizing the northern Acholi civilian population as a means to obtain supplies, garner attention and challenge the Ugandan government. The LRA is considered a terrorist organization by the United State government and is wanted by the International Crimes Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Although the LRA initially gained support from local people who had grievances against the current Uganda administration, their brutal tactics eventually isolated their base of support. The LRA then turned to abducting children, forcing them to become soldiers or sex slave. During the peak period of attacks, villagers and their children sought refuge nightly in the security of town centers, walking up to ten kilometers every day to sleep on sidewalks.

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