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UGANDA: CONFLICT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2017

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National Overview

November saw a significant deterioration of the security situation in the central part of Uganda particularly in Masaka, Ssembabule, Lwengo, Bukomansimbi and Kalungu Districts. Anonymous letters and leaflets were disseminated around the districts threatening residents who are now living in fear.¹ Many residents have been robbed, beaten and others stabbed to death shortly after receiving the anonymous leaflets. There have also been reported incidents of rape and arson. These endless attacks have left many unanswered questions among the community and tension is very high. According to several victims, the attackers have common characteristics; raiding rural areas and trading centers, attacking at night and distributing the leaflets before the attacks.² Police has been heavily deployed in the area and intensified community policing programs to deter the criminals. More than one hundred and eighty (180) suspected criminals have been arrested in the last couple of weeks.³ This is not the first time that these mysterious attacks are occurring in the region. In April 2017, the SAFE program reported on these attacks in its monthly conflict assessment report. At that time, Members of Parliament (MPs) led by the Leader of Opposition Hon Winnie Kiiza had tasked the Government of Uganda (GOU) to explain the high level of insecurity and the anonymous letters in the greater Masaka area.⁴ This is a worrying trend and the GOU should contain the situation. The SAFE program will continue monitoring the situation.

In other parts of the country, land-related conflict incidents continued to escalate. In Mbarara district, a municipality councilor was attacked with acid a day before he was supposed to testify before a land probe commission that seeks to find a solution to the land-related challenges in the country.⁵ He was to testify in a case involving the give away of Mbarara National Forest central reserve land to certain powerful individuals. The councilor is currently in critical condition in hospital. Prior to the attack, he had been threatened by unknown people.⁶

¹ Daily Monitor, November 20th, 2017

² ibid

³ New Vision, November 21st, 2017

⁴ USAID SAFE Monthly Conflict Assessment Report-April 2017

⁵ USAID SAFE conflict Monitor-Mbarara District

⁶ ibid

Other land related incidents and tension were reported in various districts including Hoima where more than two thousand (2,000) people were violently evicted in Kyangwali sub county;⁷ in Adjumani district, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the National Forest Authority (NFA) have asked more than fifteen thousand (15,000) residents in Akaa and Zoka parishes to vacate the area since it is a protected wildlife game and forest reserve;⁸ and in Bundibugyo district, ten (10) clans are claiming ownership of a seven square mile land inside Semuliki National Park.⁹

Conflict monitors who reported conflict incidents in their communities this month were from the districts of Adjumani, Nwoya, Dokolo, Yumbe, Moyo, Koboko, Moroto, Kotido, and Kaabong in Northern Uganda; Tororo and Kabermaido in Eastern Uganda; and Rukungiri, Isingiro, Ibanda, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kyegegwa and Hoima in Western Uganda. Conflict monitors report these conflict incidents to SAFE's conflict monitoring database using a toll free SMS service. The SAFE program has more than five hundred (500) volunteer conflict monitors countrywide.

Other incidents reported revolved around human-wildlife conflict, including in Nwoya district where community members are up in arms following attacks on their gardens and crops by elephants from Murchison Falls National park;¹⁰ in Kabarole district, wild animals from Queen Elizabeth National park are attacking domestic animals;¹¹ and in Rakai district, residents are living in fear following an invasion of hippos that are attacking people and destroying food crops.¹²

There were also reported incidents related to service delivery; in Moyo district, residents protested over GOU's failure to upgrade the Moyo-Adjumani road which becomes impassable during the rainy season. A similar protest was reported from Rukungiri district over an impassable road in Ndere parish and in Ibanda district where people living with HIV protested the shortage of ARV drugs in health centers.¹³

⁷ USAID SAFE conflict Monitor-Hoima District

⁸ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Adjumani District

⁹ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Bundibugyo District.

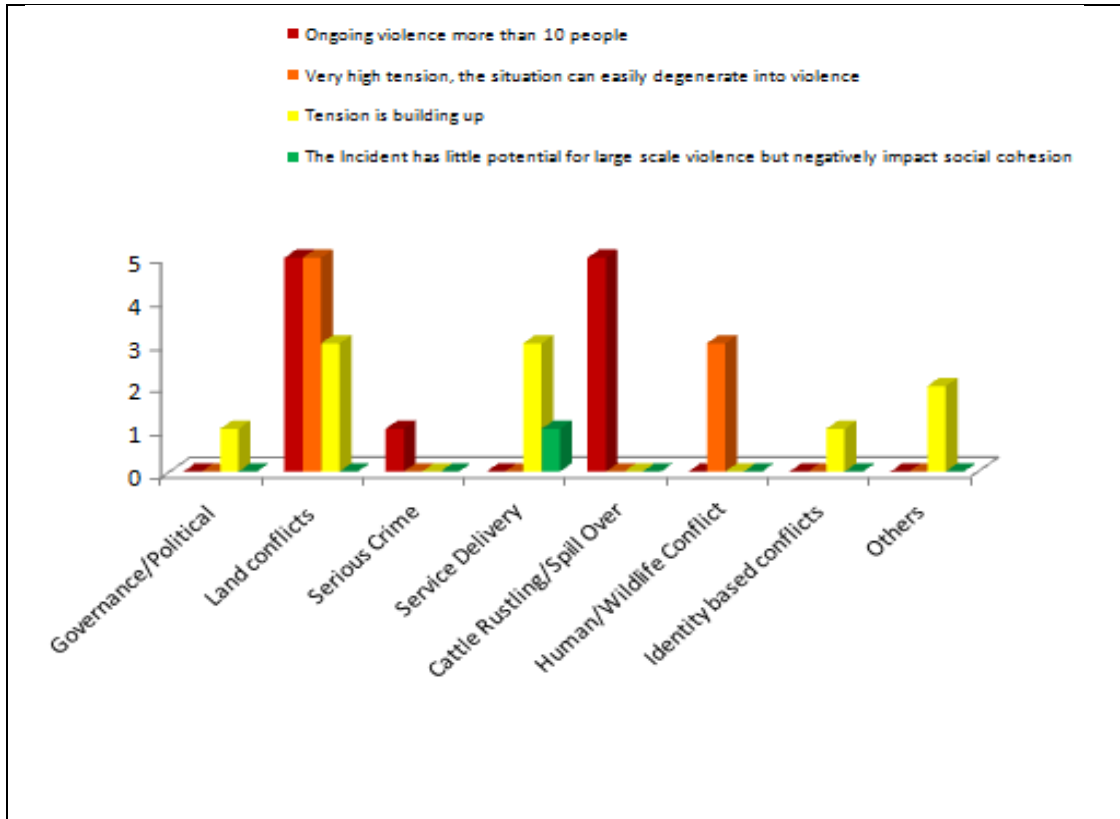
¹⁰ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Nwoya District

¹¹ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Kabarole District

¹² USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Isingiro District

¹³ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitors-Moyo, Rukungiri and Ibanda Districts

Below: Number of Reported Conflict Incidents- November 2017



Source: SAFE Conflict Monitoring Database: November 2017

Regional Overview

Northern Region

Tension is growing in the Karamoja sub region following multiple incidents of cattle rustling and killings. In Kaabong district, ten (10) people from the Dodoth community were killed during raids by suspected Turkana warriors from Kenya in the sub counties of Lodiko, Kalapata and Morulem.¹⁴ A number of cattle were stolen during the raids. The warriors were armed with fire-arms, bows and arrows. Police has been heavily deployed in the region and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) is also patrolling the Uganda – Kenya border to prevent further raids.

¹⁴ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Kaabong District

It is believed that the Turkana are revenging after several incidents of theft by the Dodoth in previous months.¹⁵ There have also been reported incidents of cattle thefts by the Turkana pastoralists in Losilang village, in Kotido district.¹⁶

In Moroto District, a conflict over grazing land and water at Kobebe dam has led to attack and injury of a number of Turkana and Karimojong pastoralists who are now admitted at Matany hospital in Moroto district.¹⁷ The fight which involved the Turkana of Kenya, Dodoth of Kaabong, Jie of Kotido and the Matheniko of Moroto involved the use of sticks, bows and arrows and was defused by the arrival of UPDF soldiers. Since the drought situation deteriorated in North-West Kenya in the last couple of months, more than seventy thousand (70,000) Turkana pastoralists have entered the country with about one hundred thousand (100,000) livestock. This has led to increased tension and frequent attacks with community members accusing the Turkana of encroaching on their grazing land and stealing their livestock.

In Adjumani District, a clash between the police and motorcycle riders commonly known as bodabodas left three people dead including one policeman.¹⁸ This was after police rescued a suspected motorcycle thief from being lynched by the bodaboda riders. In the process of rescuing the suspect, a police officer shot dead one of the riders. The bodaboda riders in turn attacked the police station, killing a policeman and a civilian and burning six police motorcycles. The incident was the climax of the tension that has been building up between the bodaboda riders and the police. The bodaboda riders are angry over the rampant theft of their motorcycles and the alleged evident failure by police to investigate and bring the culprits to book.¹⁹

¹⁵ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Kaabong District

¹⁶ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Kotido District

¹⁷ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Moroto District

¹⁸ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Adjumani District

¹⁹ Ibid

Eastern Region

In Tororo district, tension continues to rise over the proposed splitting of the district and creation of a municipality based on tribal and ethnic lines.²⁰ Members of the Jopadhola community in Tororo say they will not accept a new district to be carved out of Tororo district as demanded by their neighbours-the Iteso. They believe that a split in the district will not resolve, but simply reproduce the same problems that carving up the district is supposed to resolve. The demand to split the district has several social, economic, demographic and political dimensions. There is fear that this will create endless enmity between the Japadhola and the Iteso that have peacefully lived together for centuries. President Yoweri Museveni directed that the matter be resolved using the “colonial boundaries” in order to determine where the municipality should be located in the event of a split of the district.²¹ Tension between different ethnic communities in Tororo District has in recent years tended to escalate particularly in matters related to boundaries as reported in previous USAID SAFE conflict assessment report. USAID SAFE’s Tororo-based conflict monitors will continue to monitor the situation on the ground.

Western Region

In Kyegegwa district, eight people were injured in clashes between the police and people living in Kyaka II refugee camp.²² The clash was triggered by a decision by the camp management to evict people accused of encroaching on the camp land. When the officials began demolishing houses of the residents without any notice, a fight using stones, machetes, axes and sticks broke out. Police had to fire bullets in the air and use tear gas to disperse the residents. To calm the situation, the intended eviction has now been halted till further consultations with all concerned stakeholders are carried out.²³ It is imperative that leaders take proactive measures to ensure growing tensions over land are resolved to prevent violent attacks including training communities on managing tensions over land.

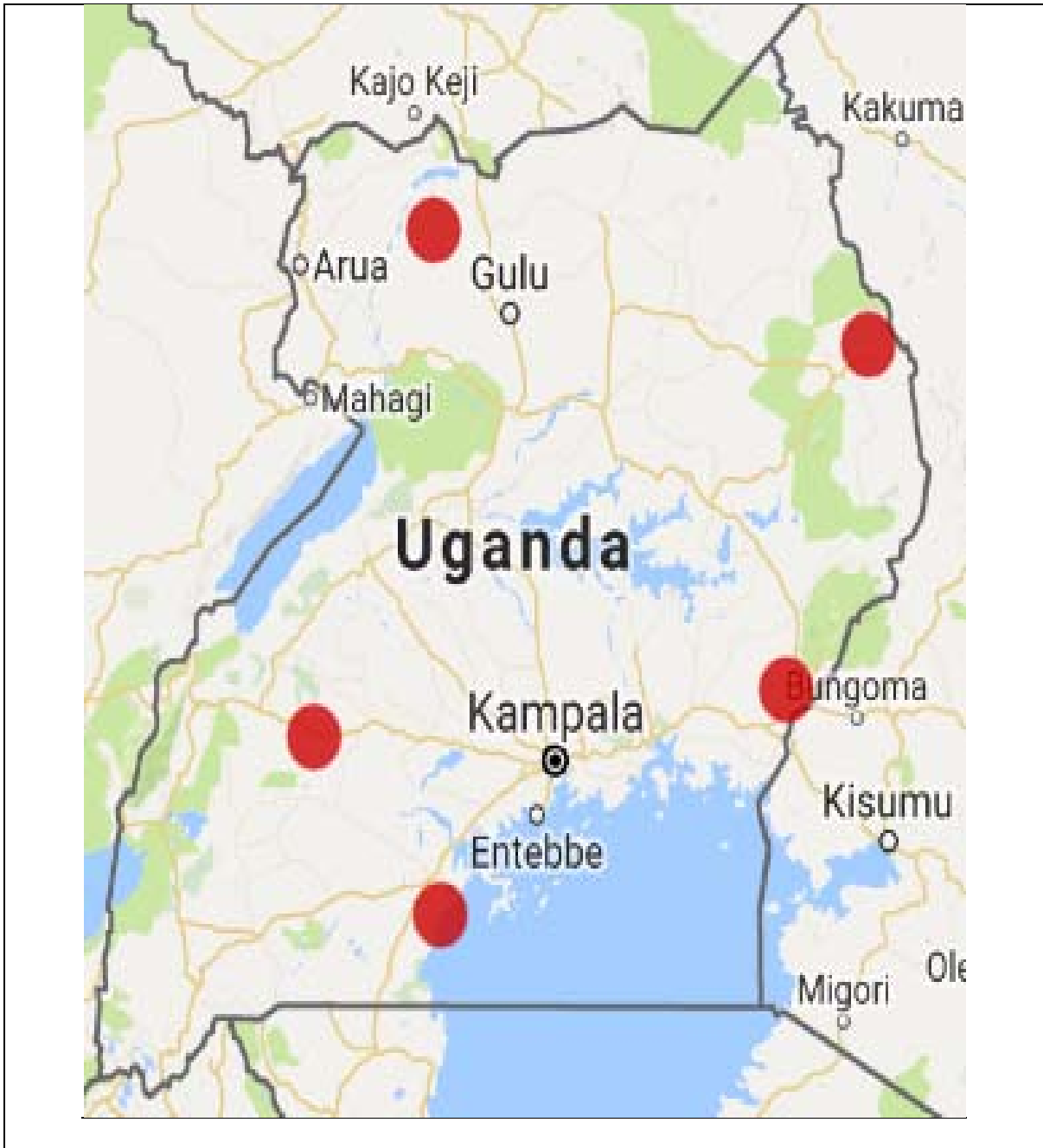
²⁰ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Tororo District

²¹ www.independent.co.ug

²² USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Kyegegwa District

²³ Ibid

Map of Uganda Showing The Conflict Hotspots As Highlighted
In This Report



Source: <https://conflictmappinguganda.crowdmap.com/>

For Methodology used in writing this report and for copies of previous reports, please visit www.safeprogram.org