



CSOPNU

Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda
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Civil Society Organisations urge Government of Uganda and LRA to continue with forward movement on peace

The Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda (CSOPNU) today called for a speedy resumption of peace talks in Juba arguing that continued delay threatens to derail the process and prolong the suffering of the people of Northern Uganda. CSOPNU is also calling on the Government of South Sudan, the chief mediator, to set a date for the resumption of the peace talks.

“While we appreciate the need for consultation and flexibility, our concern is that further delay is likely to demoralise and increase fear among the population that has invested high hopes in the peace talks as a means to returning to their respective communities and normal livelihoods. This means that people will be more hesitant to move away from congested IDP camps and will continue to live in unacceptable conditions.

There is need to continue building trust and confidence among the local population, because these are the people that have borne the brunt of the war. The peace process is their only hope and it would be criminal to subject them to further delay,” says Johnson Byamukama, CSOPNU Chairperson.

The Government of Uganda has made several statements in the media over the Juba Peace talks. Among others, the statements include; reports alluding to a military offensive that would be carried out should the peace talks not bear fruit; a statement that the people of Northern Uganda should not trust Kony’s commitment to the peace process, and the continued push to have a bilateral military agreement signed between the Uganda government and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which could allow the UPDF to cross borders in the pursuit of rebels.

We believe that a resumption of military operation against the LRA would reverse the relative peace in Northern Uganda and considerably increase the risk to the civilians in terms of killings, rape, mutilation and torture.

CSOPNU, a coalition of over 70 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) promotes the spirit of dialogue and recognises it as the best option to ending this conflict. We would therefore urge all key stakeholders to the negotiations to refrain from making statements that are likely to undermine or derail the spirit of the peace talks, and at the same time suggest that as long as the communication channels remain open, all efforts should be geared toward the resumption of the formal peace talks in Juba.

CSOPNU upholds its commitment to promote and support all peaceful avenues to end this conflict as well as strives to help the people of Northern Uganda realise a positive post war recovery and livelihood.

Just and lasting peace in Northern Uganda

Steering Committee:

CARE International in Uganda, The African PACT, Soroti District Association NGO Network (SODANN), Save the Children in Uganda, Pader NGO Forum, Jamii ya Kupatinisha (JYAK), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam Great Britain, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, World Vision Uganda and Uganda National NGO Forum & Concerned Parents Association (CPA)