

## Lord's Resistance Army

The Lord's Resistance Army ("LRA") was formed in 1988 from the remnants of a defeated resistance movement amongst the Acholi people of northern Uganda. It was purportedly to continue this struggle for Acholi rights and to establish a government based on the Christian faith, that leader Joseph Kony gained early support, from the Acholi community, but this support soon fell away amidst acts of cruelty perpetrated by the group.

The organisation was renowned for its atrocities against defenceless village communities, raping, torturing and murdering indiscriminately. The abduction of young boys as a form of recruitment was also well-known, many of

whom are rumoured to have been inducted in horrific rituals. Young girls were also abducted by the LRA to serve as sex slaves for the group.

The group drew most of its income from elephant ivory, gold, and diamonds, and has received support from the Government of Sudan since 1994 until 2002.

In 2005 the International Criminal Court released arrest warrants for Kony and several members of the



LRA senior leadership, and later Interpol supported this move by issuing red wanted notices for these men..

Kony was also listed on the US Treasury Department's register of "Specially Designated Global Terrorists" in 2008, and in 2011 the US deployed 100 US Special Forces

to the area in order to provide training, to Ugandan and African Union forces to take on the LRA.

In terms of numbers, the LRA in 2007 was estimated to have somewhere between 500 and 3,000 soldiers under its command, as well as 1,500 abducted women and children, but by 2012, numbers were down to only 200-250 active militants. The

Group is estimated to have killed over 100,000 people.

Kony, though considerably weakened, remains at large. But his army has been crippled, and his top commanders dead or arrested. The best evidence available suggests that he is mainly in and around the Sudan-controlled disputed enclave of Kafia Kingi.

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**Leader: Joseph Kony**

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**Location: Northern Uganda, South Sudan and bordering DRC.**

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**Strength: 250 (2012) fighters**

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**Affiliations: n.a**

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**Financing: Income from elephant ivory, gold, and diamonds, and from the Government of Sudan.**

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