

Media Advisory – 14 October 2005

International Criminal Court Unseals Uganda Arrest Warrants *Court Confirms Five Warrants against Senior LRA Leaders*

WHAT: On Friday, 14 October 2005, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague announced that its Pre-Trial Chamber II had, on Thursday, 13 October, unsealed the arrest warrants for five senior leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, including LRA leader Joseph Kony.

WHEN: The Pre-Trial Chamber issued the Uganda arrest warrants on 8 July 2005 under seal in order to protect the well-being and identity of victims, potential victims and their families. In its decision to unseal the warrants last night, the Chamber explained that a central issue of victims and witness security in light of the arrest warrant announcement had been satisfactorily established, noting, "the overall plan in respect of the situation in Uganda for the security of witness and victims in the field has been completed and implemented; and that by the assessment and advice of the Prosecutor and the Victims and Witness Unit the overall plans provide the necessary and adequate protective measures for all concerned at this stage."

WHO: The five senior leaders of the LRA named in the arrest warrants are: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen, and Raska Lukwiya.

A total of 33 criminal counts are listed against Joseph Kony on the basis of his individual criminal responsibility. These are listed as 12 counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and inhumane acts of inflicting serious bodily injury and suffering; and 21 counts of war crimes including murder, cruel treatment of civilians, intentionally directing an attack against a civilian population, pillaging, inducing rape and forced enlistment of children.

Vincent Otti is accused on 11 counts of crimes against humanity and 21 counts of war crimes; Okot Odhiambo on 2 counts of crimes against humanity and 8 counts of war crimes; Dominic Ongwen on 3 counts of crimes against humanity and 4 counts of war crimes; and Raska Lukwiya on 1 count of crimes against humanity and 3 counts of war crimes. At a news conference on Friday, 7 October, Ugandan Defense Minister Amama Mbabazi said Dominic Ongwen had been killed by Ugandan troops on 30 September during an LRA incursion into the eastern sub-region of Teso.

COMMENT AND BACKGROUND: Experts from human rights organizations are available for background information and comment and can be reached through the list on the following page.

COURT INFORMATION: The ICC's press release on the Uganda arrest warrants can be found on the Court's website at: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/press/pressreleases/114.html>.

The Court has also posted a background document on the facts and procedures regarding the Uganda situation at: http://www.icc-cpi.int/library/cases/ICC_20051410-056-1_English.pdf.

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Important notice: CICC's policy on the referral and prosecution of situations before the ICC: The Coalition, an independent NGO movement, is dedicated to the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a fair, effective, and independent international organization. The CICC will continue to provide the most up-to-date information about the ICC and to help coordinate global action to effectively implement the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Coalition will also endeavor to respond to basic queries and to raise awareness about the ICC's trigger mechanisms and procedures, as they develop. The Coalition as a whole, and its secretariat, do not endorse or promote specific investigations or prosecutions or take a position on situations before the ICC. However, individual CICC members may endorse referrals, provide legal and other support on investigations, or develop partnerships with local and other organizations in the course of their efforts. The Coalition is *not* an organ of the International Criminal Court.

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT'S
ARREST WARRANTS IN UGANDA

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