

NGOS ASKED TO STOP FEEDING LRA.

In the vision of September 30, 2008 page 3, it was stated by the Honourable Minister for Disaster Preparedness, Professor Tarsis Kabwegere that ***%Caritas should stop giving food to the rebels so that they get under pressure to sign the peace agreement. But as long as they continue to get supplies, they will see no reason of ending the rebellion. There is a moral question on why Kony continues to receive food. Whoever is sending food to the jungles is committing a mortal sin especially if they are Christians+.***

We would like to clarify this statement which is likely to mislead the public and the world which is already too anxious and waiting for that day of signing the Peace agreement. Caritas Uganda which is the Social Pastoral arm of the Catholic Church at the Uganda Episcopal Conference is not currently supplying food and medicine to the rebels. It is to be pointed out that when Uganda Government started negotiating for Peace with the rebels mediated by Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayadart, the President of Southern Sudan in Juba in October 2006, Caritas Uganda was requested and mandated by the mediating team (CHMT) consisting of the Republic of Uganda, Southern Sudan Government, the rebels, a consortium of donors and UN representative, to supply food and medicine with set guidelines to the rebels in the assembly area . Ri-Kwangaba in Southern Sudan bordering Garamba forest in the Republic of Congo. As a result a Partnership Agreement for the support to the implementation of COHA (Cessation of Hostilities Agreement) between the GoU and LRA/M project was executed between Danida . HUGGO (Danida Human Rights and good Governance Liaison Office) and Caritas Uganda. The supplies were checked and monitored regularly by the monitoring Team in Juba until the date set for signing Peace Agreement April, 2008. We are however grateful for the trust put in Caritas Uganda to carry out this noble assignment to end the conflict.

When the signing flopped, Caritas also ended its mandate. In compliance with the guidelines, Caritas contributed to the peace process by keeping the rebels out of rebel activities in search for food. This was done to the satisfaction of the mediation Team and the donors until the fixed date for signing the Peace Agreement. The honourable Minister of Internal Affairs, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda is and has been

aware of all the steps that we have been engaged in. As a matter of fact we have been in constant consultations with him. It is therefore surprising for Hon. Prof. Kabwegyere to make such misleading and irresponsible statements of that kind. On the contrary, he should thank Caritas Uganda and the entire Catholic Church leadership for the peaceful contribution we have made in the peace process and also the spiritual and material help which the respective Churches have given to the suffering people in Northern Uganda.



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