

Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice
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STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT CONFLICTS IN THE RWENZORI REGION

The outbreak of violent conflicts in Bundibugyo, Kasese and Ntoroko Districts on July 5th and 6th is regrettable. Earlier, violent skirmishes had erupted in Hapuuyo Sub County, Kyegegwa District where a group of people attacked worshippers in a church. These outbreaks exhibit the fragility of this region and the need for grassroots and hybrid peace actors to remain alert now and in the days to come.

The state and non-state actors have defined and packaged these conflicts in different ways; to some, these conflicts are tribal, cultural, political while others believe they could be linked to armed rebel groups. In Kyegegwa, the conflict is linked by some sections of the public to religious extremism.

The packaging of conflicts itself; may be a source of conflict, a reflection of reality, constructions, or indeed a mixture of both realities and constructions. While not defining the current conflicts for now, RFPJ notes with regret, the loss of lives, insecurity and lawlessness in the region and all associated injustices. RFPJ has started documenting local narratives about these recent conflict outbreaks in the region. The narratives not only reflect the local perceptions of the current conflicts, but are also likely to shape present and future inter and intra community relationships in the region. The profiling of these narratives too will further inform the peace building and conflict management enterprises, both in the short-term and long-term.

While the government and its agencies continue to do their part to address these conflicts, RFPJ takes note of the following;

1. An urgent need for all direct and indirect actors in these conflicts to desist now and in future from acts of violence, taking the law into own hands and threatening others.


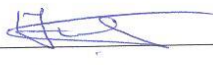

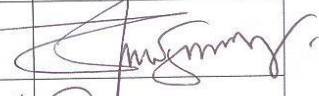
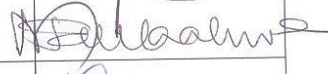
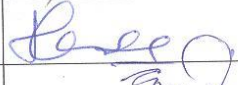


2. The need for the general public to remain calm, respect one another, keep law and order, value the principles of dialogue, reconciliation, equality of all human beings and inevitable social, cultural and political diversity.
3. The need for all actors to cooperate with the state and its agencies in enforcing law and order.
4. The need for the state to unreservedly respect, promote and protect the rights of every citizen, including those under lawful detention.
5. The need for all RFPJ partners, member organizations and peace loving people to work with Government, all political, social, cultural, religious and community stakeholders at all possible levels more than ever before to reinforce messages on and values of unity, dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect.
6. The need for all peace actors to remain impartial in these conflicts and desist from activities that instigate further violence.
7. The need for all peoples of Rwenzori region to unite as one people for mutual political, social and economic progress and appreciate that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

At an appropriate time, RFPJ and other stakeholders will call for a convention to dialogue and act towards both short-term and long-term peace in the region. RFPJ will remain committed to the promotion of peace and reconciliation, tolerance, dialogue, unity and mutual respect.



Signed by the following RFPJ member organizations

#	Name	Organization	Signature
1.	KEMIGISA RHODA BYARUHANDA	PETURA	Rempisa
2	NIRERE SAMUEL	RHEMUS	
3	Kule Mutanzu John	ARUDECE	
4	Ahasibwe Florence (Sr)	RFPJ	Ahasibwe
5.	Katabhwa Donald B.	KIND-VGANDH	
6.	Busurubwa Chris	KRC	
7	Kaahwa K. Fred	ATURIO	
8	Tuhaise Francis	RFPJ	
9	Rucidi Sam	RIDE AFRICA	