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UGANDA: CONFLICT SCAN REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015

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Disclaimer

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INTRODUCTION

The following is a *Monthly Conflict Scan Report* produced in Uganda by the USAID Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE) Program.

The report covers the month of February 2015. The SAFE Program conducts monthly conflict scans to better understand and respond to conflict patterns and trends as they develop throughout Uganda. The scan is also intended to inform the work of SAFE's partners and that of other stakeholders. Information is primarily filtered through SAFE's trained Conflict Monitors who report on conflict incidents that occur in their communities.

SAFE has Mobile Coordinators based in West Nile, Acholi, Bunyoro and Karamoja sub regions. SAFE has also trained conflict monitors in Bukedi, Kigezi, West Nile, Karamoja, Lango and Ankole sub regions. The information provided by the Mobile Coordinators and Conflict Monitors is supplemented with reports issued by the media and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The SAFE Program verifies reported incidents for accuracy. For a more detailed description of the monthly conflict scan methodology, please refer to **Appendix A** at the back of this report

Eight (8) categories of conflicts are monitored in the Monthly Conflict Scan:

- Governance related conflicts
- Land conflicts
- Politically related conflicts
- Economic distress and poverty
- Spill over conflicts
- Environmental issues
- Identity based conflict
- Other kinds of conflicts that do not fall into the first seven categories (see **Appendix B** for the types of conflicts)

The conflicts are additionally disaggregated by industry or sector, where relevant (for example, oil and gas, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing, and agriculture).

Conflict incidents are additionally categorized by colors, which represent their status at the time of the report.

Categories include:

- **RED:** Currently experiencing violence
- **ORANGE:** High-risk situations with the potential to degenerate into large scale violence involving at least ten people
- **YELLOW:** Medium-risk situations where tension is growing gradually
- **GREEN:** Situations with low-risk for large scale violence but also have a negative impact on social cohesion

Each of the eight conflict-categories is assessed for the extent to which each meets the criteria of conflict-levels identified in color-codes. Only verified conflict incidents are reported in the Monthly Conflict Scan. In this case verification involves cross checking of the facts and authenticity of the reported conflict incidents from local leaders and other authorities in areas where conflict incidents occur. For this reason, it is likely that the SAFE Program may not report some conflicts, if information is not readily available for verification purposes..

The report analyzes sub-data for the four traditional regions of Uganda: Northern (Acholi, Lango, Karamoja and West Nile sub regions); Eastern (Teso, Busoga, Bugisu, Sebei, and Bukedi sub regions); Western (Ankole, Kigezi, Bunyoro and Tooro sub regions); and Central (Buganda sub region).

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

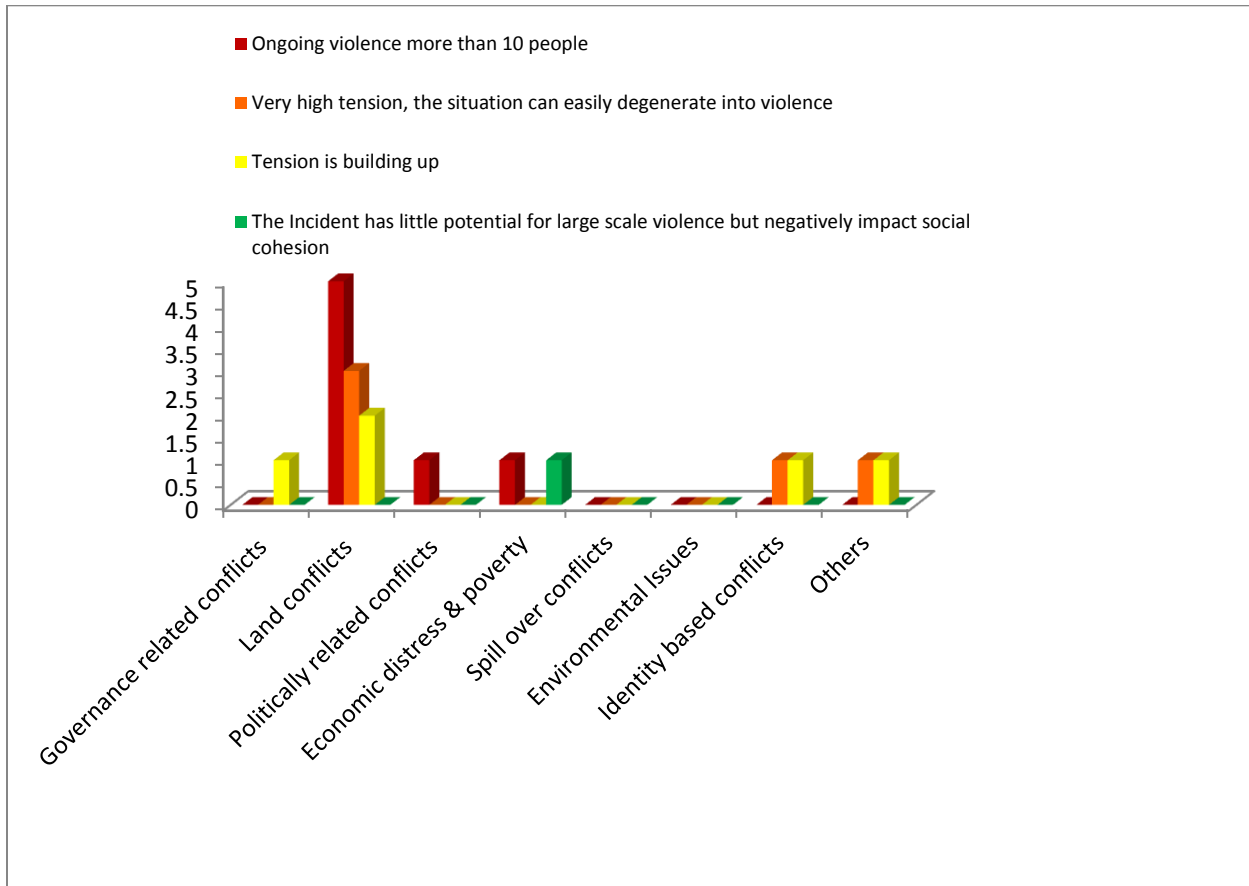
There is continued tension in the country following the unexplained killings that are taking place in Busoga sub region. Majority of those killed are Muslim leaders. The Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura and the Director of the Criminal Intelligence & Investigation Department (CIID) Grace Akullo have pitched camp in the region following more murders that have taken place since the murder of two Muslim clerics that the SAFE Program reported about in last month's conflict scan report. Since then there have been a number of murders including that of the Chairperson of the Local Council (LC3) of Buyinja Sub County in Namayingo District and of two (2) Policemen in Bugiri District. The Police have since recovered three (3) guns which they found hidden at Namayembe Primary School, a school owned by the Salaf Muslim sect. The school was immediately closed by the Police till further notice as it was a scene of crime. A key suspect has also been arrested from a Salaf Mosque at Lwanika landing site in Bukatube sub county in Bugiri District. Residents of the area immediately demolished the mosque. In response to the recent killings and in order to calm the populace of Busoga, the President of Uganda toured the region and ordered for the dismissal of three (3) of the top Police Officers in Namayingo District for negligence of duty and transfer of the area Resident District Commissioner (RDC).

Eleven (11) of the eighteen (18) Muslim suspects who were earlier arrested last month have been charged with aiding and rendering support to a rebel group called the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), in acts of terrorism. In another twist, a prominent Ugandan Cardiologist based in Australia Dr. Aggrey Kiyingi has been named as one of the funders and suspect in the murders taking place in Busoga sub region. The Nakawa court that is trying the Muslim clerics heard that Dr Kiyingi formed a rebel group called Federo Alliance (FA) through which he has been allegedly offering training, recruitment and logistical support to (ADF) rebels who were reportedly hired to execute the two (2) Sheiks.¹ Dr Kiyingi has since denied any links to the murders and says he is being

¹ New Vision February 13th 2015

witch hunted because he intends to stand for the presidency in the 2016 general elections.²

Below: Number of reported conflict incidents, February 2015



Source: SAFE Conflict Monitoring Database: February 2015

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

NORTHERN REGION

Tensions are simmering in Nebbi District following the National Forest Authority (NFA)'s decision to issue a one (1) month ultimatum to residents of Atyak, Kaalwang parish in Nebbi District to vacate Omyer Forest Reserve that measures twenty three thousand and eight hundred (23,800) hectares.³ The residents who are more than one

² Ibid

³ USAID SAFE Mobile Coordinator-West Nile Region

thousand (1000) claim that it is their ancestral land and have vowed to go to court to block the pending eviction.⁴ The area Resident District Commissioner Martin Orochi has accused the Alur Kingdom of not being honest about the rightful owner of the forest reserve which he said had caused tensions between the community and NFA.⁵ He urged both parties to resolve the matter amicably before the matter goes to court. In order to quell any violence that might occur, the Police have been heavily deployed in the area.⁶ In the past, evictions from forest reserves that have not been handled in a conflict sensitive manner have led to violence, destruction of property, crops and livestock, and people have been driven into poverty and landlessness. In some incidents, the affected people have not been appropriately consulted, and have not received adequate compensation or alternative land. SAFE's Zombo-based Mobile Coordinator will continue to monitor the situation on the ground.

In the Lango sub region, more than five thousand (5000) former Amuka militia fighters who took part in battles against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) between 2004-2007 are demanding demobilization packages which they say are long overdue.⁷ The militia group was formed in 2003 to boost and support Uganda Peoples Defense Forces in the search for LRA rebels at the height of the insurgency in North and Eastern Uganda. After they were recruited and trained, each was to receive a monthly salary.⁸ However since they were demobilized no payments have been made to some of the militia. The unpaid militia took GOU to court in 2013 over the issue but the state preferred to settle the dispute out of court.⁹ The Attorney General had earlier said the GOU had no binding agreement with the former militia members and that they were therefore not entitled to any compensation.¹⁰ This statement infuriated the militias, who have vowed to use all possible means available to make sure they get their compensation. The area

⁴ Ibid

⁵ NewVision Newspaper 23rd February 2015

⁶ Ibid

⁷ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Lango sub region

⁸ <http://ugandaradionetwork.com/a/story.php?s=56452#ixzz3TPSX4Dtm>

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Court-sets-date-for-hearing-ex-militia-case/-/688334/2167044/-/713ceq/-/index.html>

Resident District Commissioner George Odong has called for calm and patience as the GOU is aware of their plight.¹¹

In Abim District of Karamoja sub region, a boundary conflict at a place called Kanyaika between Kiru Parish and Abim Town Council culminated into violent skirmishes that led to the injury of more than ten (10) people and were later admitted at Abim Hospital.¹² According to one of SAFE's Abim-based conflict monitors, the residents used pangas and machetes to attack each other. The Local Defence Unit (LDU) have since calmed the situation albeit temporarily. The boundary conflict has been going on for some years however the trigger to the incident was when some of the residents began clearing land for cultivation in anticipation of the rainy season (planting season). It is during the planting season that tensions rise as both communities want to plant on the contested land. Boundary conflicts are becoming common in the Karamoja sub region including Abim and Amuria Districts Rupa and Katikekile sub counties in Moroto, and between Moroto and Napak Districts. SAFE's Moroto-based Mobile Coordinator and the Abim-based conflict monitors will continue to monitor the situation.

WESTERN REGION

In Hoima District, tensions are simmering following a month long land usage dispute between pastoralists and cultivators in Kapaapi parish, Kigorobya sub county which culminated into violent skirmishes between four pastoralists and one cultivating family in the month of February.¹³ The Alur cultivators accuse the pastoralists of grazing in their gardens while the pastoralists accuse the cultivators of planting crops beyond the demarcated line gazetted by the District Authorities for cultivation.¹⁴ Hoima District has a history of conflict between pastoralists and cultivators. In June 2014, violent clashes between the two groups led to the injury of two (2) people and the burning of twenty (20) huts in Lenju village, Kigorobya subcounty as reported in our July 2014 conflict scan report. Conflicts over control of land and water resources between farmers and pastoralists are common along the areas where farming and pastoralism

¹¹ New Vision February 17th 2015

¹² USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Abim District

¹³ USAID SAFE Mobile Coordinator- Bunyoro sub region

¹⁴ Daily Monitor Newspaper-February 13th 2015

inter-sect. This is common in many parts of Uganda. In order to quell the tensions between the two (2) groups, a Police Field Force Unit was set up and district authorities revived the traditional zoning system to quell the long standing feud between agriculturalists and pastoralists in Kigoroby Sub County. Despite these efforts, tensions continue to simmer.

Still in Hoima district, the Police have expressed concern over the rising number of land disputes in the area as they receive more than ten (10) land-related cases every day.¹⁵ The police believe that the disputes are being fuelled by the discovery of oil which has attracted many people to migrate to the district, and also due to local leaders who stamp and endorse the sale of the same piece of land to multiple clients.¹⁶

There is also apprehension in Bunyoro Kingdom following attempts to poison the King (Omukama of Bunyoro).¹⁷ The Omukama's tea was allegedly laced with a toxic substance believed to be rat poison, but this was discovered before he had taken the tea.¹⁸ Police have recovered two empty sachets of the poison and have sent them to the GOU analytical laboratory for toxicology tests. According to preliminary investigations by the Police, an intruder managed to beat the Omukama's security detail and accessed his kitchen. This is the second attempt to poison the Omukama. Police believes the incident might be related to disputes within the royal family especially those who want to take over the kingdom. However some Kingdom officials said the attempted poisoning could be linked to the ownership of the vast properties that the GOU is returning to the Kingdom.

In Kiryandongo District, district leaders are concerned about the influx of illegal settlers on GOU ranches in the sub counties of Mutunda and Kiryandongo.¹⁹ There are thirty eight (38) ranches in the district with each measuring at least five (5) square miles and have all been encroached by unknown people which is making people in the area afraid. In the past, there have been clashes between members of the community and settlers

¹⁵ Daily Monitor Newspapers-February 3rd 2015

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ New Vision Newspaper –February 24 2015

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ New Vision –February 19th 2015

over boundaries. The area LC 5 chairman says the immigrants are a security threat.²⁰ It is believed that some of the encroachers are coming from as far as South Sudan, Rwanda and Kenya. Others are refugees who are escaping from Kyangwali Resettlement Camp for refugees.

EASTERN REGION

Tensions are rising in the Bugisu region following continued demands by one of the clans –the Babukusu to be recognized as a cultural institution.²¹ The Babukusu elders and clan heads have written to the government of Uganda (GOU) wanting to know why they have not been recognized as a cultural institution.²² They also want the GOU to grant them facilitation, transport and security for the office of their “King” Umukhungu wa Babukusu, Joseph Kanyaanya Wash. The “Kingdom” was carved out of the Bugisu Kingdom in October 2010 by the proponents of the new “Kingdom” under controversial circumstances and tension has been brewing since then. The Bagisu Kingdom authorities accuse the Babukusu of trying to cause confusion in the Kingdom. The Babukusu who are found in both Kenya and Uganda have said they will never pay allegiance to the Bugisu Kingdom because the two institutions have different ethnic affiliation. The SAFE program is aware that conflicts related to cultural institutions can become explosive and violent as has been witnessed in the Kingdoms of Buganda, Busoga, Bukedi and the Rwenzori sub regions. The SAFE program will in the month of March train twenty five (25) conflict monitors in the Bugisu sub region and fifteen (15) conflict monitors in the Sebei sub region in conflict monitoring, reporting and analysis. They will then monitor and report tensions and conflict incidents as they occur in the region.

In the January 2015 conflict scan report, the SAFE program reported on continued tensions among the Bagwere tribe in regard to their cultural institution-the Kingdom of Bukedi “Ikumbania Obwa Bukedi” where different individuals are claiming to be the legitimate cultural leader. Since then there have been reconciliation attempts to diffuse

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor- Bukedi sub region

²² New Vision Newspaper February 23rd 2015

this conflict. The two rival leaders Joseph Wayabire and Pangoli Mubala Samuku Kintu agreed to reconcile for the sake of development in Bugwere.²³ The reconciliation ceremony took place at St Paul High School in Patete subcounty Palilisa District and was facilitated by a medical doctor from the region-Dr Monica Musenero. Mr Mubala announced that he had stopped fighting Mr Wayabire and that he was ready to give up the throne for the sake of development in the kingdom. The SAFE program is pleased with this reconciliation effort as there are currently many conflicts in the county related to cultural institutions. SAFE's Bukedi based mobile coordinators will continue monitoring the situation.

CENTRAL REGION

In last month's conflict scan report, SAFE reported about the tensions surrounding the demolition of Nabagereka Primary School in Kampala following a land dispute between a private developer and the school that had occupied the land for forty (40) years.²⁴ Currently more than one thousand (1000) pupils and more than twenty five (25) teachers have taken refuge at the nearby Nakivubo Blue Primary School. However tensions are still simmering. A network of free legal lawyers have protested the demolition saying it is a denial of city dwellers right to education.²⁵ Under their umbrella association of Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) the pro bono service providers contend that the ongoing demolition of city schools raises a number of social justice questions since the schools cater for the urban poor.²⁶ The Parliament of Uganda debated a motion about demolition of city schools and subsequent land grab by supposed investors.

In Masaka District, tensions are rising following a decision by National Forest Authority (NFA) to issue a three (3) month ultimatum to thirty thousand (30.000) encroachers to vacate Walutembe forest reserve in Buwunga sub county.²⁷ The affected residents occupied and destroyed over one hundred (100) acres of the forest reserve. The

²³ USAID SAFE Conflict Monitor-Bukedi sub region

²⁴ USAID SAFE January 2015 Conflict Scan Report

²⁵ Daily Monitor Newspaper 23rd February 2015

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ New Vision Newspaper. February 26th 2014

residents are requesting for ample time to harvest crops before the eviction exercise starts.²⁸

In Luwero District, tensions are raising after the district local government allocated sixty five (65) acres of forest reserve to Ruma Industries, an Asian company that is producing industrial oil from old car tyres.²⁹ District authorities say they agreed to the allocation because the company was going to provide employment to the residents especially the youth. A team of environmentalists from the Ministry of Water and Environment that went to assess the situation said the construction of the factory on the forest reserve was in contravention of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The land in question had been gazetted to protect a water catchment area but the district authorities de-gazetted it without knowledge of the NFA. The Luwero District Forestry Officer said he advised the developers not to go ahead with the project but they ignored his advice.³⁰ The community members surrounding the factory are upset because they fear catching respiratory diseases and cancer as a result of chemicals from the burnt tyres which are released in the water catchment areas.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ New Vision Newspaper February 18th 2014

³⁰ Deo Mujumbi _District Forest Officer Luweero.

Map of Uganda showing the conflict hotspots as highlighted in this report



Source: <https://conflictmappinguganda.crowdmap.com/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Land Conflicts

- Land evictions should be carried out using a conflict sensitive approach to avoid violence.
- The GoU and CSOs should train communities on managing tensions over land.

Conflicts over Cultural Institutions

- Cultural leaders should encourage their subjects to solve their disputes and disagreements in a non- violent manner.
- The GoU and CSOs should put in place measures to ensure active lines of communication between rival groups

Killings In Busoga Region

- The GoU and security agencies should increase vigilance and increase security presence and foot patrols as a deterrence.
- The GoU should apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice so that Ugandans, and especially the Muslim community, can feel secure in the country

SAFE RESPONSE

Training of Conflict Monitors

- The monthly conflict scan is primarily filtered through SAFE's trained Conflict Monitors who report on conflict incidents that occur in their communities. In precursor to expanding monthly conflict scans, SAFE will train more than two hundred (200) conflict monitors from the sub regions of Bugisu/Sebei, Rwenzori, Bunyoro, Busoga and Teso. This will be the second phase of roll out of trainings following the sub regions of Bukedi, Kigezi, West Nile, Karamoja, Ankole and Lango. The training will be on conflict monitoring, analysis and reporting and will involve orientation to using the toll free SMS system.

Issuance of Grants

- An Annual Program Statement (APS) grant (a short term grant whose purpose is to immediately reduce existing tension and prospects for violent conflict in areas where emerging conflict has been identified) was issued to **Riamiriam Civil Society Network** that is implementing a six month project in Moroto District entitled "Sustainable Peace through local community engagement" in regard to the Rupa-Katikekile border conflict that SAFE has reported on in previous monthly conflict scan reports. The project will provide platforms for meaningful and informed dialogue on conflict issues in Rupa and Katikekile and enhance the capacities of local peace structures.
- Long term grants were offered to **Mid-Western Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC)** to implement a project entitled " Enhancing social accountability in oil and gas industry in Hoima and Masindi Districts whose project goal is "to raise awareness on oil and gas management practices", and to **World Voices Uganda (WVU)** to implement a project entitled "Promoting Community Dialogues for Mitigation and Management of Natural Resources Related conflicts in Kibaale District" whose project goal is to "contribute to a reduction in natural resource related conflicts".

Appendix A.

The five-step approach for USAID SAFE Conflict Monitoring

Step I: Conflict Monitor learns of a conflict incident, verifies the accuracy of the incident from a minimum of three people in their local community. If a Conflict Monitor witnessed the incident, they are not required to verify it.

Step II. A Conflict Monitor sends a text message through the conflict monitoring SMS toll free line to the SAFE Program

Note: a) At this time, only the USAID SAFE trained Conflict Monitors have access to the SMS toll free line because SAFE trained these Monitors in conflict monitoring, analysis and reporting.

b) Monitors can report conflicts in which they are parties, without declaring their identity; they can report it as though it were another person involved. USAID SAFE is only interested in the CONFLICT and not the identity of the involved parties.

Step III: Dedicated staff at USAID SAFE will verify the reported incident from a minimum of three other sources in the area in which the incident was reported.

Step IV: If the incident verified in III above is true, it is entered into the SAFE conflict monitoring database

Note: Steps I-IV are mandatory for each reported incident.

Step V. At the end of the month, SAFE analyses the reported incidents in order to produce the conflict scan report for that month. This report is shared with USAID, and other implementing partners in Uganda, including the Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other interested stakeholders. It is also uploaded on the SAFE website.

Appendix B.

Types of Conflicts

Conflict Category	Examples of Incidents
Governance Related Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unequal resource distribution• Infringement on civil and political liberties• Worker's rights• Riots and strikes• Corruption• Grievance over service delivery• Police brutality• Forced arrests and disappearance• Detention without trial/bail• General Human Rights violations
Land Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land transactions• Compensation• Forced eviction• Land inheritance• Land access and use• Border/boundary disputes• Land ownership disputes• Illegal encroachment• Property and crop destruction

Politically Related Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter and intra party disagreements • Electoral malpractices (bribery, violence, intimidation, denial of equal space for all political contestants, disenfranchisement) • Unequal political space for politicians
Economic Distress And Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflation/rising costs of living • Poor living conditions • Unemployment • Poor labor conditions
Spill Over Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees influx • Internally displaced persons influx
Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental pollution (e.g. air quality, water, land) • Uncontrolled migration of wild animals • Livestock movement in search of water and pasture • Mining and exploration activities
Identity Based Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious conflicts • Ethnic conflicts • Conflicts related to sexual orientation
Other Kinds Of Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking • Sexual and Gender based violence • Child sacrifice

REFERENCES

Bugwere cultural leaders reconcile

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/663419-rival-bugwere-cultural-leaders-reconcile.html>

Nebbi residents resist eviction from forest land

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Nebbi--residents--eviction-forest--land/-/688334/2632984/-/19x520/-/index.html>

Former Amuka Militias sue Government over unpaid salary arrears

<http://ugandaradionetwork.com/a/story.php?s=56452>

Pastoralists and cultivators clash over land in Hoima

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Pastoralists--cultivators-clash-over-land/-/688334/2622006/-/2w49ko/-/index.html>

Hoima Moves to Revive Zoning System to End Conflicts between Farmers and Pastoral Communities

<http://ugandaradionetwork.com/a/story.php?s=52206#ixzz3Tr32WeDj>

USAID SAFE Conflict Monitors

USAID SAFE Mobile Coordinators

USAID SAFE Conflict Monitoring Database

**For more information about USAID SAFE Monthly Conflict Scans, Please
Contact:**

Albert Gomes-Mugumya,

Conflict Prevention & Reconciliation Officer

USAID SAFE Program,

Plot 9, Yusuf Lule Road, Nakasero,

2nd Floor (Next to United Nations Office),

P. O. Box 75130, Kampala, Uganda.

Tel: +256 414 531206

Email: amugumya@safeprogram.ug