



General information on refugee reality in Kampala Uganda

By;

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PPDR UGANDA MONTHLY BULLETIN

Editorial message

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A New Hope for refugees in Uganda and in the region

Uganda has a rich history in hosting refugees; on the other hand Uganda has also a rich history of brutality against its citizens and foreigners which culminated to two major events main: The Uganda Martyrs day celebrated each year on 3rd June and the Uganda Heroes day which is celebrated on 9th June. Even though the number of Martyrs seems to be fully known, the number of Uganda Heroes is not yet well establish as may be argued by the Pan Africans who realized that those who were killed at Nakivubo are not yet celebrated.



Pecos addressing refugees during a public meeting in Kampala

Hosting refugees is one thing, delivering the required minimum services for them is another thing. As the Martyrs and the Heroes realized that it was not enough to be good people but real citizens, refugees in Uganda are now asking for better services and their rights.

A number of refugee Heroes who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of others are not yet recorded. Those who are sacrificing their lives for the social

justice and the whole well-being of others are not yet identified but those who are known are labeled as “*dangerous people*” to avoid. The new blood of refugees and this new generation growing up in Uganda that believes that the humanitarian Aid approach has totally failed to address the problems of refugees, that believes that resettlement, local integration and voluntary repatriation are not the real true solutions to current refugee problems, that believes that refugees in Uganda are a capital for the institutions and NGOs working on refugees under the refugee management system, that believes that the solution to the refugees’ problems is development through the real participation of refugees, that believes that humanitarian world is another form of imperialism which should be resisted are growing in numbers and asking for changes every day.

On 21st August this year we shall be commemorating the brutality of the Ugandan Police against refugees who gathered at the office of Inter Aid in 2002 protesting against social injustices. Philip Mashimago and his companions will be remembered as they incarnate the first step for refugee upraising. Then also put into our minds the situation of refugee opinion leaders who are persecuted because of their convictions. And finish it with the commemoration of the brutality against refugee children who sat down at the Refugee Law Project demanding for basic needs in 2010 but the police never addressed their issues as expected.

These are new martyrs and live martyrs we should think about in Uganda, where a number of Ugandans are indifferent to the plight of refugees from NGOs, religious institutions, companies, media, common people, refugees are ready to move forward for their destiny.

RWANDA IS NOT YET SAFE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS

This June 2013 the Rwanda Government is pushing for the secession clause to all Rwandese who are living as refugees in different countries. Rwandese refugees in Uganda are at high risk of all sorts of human rights abuses, torture and inhuman treatment.

Even though it is still unfortunate that despite the whole diversity of intellectuals we have in this world today, the refugees situation is still being defined as “*Temporal*” by people in western countries who are not even refugees or who have never experienced refugee life.

Even in this understanding of temporally situation the Rwandan refugees should be assessed as individuals but not as a whole so that those who still have founded reasons of persecution can continue enjoying the protection in the countries of asylum.



Pecos's presentation about the ethnic situation in the great lakes region and the realities of the Rwandese refugees in Uganda to refugees plus SIT students at YARID offices in Kampala this year

On the other hand, Rwandese position may be misleading when they claim that they want refugees to participate in the development of Rwanda. These are people whom Rwanda has not helped to develop themselves in their countries of asylum. Many have no access to education, no sustainable source of income and they are living a miserable life. There for how will these people develop Rwanda?

SIXTEEN RWANDESE STUDENTS ENTER UGANDA SEEKING FOR ASYLUM

On Monday 3rd June, 2013 a group of sixteen Rwandese Students entered Uganda to seek asylum claiming that they were persecuted in Rwanda because of their struggle against corruption and injustice in Rwanda. The students are leaders of the syndicates which were presenting students at school and speaking on behalf of the students. Their struggle did not please the Rwanda Ministry of Justice and that was the beginning of their persecution.

This has come up at a time when Rwanda has just been voted for the presidency of the United Nations Security Council and at the same time Rwanda is pushing for the secession clause to all Rwandese refugees in the world this makes it hard for the Rwandese refugees and people in Rwanda to live under persecution.

At police the Rwandese Embassy was following them and had pushed for their cases to be taken back to Rwanda but thanks to the presence of refugee human rights defenders who helped these students and rescued them from the hands of the Rwandese Embassy.

So far the reactions of the Ugandan Government to granting these students a refugee status is negative. Since the Uganda police's first reaction was to call the Rwandese Embassy in Uganda and asked them to take back their people back to Rwanda. The Embassy has not yet done so because there came a number of human rights defenders who claimed that these students should be considered as refugees. The second reaction was from the Office of the Prime Minister which indicates in the email that these are Rwandan people who are moving in the East African Community. Learn more about this on: Join us in the struggle for the protection of Rwandan asylum seekers and refugees in Uganda. <http://ppdr.info/urgent-action-on-behalf-of-sixteen-rwandan-students-seeking-asylum-in-uganda-at-risk-of-being-deported-to-rwanda/>

Open this link and send us your message for solidarity.

THE HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION PROJECT JOINS THE REFUGEE IMPERIALISM SYSTEM IN UGANDA TO EXPLOIT THE MISERY OF REFUGEES

The suffering of refugees is an opportunity for other people to make money or to have academic accreditation through research work. It is like the injustice refugees went through which forced them to run away from their home countries does not attract the sympathy of no one in the refugee industry.

The aid donated makes only some people too rich and powerful and refugees too poor and very weak. Today once even that misery they are living is again a business deal for some people who are involved in research deals. All people involved in research work do agree that research is extremely expensive; the question is to who does the money benefit. When asked why they don't give money to refugees they claim it is ethically wrong but argue that it is ethically right for them to get rich because of the research while refugees remain poorer.

The Humanitarian Innovation Project (HIP) from the OXFORD University is currently conducting a research on refugee economic activities. Refugees are accusing the HIP for not being clear on what will be their interest in the research as many are suspicious that the HIP got millions of money from USAID, DFID and... to do this work but refugees will not benefit from that money. Many refugees are also afraid of the outcome of the research which may be manipulated on their disadvantage. .

Here is the position of refugee leaders against all forms of research work:

<http://refugeeseducation.blogspot.com/2013/05/refugee-position-on-all-kinds-of.html>

As it was the western strategy during the colonial period to support some Africans and give them power

to oppress their fellow Africans which is still common up to now. The Humanitarian Innovation Project (HIP) is financially manipulating some refugees to act against the general interest of all refugees. Here is the link of refugees paid by HIP: :

<http://www.oxhip.org/people/uganda-team/>

A group of refugees have come up openly to oppose the research, and they are mobilizing refugees to abstain from giving information to HIP staffs. Information on our possession indicate that this week the HIP got the support from UNHCR and Inter Aid as they called some few individuals who are baptized community leaders and asked them to get prepared for the

HIP meeting at the office of the UNHCR on 11th June, 2013. The so called leaders were then motivated with 10,000 Ug Sh and were promised some money if they attend the next meeting. Let us remind that this is not the first Inter Aid and UNHCR have organized such kinds of scenarios, we still have the fresh memory of last year when a delegation came from New York to visit refugees in Uganda. Inter Aid again picked some refugees from the streets and presented them to the delegation as representative of urban refugees. Refugee leaders who oppose the research are on the same view with the conviction of the Internal Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) which also published the article on this issue on this link: (<http://www.refugee-rights.org/blog/?p=294>)



Refugee children at PPDR during the end of the first term 2013 closing ceremony

**GIVE YOUR DONATION
DIRECTLY TO REFUGEES NOW
THROUGH GLOBAL GIVING**

We all know and do appreciate all people who identify themselves with refugees and feel pity to help them across the world. We also know that despite the fact the money is given it does not reach to refugees but makes some few people in different institutions richer while refugees remain poorer. Here is Uganda the situation is worse, those working in the refugee industry are among the rich people yet refugees in Uganda are among those who are extremely suffering.

To avoid this now, give your donation online to refugees directly through this project link:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/the-first-primary-school-to-refugee-children/>



These refugee houses at Struggle Avenue just behind the Refugee Law Project which is one among the institutions financially stable dealing with refugees in Uganda.

Opportunities at Global Giving

This is the opportunity to make the impact, on **Wednesday June 12th, 2013** Global Giving has 90,000\$ USA to give out to projects as bonus to a project which raises money. Each money you give to this project will be double by Global Giving on that day.

Remember that the whole of this month Global Giving has also 1,000\$ to give to a project which receives 1,000\$ from a single donor.

You can support this project by donating directly, sharing it with your friends or becoming a fundraising volunteer.

You can also subscribe as recurring donor. Just open the link:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/the-first-primary-school-to-refugee-children/>

THE REFUGEE GRASSROOT NETWORK COMMON POSITION ON REFUGEE EDUCATION POLICY

The FENU is currently coordinator a meeting on Education in Emergency where refugees fall and number of refugee associations and groups are represented in that meeting. The purpose is to come up with a policy which will shape the refugee education in the next five years and ensure that Uganda is prepared to respond positively to emergency situations.



Xavier Project Volunteer addressing RGN members during the meeting in Kampala

The Refugee Grassroots Network (RGN) which is composed by 13 members now has come up with a common position paper which will be presented during the FENU meeting on 18th June, 2013. If you wish to get the copy, kindly contact us.

THE MONTH OF JUNE IS EXTREMELY BAD FOR REFUGEES

This month has been the worst for different refugee communities in Kampala, each week communities are reporting number of deaths of their dear ones. The problem may not be the fact that someone has died but someone not being able to access adequate medical treatment, Because of the poor decision making, oppressive and cruel policies put in place by humanitarian agencies, the indifference of some humanitarian agents and the poor planning among others.

There is a growing fear among refugees due to the high number of refugees who are still sick and are not also getting adequate treatment.

Some refugees are saying that they survived gun bullets but they are now dying by the bullet of the sickness which is typically man made and imposed to them.

SEXY PROJECTS ARE DANGEROUS FOR REFUGEES

Refugees are currently alarmed with number of mushrooming projects for the purpose of responding to the needs of the donors and for the NGOs to get money but not to address the needs of refugees. Refugees have been shouting that their first priorities are the basic needs (food, accommodation, education, shelter, medical care and jobs) but none of the NGOs does offer to refugees these services. However funds are being channeled to issues such as refugees' sexual minorities, Sexual

and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and many other unnecessary programs. The whole motivation is that these are the problems affecting refugees in their communities yet in actual these are just a result of poor life conditions and even if they may exist to certain refugees, these are not the major affecting all refugees.



During the SGBV week organized by RLP, PPDR members called upon NGOs to address the true problems affecting refugees.

Even refugees who may be benefiting from these programs have a different view. During the SGBV week organized by the Refugee Law Project in March 2013, the Director of the Refugee Law Project informed participants that refugees leaders were consulted to find out if the SGBV is a major problem affecting refugees. People were informed that refugee leaders responded with a yes and that is why the Refugee Law Project organized the event. When consulted by PPDR members at the event most of refugee leaders denied having been consulted. In his speech the present of the Angels Refugee Group responded by saying that they were

invited to the event because it has been called and set up by the Refugee Law Project. During a group discussion organized by a consultant on behalf of HIAS Trust of Kenya, refugee young people from 15 – 25 years who attended the meeting at PPDR office urged that the violence in their families does occur when their parents are overwhelmed by the basic needs of their children and have no answers. This makes parents to be intolerant to any small issue because they are thinking many things. The children believed that the best way to address the SGBV is to empower families economically. Yet this is not done NGOs involved in this business believe that

the best way to address SGBV is through awareness activities in the communities.

THE UNHCR CLAIMING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM INTER AID?

A new and fresh air is blowing the refugee management system, with the UNHCR realizing that Inter Aid has tarnished their image among refugees. This year the UNHCR has come with a close to refugee policy and keeping a clear contact with refugees. This is what has been lacking to UNHCR for many implemented by refugee owned associations so that refugees can regain the trust in the

years and which pushed many refugees to revolt all the times against UNHCR. Refugees want to deal with UNHCR directly without passing through no one. For the last six months since this year so far UNHCR is consulting refugees on different issues and promising to partner with refugee owned NGOs and group. If this is well done we are likely to end all demonstrations of refugees against the UNHCR Uganda which in actual should not happen. However still the UNHCR Uganda has to be careful because refugees are tired with mere words, they want to see and to feel the presence of UNHCR among them in their different problems. There is need for urgent programs to be quickly

words which are being spoken by UNHCR staffs.



The Education of refugee children in among the pressing issue to be addressed quickly by UNHCR Uganda

MIXED REACTIONS ON THE NEW PROTECTION OFFICER ESTHER KIRABU

Esther Kiragu was appointed the new protection of the UNHCR Uganda last year 2012 and entered the office which had many crisis to solve especially the UNHCR

communication with refugees. Her first meeting with Congolese refugees in August last year 2012 was the worst when refugees asked her to refer to the ICC officers who used brutality against refugees staying outside the office of the UNHCR in Kololo asking for help. In the meeting she and her staff promised many changes to refugees.

Here the reactions of refugees on what they are able to see on ground.
About women victims of rape and sexual violence: She promised they will be her first priority, she set up a team to solve this but

once again number of these case have received rejection letters for their resettlement demands. On the same note she promised to review all the files of refugees who were rejected by her predecessor which she has not yet done up.



Refugees attending the meeting at PPDR to discuss different issues

On the other hand refugees are happy to see that number of old cases have been considered for resettlement to another country and refugees can easily see the protection officer staffs both at Inter Aid and at the Community Center. Today she has managed to decriminalize the refugee desire to ask for resettlement, before it was a crime for refugees to ask for resettlement but now they are being encouraged to apply for it, because it their rights. In addition to that for the last few months UNHCR seems to be attentive to urgent refugees' cases and take criticism in a positive way.

RWANDESE AND KENYANS REFUSING REFUGEES TO ENTER WITH THE CTDs

Even these countries are signatories of the UN Conventions on refugees and the African Union Convention on refugees; they do not accept refugees to enter using their Conventional Travel Documents (CTDs). Sometimes they refuse refugees to enter sometimes they charge them a lot of

visa money yet refugees from Uganda are citizens of the Easter African Countries. This has seriously affected the movement of refugees and the whole projection of refugees in the region of East Africa.

REDHAC CAMEROON

The Network of Human Rights Defenders in the Central African Countries (REDHAC) is expanding the services to protect human rights defenders from these countries who are refugees and those who stay in Uganda.

It was observed for the first time that a number of human rights defenders from Central African Countries living in Uganda were abandoned to their own fate by their fellow human rights defenders from English Speaking Countries.



Some refugee human rights defenders during a meeting in Kampala

Most of these human rights defenders come from the Democratic Republic of Congo and face number of challenges in Uganda such language barrier, economic problems, security issues, lack of integration, orientations and enabling them to continue their work as human rights defenders in Uganda.

FLORIBERT CHIBEYA THE HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDER MARTYR IN D R CONGO REMEMBERED IN UGANDA

Two organizations in Uganda commemorated the death of Floribert Chebeya a prominent human rights defender slain in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 1st June 2010. The organization Human Rights Solidarity Network organized a Mass at Namugongo Shrine on 1st June, 2013 during

the French Mass as Uganda was at the Eve of the Martyrs. Even though the mass was in French it attracted many people who were informed about the life and work of Floribert Chebeya. Gabriel Mugaruka coordinated the event which also attracted many Congolese living in Uganda, number of pilgrims from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and many other countries. With the help of the Francophone Catholic Community in Uganda based at Old Kampala the mass was an opportunity to remind people, the government of D R Congo and the international community that the family of Chebeya, his friends and all human rights defenders are still waiting for the truth and the justice to be done.

Tanzania has changed the position to support peace in the Great Lakes Region

The East Africa News Paper reported on Sunday June 9th, 2013 that Tanzania has advised Rwanda to negotiate with its armed forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo. By doing so the Tanzania government joins the efforts deployed by PPDR Uganda that believes on inclusive inter-Rwandan dialogue and the efforts of the Civil Society and religious institutions in D R Congo which have been for a dialogue between Rwanda and the armed forces outside Rwanda since 1994.

There is need of collective efforts to help Rwanda to realize that it has opponent outside Rwanda who did not participate in the genocide and who are claiming for political space. This will then help the whole region to be political stable and embrace the era of democratization and development. The Tanzania position is a reminder to all other leaders in the region and the international community to change their policies and perceptions about the war in D R Congo which has lasted for 15 years now.

THE ICC NEEDS TO BRING SERVICES TO CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN UGANDA

Congolese refugees in Uganda are estimated at around more than 120,000 recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Uganda. The majority are direct or indirect victims of the violence in East of D R Congo where the International Criminal Court has a strong presence. Despite this growing number the ICC has not realized the need to implement programs aiming at enlightening Congolese in Uganda about the work of the court. Recently the information about the transfer of Bosco Ntaganda to the Court reached only some few who could access the internet and can afford a TV set. Up to now many are still asking number of questions about Bosco Ntaganda because they are not well informed.

At the Hague, Ntaganda opted to speak in Kinyarwanda which brought a debate among Congolese community in Uganda wanting to know who he intended to hear him. Some argued that if he was a Congolese he could have used one of the major languages spoken by Congolese nation. For more information about Ntaganda, kindly visit website of the ICC Coalition members had called for

(http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=8758bcde31bc78a5c32ceee50&id=b167203a32&utm_source=CICC+Newsletters&utm_campaign=c2f16a676a-Media+Advisory+Ntaganda+Transfer+22+March+2013&utm_medium=email#ntaganda) his swift transfer to The Hague.

Despite the fact that Ntaganda is at the Hague, Congolese refugees in Uganda are still asking when will justice be done to them and when will the ICC renew its commitment to ensure that justice is rendered to the victims.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT PPDR UGANDA

Join us to renew the international solidarity with refugees in Uganda

As an intern you will learn many things and do many things with people directly especially refugees, from different countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. We receive interns the whole through, just send us your application letter at any time.

As a volunteer you will also do the same but also share the knowledge with other volunteers at PPDR Uganda for capacity building and empowerment of PPDR members and volunteers who may be lacking the knowledge.

As a mentor you can also be a volunteer of PPDR online and at a long distance through direct support to one person who you identify at PPDR as your students. You give coaching to that person and financial support to that refugee who is working and then both PPDR and the volunteer gives regular feedback.

Become a member you can also support with ideas, membership contributions and representing us in different international meetings.

For those who are interested please just send us an email: kulihoshi@yahoo.fr

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch out the outcome of the FENU meeting on the Education in emergency in our next bulletin. This too crucial for the future of refugee education in Uganda, and what comes out from the refugee position paper?

The celebration of the World Refugees on 20th June, 2013, PPDR pushing for the evaluation of the UNHCR's last year's theme: My voice count. At what extend has refugees voice being heard? 13/12

The photo context on Global Giving in July and the call to vote for our photos, PPDR is participating and with just your vote to our photo you give our project the chance to win 1,000\$ and a lot of exposure on the website of Global Giving.

Global Giving Team at PPDR

In order to strengthen the fundraising capacity of PPDR members Global Giving is deploying a team to train some of its partners and in the East Africa and PPDR Uganda is among those who will benefit from the training.

