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Ugandan rebel chief 'in DR Congo'

The deputy leader of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army rebel group is seeking asylum in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda's defence minister says.



The LRA is notorious for child abductions

DR Congo denies receiving an asylum request from the rebel official, Vincent Otti.

The LRA has operated from bases in northern Uganda and southern Sudan for nearly 20 years.

The rebel group has regularly attacked villages in both countries, and has abducted tens of thousands of children.

DR Congo denial

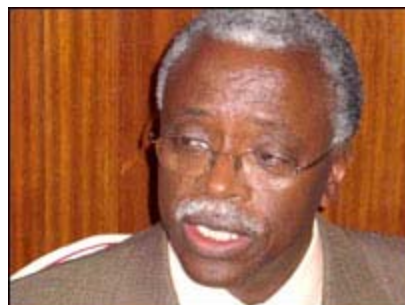
Two groups of LRA rebels had travelled across Sudan to the DR Congo border, one of them led by Commander Otti, Ugandan Defence Minister Amama Mbabazi said.

"Otti's group has declared their presence in the DRC and have requested political asylum," he said.

"I am waiting to hear their [the DR Congo government's] response."

Uganda was waiting for the response of the Kinshasa authorities, the minister said.

DR Congo government spokesman Henri Moya Sakany denied the authorities had received any asylum request from Vincent Otti.



"We think the Congolese authorities and the United Nations force will do the needful"

Ugandan Defence Minister Amama Mbabazi

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"We have not received any asylum request concerning Ugandan rebels nor have we got any request for the extradition of LRA rebels on Congolese soil," he told the AFP news agency.

Mr Mbabazi said he thought it would not be necessary for Uganda to take action against the LRA in DR Congo in self defence:

"We think the Congolese authorities and the United Nations force will do the needful," he said.

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Museveni Wants Kony Extradited

[New Vision](#) (Kampala)

September 21, 2005

Posted to the web September 21, 2005

Alfred Wasike

Kampala

UGANDA is to demand for the immediate extradition of rebel leader Joseph Kony and the remnants of his Lord's Resistance Army who recently crossed from Sudan into the Democratic Republic of Congo.

President Yoweri Museveni said this yesterday while meeting two former US ambassadors to Uganda, Nancy Powell and Johnny Carson, at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC yesterday.

Museveni is on a working visit to the US where he attended and addressed the 60th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Sixty fighters led by Kony's number two, Vincent Otti, recently fled northern Uganda and southern Sudan and crossed the White Nile in Sudan for the first time. They attacked vehicles on the recently-opened Yei-Juba road before crossing into the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) said the rebels were hiding in Garamba game park in the DRC.

Museveni told Powell and Carson that, "This issue of terrorism from Sudan is finished. We shall demand that the UN forces in Sudan take action. They (rebels) should be extradited to Uganda or be handed over to the International Criminal Court."

He said the rebels were flushed out of their bases in Sudan by the UPDF.

He expressed concern that DRC had failed to create a strong army to control its territory. "Because of this, the eastern part of Congo has become a threat to the region," he said.

He said he would introduce income-generating activities for internally displaced people in the north.

"It was a mistake on our part not to introduce income-generating activities. The internally displaced people could grow crops but we concentrated on the issue of terrorism and left the IDP camps to NGOs and the World Food Programme," he said.

On AIDS, Museveni clarified that he supports both abstinence and condoms. He, however, said condoms should be left to prostitutes, discordant couples and long-distance truck drivers.

"How can they deny prostitutes condoms and truck drivers who sleep in lodges?" he asked.

He noted that because of his emphasis on abstinence, AIDS prevalence was lower among the youth. Powell and Carson hailed Museveni for his contribution to Uganda, particularly his crusade against HIV/AIDS.

Museveni to Demand for Rebel Kony Extradition

[The Monitor](#) (Kampala)

September 21, 2005

Posted to the web September 20, 2005

Hussein Bogere
Kampala

President Yoweri Museveni, currently in the United States, has revealed that Uganda will demand for the immediate extradition of Joseph Kony and his Lords Resistance Army rebels who are reported to have crossed to DR Congo.

President Museveni disclosure yesterday when he met two former American ambassadors, Ms Nancy Powel and Mr Johnnie Carson who visited him at Mayfair Hotel in Washington DC.

A statement from State House quoted the president saying, "The issue of terrorism from Sudan is finished. We shall demand that the UN forces in Sudan take action.

They should be extradited to Uganda or be handed over to the International Criminal Court," Museveni said in the statement dated September 20.

Carson now a vice president at the National Defence University in Washington, is remembered for saying on May 1 that if President Museveni succeeds in his desire to win a third term, "we may be looking at another Mugabe and Zimbabwe in the making." Parliament has since amended the constitution, deleting the two-term limit for an open term.

The Army Commander, Lt Gen Aronda Nyakairima, said on Monday that Kony's deputy, Vincent Otti, with 50 others had fled to DRC's Orient Province from their bases in Southern Sudan.

The Kony rebellion in the north has claimed lives, with most of the Acholi people now living in camps after being displaced from their homes.

President Museveni expressed concern that the government of DRC has failed to create a strong army to ensure total control of their territory, which has made the eastern part of DRC a threat to the region.