

## **Recommendations from the UCICC Regional Sensitization Workshops March 2006**

From March 24-31, 2006, the Ugandan Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC) held regional sensitization workshops in Northern and Eastern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Lira and Soroti). Below are recommendations to the International Criminal Court that came out of these sensitization workshops:

### **Recommendations to the International Criminal Court**

- 1) There is need for more transparency and communication from the ICC. It is vital that the ICC provides NGOs with information that both sides of the conflict in Uganda – the LRA and the government – are being investigated.
- 2) There is a need for the ICC to open up offices in the Northern Uganda, which is the affected area, and not operate solely from Kampala.
- 3) There is need for the ICC to have radio talk shows to highlight the role of the ICC. This should be in the local languages to catch the attention of the people at the grassroots level.
- 4) The ICC should review its time limitation because it eliminates so many crimes that were committed *before* July 2002.
- 5) It is important for the ICC to publish articles in newspapers to help explain the ICC.
- 6) It would be useful if the ICC focused on sensitizing ex-combatants as a special group, so that they can get correct information about the ICC. Without this, they might go back to the bush for fear of being arrested.
- 7) The ICC should consider updating NGOs on what is happening at the Court, so that the NGOs can pass on this information to the people at the community level.
- 8) The ICC should pursue and prosecute the major arms dealers and sponsors of the conflict in Northern Uganda and also make sure that the superpowers ratify the Rome Statute.
- 9) The ICC should consider sending information and communication materials through the District NGO Forums or the Networks of NGOs and CBOs in the districts.

The UCICC, a member of the CICC, was formed in 2004 to provide information and raise awareness about the ICC; to provide a forum for debate and dialogue on matters pertaining to the ICC; and to act as a medium of communication between the public and the ICC.

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