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SOLICITOR GENERAL (U)

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND  
 CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS,  
 P.O. Box 7183,  
 Kampala, Uganda

In any correspondence on  
 this subject please quote No. **MJ/AG/39A**

**PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL**4<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Honourable Bruno Cathala  
 Registrar of the  
 International Criminal Court  
 Maanweg 174 2516 AB  
 The Hague, The Netherlands  
 Fax No: 000 31 70 515 8123

Sir

**THE STATUS OF THE EXECUTION OF WARRANTS AND REQUESTS FOR ARREST AND SURRENDER**

The Government of Uganda presents its compliments to the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and provides the following information in response to the letter of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 seeking an update on the status of the execution of the warrants and the requests for arrest and surrender.

The Government of Uganda referred the situation concerning the LRA to the ICC in December 2003. The commitment of the Government to cooperate with, and support the Court remains unchanged since that date.

The LRA commanders named in the warrants are located at various times, in the areas of Eastern DRC, Southern Sudan and Northern Uganda. The LRA has been recognised by the UN Security Council as a regional threat, the response to which requires a regional solution. As a consequence, the Government of Uganda has engaged with the Governments of the DRC and the Sudan, along with the UN peacekeeping forces in Southern Sudan (UNMIS) and the DRC (MONUC), to ensure effective operational planning and coordination to tackle the threat posed by the LRA. These discussions are on-going and require the commitment of regional and international partners to prioritise the resolution of the situation concerning the LRA.

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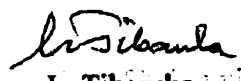
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For reasons of operational security, the Government of Uganda is not in a position to provide the ICC with details of its operational planning or activities. However, by way of an example of the commitment and steps taken by the Government on 12 August 2006 the UPDF engaged an LRA unit in Northern Uganda, believed to be under the command of Raska Lukwiya. We currently believe that Lukwiya was killed in the ensuing fight and we are currently working with the support of the Office of the Prosecutor to identify the body by means of DNA testing.

The LRA has terrorised the people of Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan for more than twenty years. The protracted nature of this campaign of violence is due in part, to the lack of reliable support from regional and international partners. Even though the general whereabouts of the LRA commanders may be known, their apprehension, and the safe release of those women and children abducted by them remains a significant operational challenge. With this in mind, in May 2006 the Government of Uganda was approached by the Government of Southern Sudan with a view to seeking a soft landing for the LRA in the form of peace talks.

In the interests of peace and security for the civilian population, who are at risk of being victimised by the LRA, the Government of Uganda is currently participating in peace talks, facilitated by the Government of Southern Sudan. These talks require the parties and facilitators, including the Government of Uganda, to have contacts with senior LRA commanders, including Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti, who can facilitate humanitarian access and the process of demobilisation. Despite this, the Government of Uganda is fully cognisant of its obligations under the Rome Statute, and assures the ICC that we are seeking a permanent end to the violence that serves the need for peace and justice, compatible with those obligations. The talks remain at an early stage and it is speculative to determine the outcome at this moment.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**L. Tibaruha**  
**SOLICITOR GENERAL**

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
AND PERMANENT MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Mr. Bruno Cathala  
Registrar of the International Criminal Court

5<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**THE STATUS OF THE EXECUTION OF WARRANTS AND  
REQUESTS FOR ARREST AND SURRENDER**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006 the Government of Uganda filed a letter responding to your request for information dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Whilst the letter is marked "Privileged and Confidential" I wish to clarify that the letter was not provided under seal and can in fact be made public.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador Mirjam Blaak  
Deputy Head of Mission