

# AN INTRODUCTION TO JOSEPH KONY AND THE LORDS RESISTANCE ARMY.

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Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army Have been kidnapping and killing innocent men, women, and children in Central Africa since 1987.

**INVISIBLE  
CHILDREN**

The LRA was originally a rebel group with religious and political motives. When the group began losing popular support in northern Uganda they started abducting children to replenish their ranks.

Invisible Children first encountered Joseph Kony's atrocities in northern Uganda in 2003 when the founders met a young boy named Jacob who had been kidnapped by the LRA. Jacob told them that he had managed to escape, but he had watched his brother be killed with a panga, or machete. By that time, Kony and his LRA had already abducted 30,000 Ugandan children.

In 2006, Kony and the LRA left Uganda, and continued their campaign of terror in neighboring Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan.

When the International Criminal Court was formed in 2002, Joseph Kony was the very first person they indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He is the world's most wanted war criminal.

## THE LRA TODAY

253 LRA combatants are still holding 140 women and 72 children hostage. In the past 5 years an additional 440,000 people have been forced to leave their homes because of the LRA threat.



## QUICK FACTS

- Joseph Kony assumed leadership of the LRA in 1987
- The conflict, which started in Uganda, currently spans 3 countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan
- Joseph Kony was the first person indicted by the International Criminal Court
- The International Criminal Court indicted Joseph Kony on 33 counts, including war crimes and crimes against humanity
- The LRA has decreased in size from 2,700 combatants in 1999 to 253 combatants today
- Invisible Children started implementing its protection programs in central Africa in 2010
- Abductions of innocent civilians by the LRA decreased by 61% between 2010 and 2012
- Killings of innocent civilians by the LRA decreased by 93% between 2010 and 2012