

Executive Summary

Congo: LRA attacks rise

Congo: Unidentified armed groups

CAR: LRA hotspot in Nzako

Background

LRA Crisis Tracker: Mid-Year 2014 Security Brief

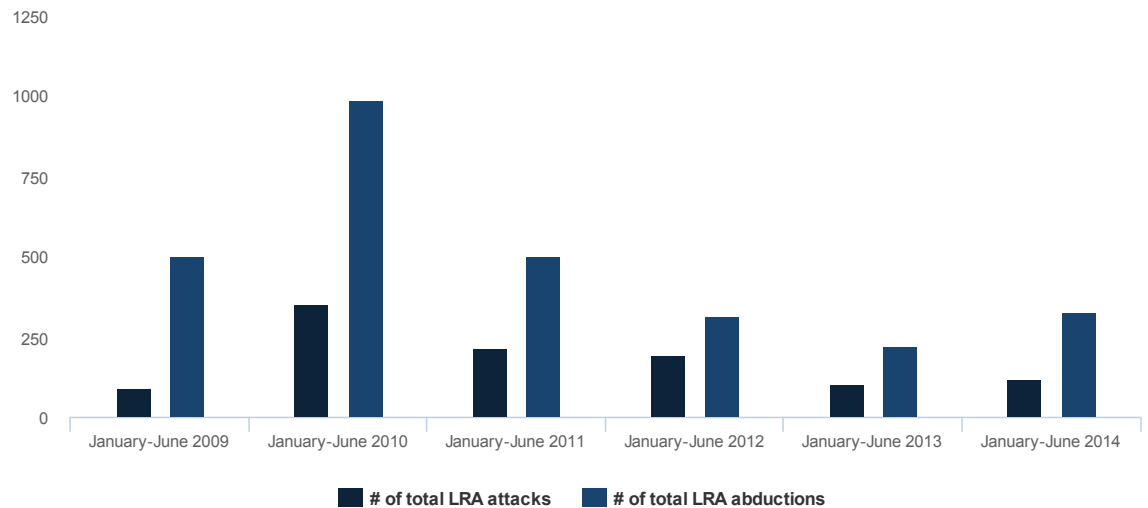
[Download Report](#)

Executive Summary: LRA reverses downward trend in abductions

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) committed 59 attacks and abducted 185 people from April–June 2014 (Quarter 2 2014), a 2% drop in attacks and 28% rise in abductions from Quarter 1 2014. Overall, the group committed more attacks and abductions in the first six months of 2014 than it did in the first six months of 2013, reversing a three-year downward trend in LRA violence. Though levels of LRA violence remain far below their 2009–2011 peak, the total number of attacks and abductions across the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) and the Central African Republic (CAR) has stabilized over the past two years.

At more localized scales, trends in LRA violence vary widely. LRA violence west of Garamba National Park in northeastern Congo surged in the first half of 2014 and the group has already surpassed the numbers of attacks and abductions it committed there in all of 2013. However, no LRA attacks were recorded in communities south and east of the park that were once frequent targets of LRA raids.

In CAR, LRA attacks spiked near the towns of Nzako and Bakouma in Quarter 2 2014 after nearly a year of no reported LRA violence there. Further east, near the towns of Obo and Mboki, LRA attacks dropped significantly compared to Quarter 1 2014.



LRA attacks and abductions, 2009–2014

I. Congo: LRA attacks rise sharply in 2014

SUMMARY LRA violence continued to surge in Congo's northeastern Haut Uele district, particularly west of Garamba National Park. The LRA abducted 154 Congolese civilians in the first half of 2014, more than doubling the number abducted in the first half of 2013 (72).

In the first three months of 2014, LRA attacks in Congo were concentrated in the Niangara-Bangadi-Ngilima triangle, west of Garamba National Park. Since April, LRA attacks have shifted further west and north, towards the vicinity of Doruma and Masombo, near the border with South Sudan. From June 7–July 7, the LRA committed 11 attacks in this area, including large scale lootings of civilians traveling to and from the busy Nabiapay border market. Merchants and market-goers laden with goods and currency present easy targets for small, highly mobile bands of LRA forces that roam this sparsely inhabited area.

Overall, the LRA committed 46 attacks in Congo's Haut Uele and Bas Uele districts in Quarter 2 2014, up 18% from the 39 attacks in Quarter 1. LRA abductions in Congo rose 44%, from 63 in Quarter 1 to 91 in Quarter 2. The majority of these abductions lasted only a few hours or days, indicating the LRA is using most abductees only to transport looted goods and is not seeking to train new fighters. This trend, as well as a continued decline in the number of LRA killings in Congo, is consistent with a reduction in child abductions and large massacres in recent years as the group has attempted to deflect