



LRA CRISIS TRACKER

QUARTERLY SECURITY BRIEF
[JULY - SEPT. 2011]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This LRA Crisis Tracker Quarterly Security Brief provides a summary and analysis of the reported activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from July to September 2011 (highlighted reporting period) in Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo), South Sudan, and Central African Republic (CAR).

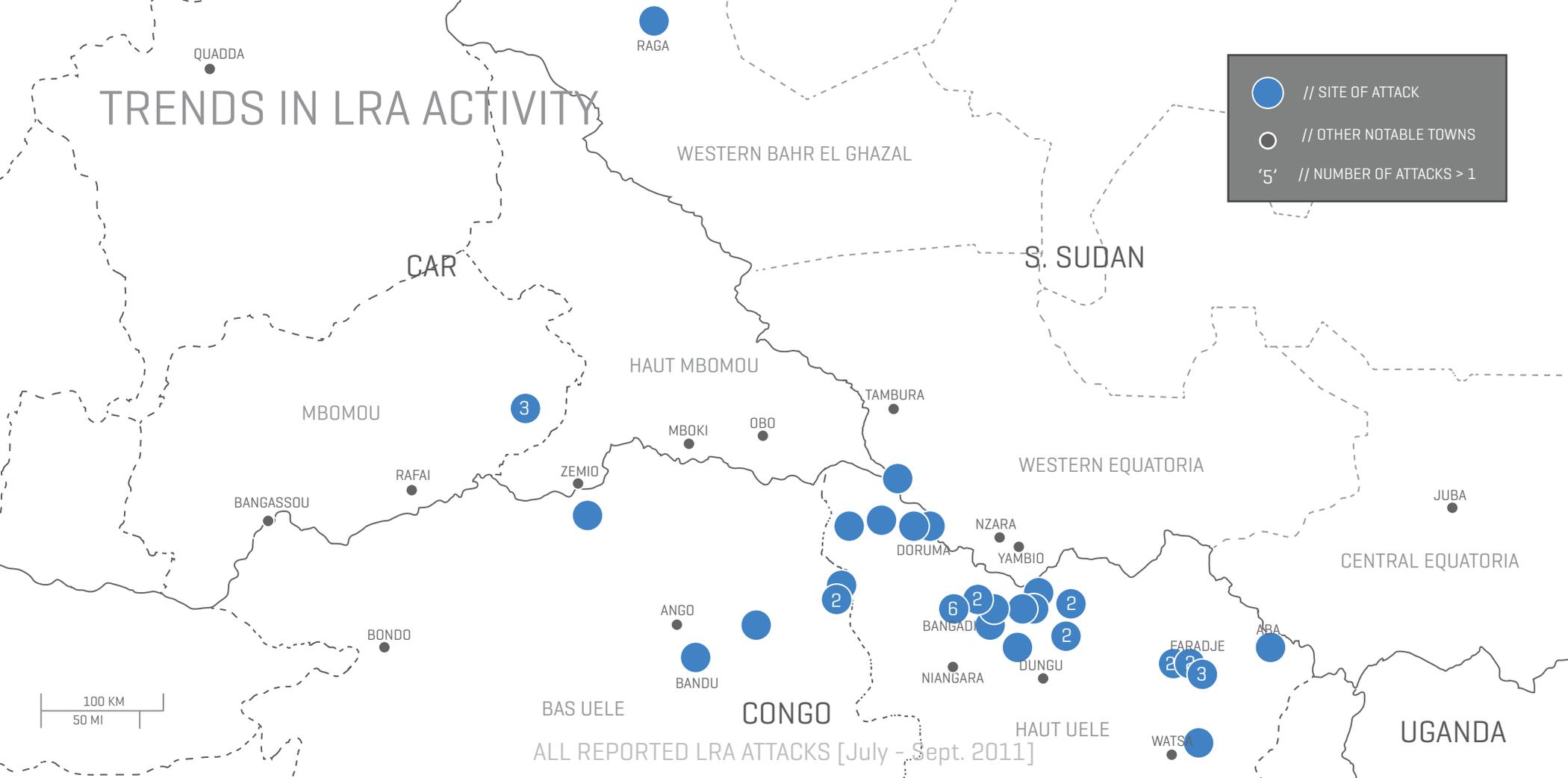
Multiple reports are emerging that key members of the LRA command structure gathered in southeast CAR between June and September of 2011. This meeting included several commanders previously operating in Congo, who were reportedly summoned to CAR by six Acholi officers sent to Congo by LRA leader Joseph Kony. However, by late September multiple LRA groups were reportedly again heading south towards the Congo-CAR border.

LRA movement into CAR could be linked to a drastic reduction in reported LRA attacks in northern Congo between June and September 2011. The highlighted reporting period saw a significant decrease of reported LRA attacks, with 20 LRA attacks reportedly occurring in July, 12 in August, and 11 in September. This is a steep decline from the surge of 50 attacks in the month of June, which resulted in 32 civilians killed and 53 abducted.

Intensity of violence, measured by the number of killings and abductions per reported attack, was at its lowest level of the last seven quarters on record. On average, 0.23 civilians were killed and 1.65 abducted per reported attack.

Against the previous quarter's 87 reported LRA attacks, the highlighted reporting period saw a reduction of the number of reported LRA attacks by 51%, at 43 total reported attacks.

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Key LRA commanders reportedly gathered in southeast CAR

Multiple reports are emerging that key members of the LRA command structure gathered in southeast Central African Republic between June and September of 2011. This included several commanders previously operating in Congo, who were reportedly summoned to CAR by six Acholi officers sent to Congo by LRA leader Joseph Kony. Among the commanders who crossed into CAR was ICC-indictee Dominic Ongwen, who had reportedly not met with Kony since May of 2009.

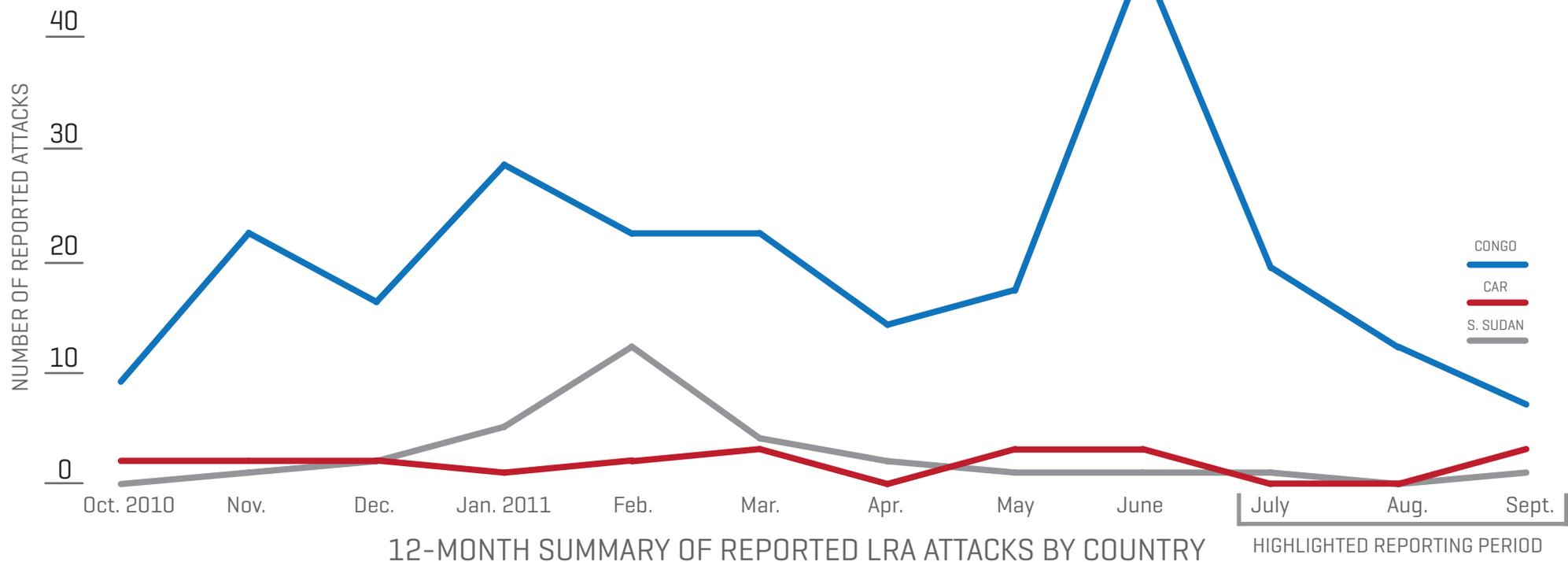
Levels of attacks in CAR remain low, despite suspected influx of LRA elements

In spite of the suspected troop movement, reported attacks have not significantly risen in CAR. Possible reasons for this include that LRA commanders are attempting to avoid detection by regional security forces, that population densities in southeast CAR are lower than in northern Congo, or that attacks have yet to be reported due to poor communications infrastructure in southeast CAR.

Lowest intensity of reported LRA violence in seven quarters

Intensity of violence (measured by number of killings and abductions per attack) was at its lowest levels in the past 21 months, with only 43 reported attacks, 10 deaths, and 71 abductions. The average for the previous 21 months was 1.2 civilians killed and 2.7 abducted per reported attack. The average for the highlighted reporting period was 0.23 killed and 1.65 abducted per attack - the lowest levels of the last seven quarters.

REPORTED LRA ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS



ATTACK SUMMARY

[July - Sept. 2011]

88.4% of reported LRA attacks during the highlighted reporting period occurred in Congo, 4.7% in South Sudan, and 7.0% in CAR.

A majority of reported attacks in Congo occurred in Haut Uele district (32 reported attacks), including a concentration of 6 attacks near Bangadi town. Bangadi was the hardest hit location in all LRA-affected areas measured by number of attacks.

The number of attacks per quarter fluctuated significantly over the preceding six quarters. Chronologically from January 2010 to September 2011 attacks per quarter were as follows: 166, 109, 64, 56, 99, 87, and 43.

REPORTED ATTACKS BY COUNTRY

[July - Sept. 2011]



REPORTED ATTACKS BY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT

[July - Sept. 2011]

Congo: Orientale: Haut Uele	32
Congo: Orientale: Bas Uele	6
CAR: Mbomou	3
S. Sudan: W. Equatoria	1
S. Sudan: W. Bahr El Ghazal	1

TOTAL 43

NOTABLE ATTACKS

25JULY | Kiliwa, Haut Uele, Congo

Fifteen armed LRA reportedly abducted seven women and five men in Kiliwa and immediately forced them to attack their own village. In the course of the attack, two civilians were killed, another wounded, and food and various goods were looted.

8AUG | Banda, Bas Uele, Congo

A large group of LRA elements reportedly attacked Banda, shooting one man in the leg and abducting seven other community members.

4SEPT | Raga, Western Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan

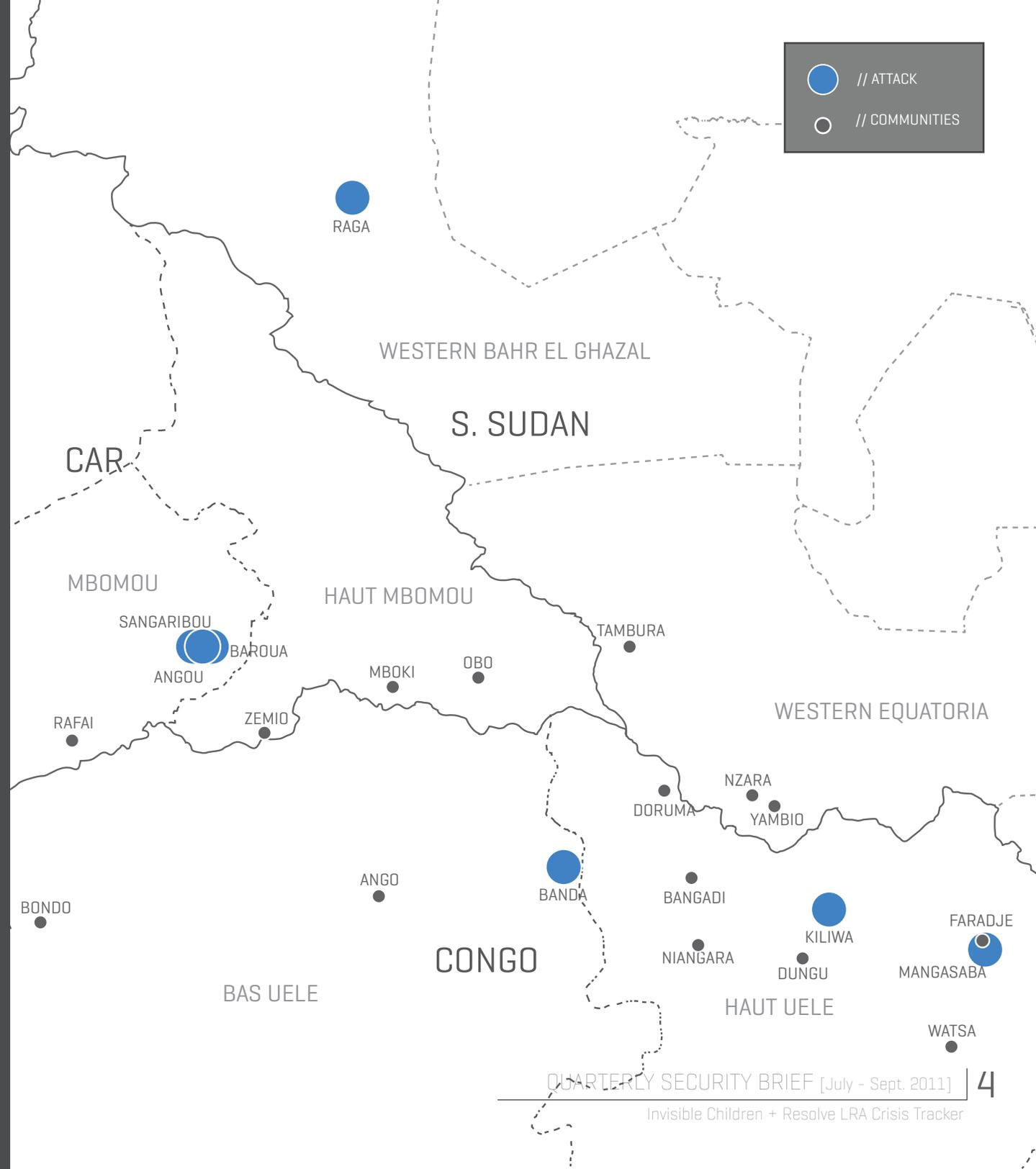
A large group of LRA reportedly attacked a police station, clinic, and several households in Raga on 4 September. They abducted four people and looted food, household goods, and AK-47s. In a related vein, South Sudanese military officials recently accused Sudan of operating a training camp for LRA rebels on the border of Western Bahr El Ghazal and Darfur.

4SEPT | Mangasaba, Haut Uele, Congo

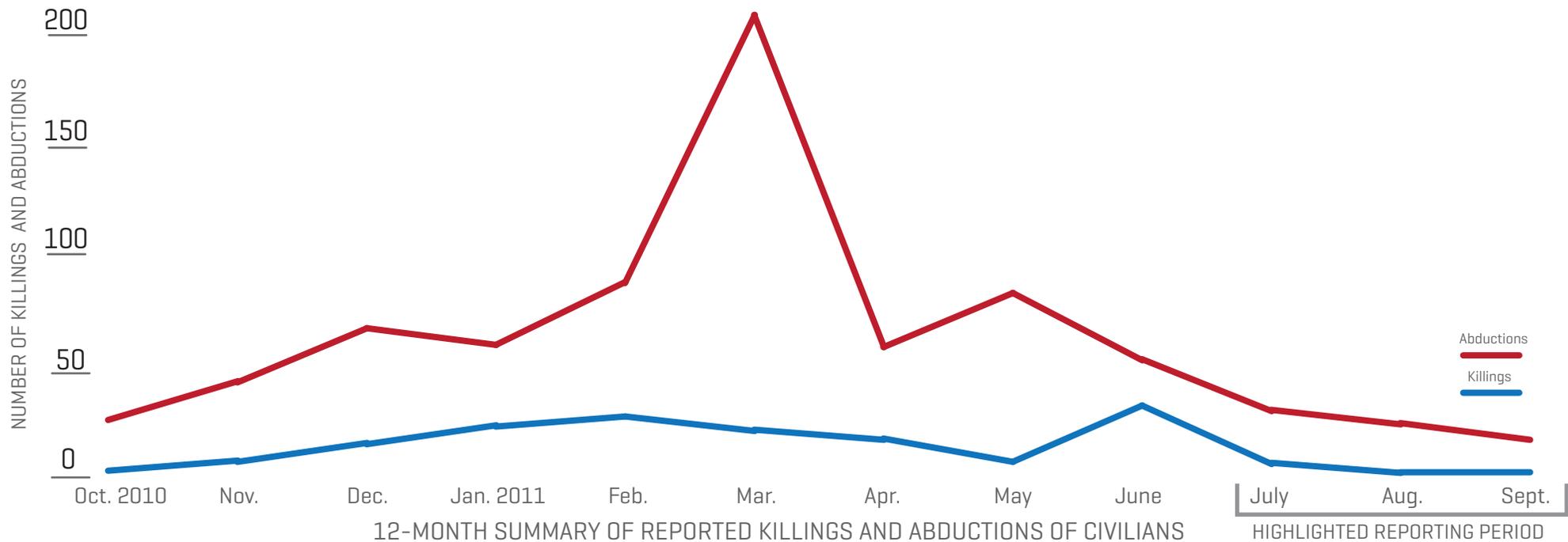
A man reportedly abducted by suspected LRA on 24 August was found dead and his body mutilated in Mangasaba. The woman and child who were abducted in the same incident were still missing when the source report was written.

19-22SEPT | Sangaribou, Angou and Baroua, Mbomou, CAR

Between 19 September and 22 September, 20 suspected LRA elements reportedly killed two and abducted seven civilians total in the communities of Sangaribou, Angou and Baroua, CAR. An unknown number of civilians fled Baroua, Sangaribou, Kossa, Gembo, Modoué and Karmadar due to the suspected LRA activity.



REPORTED KILLINGS AND ABDUCTIONS OF CIVILIANS

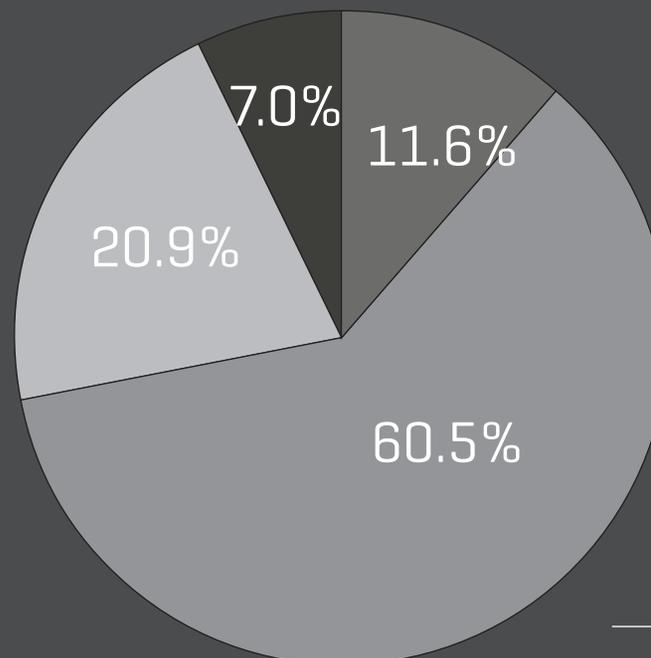


SUMMARY OF REPORTED KILLINGS AND ABDUCTIONS OF CIVILIANS [JULY - SEPT. 2011]

Total reported killings of civilians: 10
Total reported abductions of civilians: 71

Totals by country for the highlighted reporting period: Congo, eight killed and 58 abducted; CAR, two killed and seven abducted; S. Sudan zero killed and six abducted. During the highlighted reporting period, 79.1% of reported LRA attacks (34 total) included either a killing or an abduction of a civilian.

The LRA killed an average of 0.23 people per reported attack during the highlighted reporting period. The LRA abducted an average of 1.65 people per reported attack during the highlighted reporting period.



ATTACK TYPE BREAKDOWN [JULY - SEPT. 2011]

- Killing and abduction of civilians
- Killing of civilians
- Abduction of civilians
- Neither*

[*Attack leading to civilian injury, looting, sexual or gender based violence, or displacement]

METHODOLOGY

The following is a summary of the data sources, verification methods, and definitions of key terms used to produce the LRA Crisis Tracker Quarterly Security Brief (henceforward the “Brief”). Data utilized in the Brief is drawn from the LRA Crisis Tracker Database (henceforward the “Database”) and summarized within the Brief to illustrate the activities of the LRA – including attacks, killings, and abductions – and their impact on civilian populations over time.

For more detailed information regarding data governance policies, verification ratings, and logging procedures utilized to create the Database, please refer to the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0 at LRACrisisTracker.theResolve.org.

Data Sourcing

Data found within the Brief originates from the Database, a geospatial dataset pertaining to the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and violent conflict in LRA-affected regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan (S. Sudan), and the Central African Republic (CAR). Data for the Database is gathered from reports produced by non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies; open source news outlets; government agencies; firsthand research conducted by Invisible Children, Resolve, and peer organizations; and civilian-controlled high frequency (HF) early-warning radio networks in LRA-affected areas.

Access to reliable data sources is uneven across areas where the LRA is operating. As such, data quality can vary, and information from many attacks may not be recorded in the Database. All efforts have been made to create a comprehensive and accurate dataset utilizing all available sources.

Data Verification

Two different rating systems are utilized to assess the

accuracy of details included in any incident report logged in the Database. The first system assesses confidence in details surrounding the incident as a whole, and the second assesses confidence in whether or not the LRA was a perpetrator of violence in a given incident.

Incident Verification Rating

The Incident Verification Rating assesses confidence in the accuracy of each incident report as a whole based on information available to LRA Crisis Tracker data coders. Each incident is given a rating of “1” through “5,” with “1” being the most unreliable and “5” being very reliable. The rating is based on the reliability of the source, whether or not the source itself portrays the incident as reliable (e.g., if the report use words like “alleged” or “potential,” its rating would be downgraded), confidence in the identity of the actors involved in the incident, and the degree of detail given in the source report. A verification rating of “2” through “5” is considered adequately verified to be reported publicly, and therefore is included in this Brief. For a detailed explanation of Incident Verification Ratings, please refer to section 4.2 (a) of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0. Incident Verification Ratings for individual attacks found within the Brief can be found through the ‘Get Reports’ sub-heading at LRACrisisTracker.theResolve.org.

LRA Actor Verification Scale

The LRA Actor Verification Scale measures the degree of confidence that members of the armed group involved in an incident were elements of the LRA, based on information available to LRA Crisis Tracker data coders. The scale takes into account the type of event, the number of primary sources, and the number of indicators observed in the incident that are typically correlated with the LRA. For a detailed explanation of the LRA Actor Verification Scale, please refer to section 4.2 (b) of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0. LRA Verification Ratings for individual attacks found

within the Brief can be found through the ‘Get Reports’ sub-heading at LRACrisisTracker.com.

Key Definitions

The following are the operative definitions for key terms used in the Brief.

Attack

An incident is considered an “attack” in the Brief if LRA activity results in one of the following human rights violations: violence resulting in death or injury, sexual or gender based violence, abduction, looting, or displacement. For detailed definitions of these human rights abuses, please refer to section 4.5 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0.

Killing

An incident is regarded as a “killing” if there is a violent act that results in the death of an individual who is not known to be associated with an armed group or security force. This includes a civilian death that results from an injury sustained previously by LRA violence. If a civilian is killed while in LRA captivity, it is considered a “killing” if it occurs within one week of the initial abduction. For a detailed explanation of incidents that are categorized as a “killing”, please refer to section 4.5.1 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0.

Abduction

An incident is regarded as an “abduction” if it involves one or more persons taken hostage against their will by the LRA for any period of time. This includes incidents in which LRA elements abduct civilians and release them later the same day. For a detailed explanation of data relating to LRA-perpetrated abduction, please refer to section 4.5.2 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.0.

ABOUT

RESOLVE

Resolve is a Washington D.C.-based advocacy organization seeking to move U.S. and international political leaders to take the actions needed to see a permanent end to the violence of the Lord's Resistance Army in Central Africa and justice to LRA-affected communities. Learn more at theresolve.org.

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INVISIBLE CHILDREN

Invisible Children is an international NGO working to assist communities in LRA-affected areas of Central Africa by expanding community-based early warning systems, reaching out to potential LRA defectors and affected communities through FM radio, and rehabilitating formerly-abducted children. Learn more at invisiblechildren.com.

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FURTHER RESOURCES

For a real-time, geospatial look at LRA activity, or to download the data found within the Quarterly Security Brief please visit the LRA Crisis Tracker Map at: LRACrisisTracker.theResolve.org

ABOUT THE LRA CRISIS TRACKER

Data reflected in this brief was collected as part of the Invisible Children + Resolve LRA Crisis Tracker, a geospatial database and reporting project which aims to track incidents of violent conflict in areas of Central Africa affected by the Lord's Resistance Army. Through publication of regular reports and open-source sharing of collected data, the LRA Crisis Tracker aims to help overcome the current deficit of relevant and timely information related to the LRA crisis and to support improved policy and humanitarian responses.

In the interest of continually strengthening the LRA Crisis Tracker dataset, Resolve and Invisible Children welcome new sources of current or historical reports of LRA activity. To contribute information to the LRA Crisis Tracker project, please contact Resolve at LRACrisisTracker@theresolve.org.

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