The Lord’s Resistance Army
Myth and Reality
Edited by Tim Allen and Koen Vlassenroot

The Lord’s Resistance Army is Africa’s most persistent and notorious ‘terrorist’ group. Led by the mysterious Joseph Kony, it has committed a series of horrific human rights abuses, including massacres and mutilations. Since the mid 1980s, it has abducted tens of thousands of people, including large numbers of children forced to train as fighters. The International Criminal Court in 2005 issued warrants for Kony and his top commanders, and the United States is backing a military campaign against the group. But the LRA survives, continuing to inspire both fascination and fear.

Authoritative but provocative, The Lord’s Resistance Army: Myth and Reality provides the most comprehensive analysis of the group available. From the roots of the violence to the oppressive responses of the Ugandan government and the failures of the international community, this collection looks at this most brutal of conflicts in fascinating depth, and includes a remarkable first-hand interview with Kony himself.

‘Why bad things happen in Africa. ... there are no excuses for Joseph Kony and his bestial ‘Christianity’, but there are reasons for it rooted in the politics and history of Uganda and its neighbours. This book goes beyond the simplistic media stereotypes to provide the best analysis yet of how these child-abusers continue to defy international justice.’

Geoffrey Robertson QC, author of Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice

‘While it has become cliché claim that any book is “essential” or “required” reading on a given subject, in this case the praise is more than fitting. One could not desire a more comprehensive, wide-ranging yet coherent, deeply informed discussion of the Lord’s Resistance Army than the one Allen and Vlassenroot have put together... In the end, this volume is more than “essential” and “required”. It is utterly brilliant.’

Kevin Dunn, Assistant Professor, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, author of Imagining the Congo: The International Relations of Identity.
About the Editors

Tim Allen is Professor in Development Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has carried out long-term field research in Sudan and Uganda, and has also researched in several other African countries, including Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana. His latest books have been *Trial Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Lord’s Resistance Army* (Zed Books, 2006), and *Complex emergencies and Humanitarian Responses* (co-authored with Mareike Schomerus, London University, 2009). In addition to academic work, he has worked as a consultant with numerous international organisations, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNRISD, MSF, LWF, Save the Children, World Vision and DFID. He is also a broadcaster and has presented or contributed to numerous radio programmes for the Open University and the BBC.

Koen Vlassenroot is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Ghent, where he also coordinates the Conflict Research Group. He is also the Director of the Central Africa Programme of Egmont, the Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels. He has carried out research in the Great Lakes Region for more than 10 years, with a particular focus on militia formation, land issues, transborder dynamics and rebel governance in eastern DR Congo and Northern Uganda.

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