

**BRIEFING: 09:30, Thursday, 22 March 2006,
Small Arms Survey Offices, Geneva**



The Distribution and Impact of Armed Violence in Karamoja, Northern Uganda

*First results of the Small Arms Survey's field
research in Karamoja and neighbouring Kenya
and Sudan*

The Small Arms Survey and the Geneva NGO Working Group on northern Uganda cordially invite you to a presentation of the Small Arms Survey's recent research on the security situation in Karamoja and neighbouring areas. Since 2005, the Survey has been conducting in-depth field research into the impact of small arms proliferation in Uganda—a project made possible thanks to the generous assistance of the Canadian Human Security Program and the British Department for International Development. This research has strong implications for governments, NGOs and the broader humanitarian community engaged in Uganda and contiguous regions.

James Bevan, the Small Arms Survey's researcher in the region, will report on his research with Karimojong warriors, and the rival Turkana and Toposa communities in Kenya and Sudan. His findings, together with those of an extensive set of household surveys, focus groups, and associated qualitative research, yield a rich overview of the security problems affecting the region and their potential impact on humanitarian relief and conflict resolution.

While often overshadowed by the conflict involving the LRA to the west, Karamoja is in a deepening state of crisis. The principal findings of this research point to armed violence levels that significantly exceed those of the rest of the country, including the prominently-covered north. Karamoja witnesses extraordinary levels of interpersonal violence, much of it related to cattle raiding by rival communities. Today Karamoja's security concerns, once primarily linked to the region's characteristic brand of armed pastoralism, are compounded by a new policy of forcible disarmament; punitive attacks by the Ugandan People's Defence Forces; commercialized cattle raiding; and the ongoing breakdown of fragile structures of traditional authority.

Small arms play a pivotal role in this security crisis. They are often people's only source of protection, given a poorly functioning and often predatory state security apparatus. At the same time, these weapons are responsible for sustaining many of the interpersonal and group conflicts that characterize the region. The Small Arms Survey's recent research reveals that the ammunition fuelling this deadly conflict is diverted mostly from state security forces in the very same region.

Venue:

Small Arms Survey, 47 Av. Blanc, 1202 Geneva
9:30am-11:00am
Visit www.smallarmssurvey.org for directions

Contact:

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