



Holistic Justice Through Peace-building & Development



Annual Report 2016

About the Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI)

The FJDI works with children, youth, women and communities to promote justice, development and economic recovery in northern Uganda. FJDI seeks solutions to the long-term impacts of the conflict which ravaged northern Uganda by advocating for redress of human rights violations and atrocities committed during the conflict, implementation of sustainable development initiatives, and promotion of economic empowerment through livelihood programs.

All pictures in this publication are courtesy of FJDI.

Cover photograph: A woman walks along a road in Adjumani, northern Uganda

Back photographs: (Left) Thomas Kwoyelo exits the courtroom after a court session in Gulu; (Right): Inside the courtroom in Gulu during the monitoring of Kwoyelo's trial.

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Foreword: From the Director and Founder

Founded in November 2015, without a guarantee of funding from any donor, the Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI) survived an uncertain beginning and has lived to celebrate its first birthday.

The year 2016 turned out to be quite an eventful year for FJDI as a result of several key developments in the field of transitional justice in Uganda. Among other events, the long awaited trials of two prominent ex-LRA commanders, Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo finally kicked off. Despite the lack of a stable source of funding, FJDI was able to implement a number of activities in partnership with various organizations. The activities varied from trial monitoring, community outreach, information dissemination, and advocacy,

FJDI flew its flag high on the international TJ arena. In November 2016 FJDI was represented at the Assembly of State Parties to the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands. An FJDI representative also participated in a fellowship organized by Robert Bosch Stiftung from November 24 to December 10 in Berlin, Germany. In December 2016, the FJDI executive director, Mr. Lino Owor Ogora was selected to represent Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at the opening of the trial of Dominic Ongwen in The Hague, Netherlands.

And having started off in a one roomed office on plot 10 Lagony Road, FJDI successfully relocated its headquarters from plot 10 Lagony Road to Plot 45 Layibi Central, still within Gulu Town. The organization's major challenge however remains lack of a stable funding source, a factor we shall seek to address in 2017.

Lino Owor Ogora,
Director and Founder

Introduction

The Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI) was founded in November 2015 and officially registered as a non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in 2016. The FJDI works with children, youth, women and communities to promote justice, development and economic recovery in northern Uganda. FJDI seeks solutions to the long-term impacts of the conflict which ravaged northern Uganda by advocating for redress of human rights violations and atrocities committed during the conflict, implementation of sustainable development initiatives, and promotion of economic empowerment through livelihood programs. We believe in the concept of Holistic Justice grounded in the notion that judicial mechanisms of redress go hand in hand with development and economic empowerment of victims.

The FJDI envisions a just, developed, and economically prosperous society.

Objectives

- a) To advocate for appropriate policies on democracy, governance, justice and development.
- b) To promote social economic empowerment for vulnerable individuals, groups and communities in Uganda
- c) To conduct research on relevant justice and development issues crucial to national debates and policies.

Program Areas

1. Democracy, Governance and Transitional Justice Program
2. Education, Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment Program
3. Children, Youth, and Women's Program

FJDI's Achievements in the Year 2016

As already mentioned in the introduction, the year 2016 turned out to be quite a busy year for the FJDI albeit the fact that the organization had only existed for one year. Following registration as an NGO, FJDI held its first board meeting in December 2015 in preparation for office opening. A plan for setting up an office was developed, and the board directors began planning to register the organization as an NGO. The first quarter of 2016 (January – March) was taken up by various other preparations to enable the office to become operational.

Many of the activities reported for the year 2016 were implemented under program area one, on democracy, governance and transitional justice. The activities fall into five main categories as outlined below:

1. Promoting Victim Participation in the Cases of Dominic Ongwen & Thomas Kwoyelo
2. Advocacy
3. Research and Documentation
4. International Events
5. Workshops & Meetings

Key Achievements and Impact:

1. **Victim Participation Promoted:** Conducted 2 community screenings in Lukodi in the case of Dominic Ongwen
2. **Victim Participation Promoted:** Supported 5 community members from Pabo to travel to Kampala to attend the opening of Kwoyelo's trial.
3. **Information disseminated:** Conducted 2 community information outreach sessions
4. **Information disseminated:** Conducted 3 community dialogues
5. **Community memorial events supported:** attended and supported the commemoration of the Lukodi Massacre.
6. **Trial Monitoring Conducted:** Monitored the trials of Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo
7. **Information disseminated:** conducted 2 radio talkshows on transitional justice

1. Promoting Victim Participation in the Cases of Dominic Ongwen & Thomas Kwoyelo

The major event that graced the transitional justice landscape in the year 2016 was the commencement of the trials of Dominic Ongwen before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, and Thomas Kwoyelo before the International Crimes Division (ICD) in Uganda. Both trials are significant given that they are the first attempt in the history of Uganda to implement accountability proceedings for war criminals. Both trials were long awaited because of the time lag between the capture/ surrender of the individuals in question and the actual commencement of court proceedings. Given the significance of these events, FJDI joined other CSOs and stakeholders in conducting trial monitoring, community outreach, information dissemination and victim participation. The following activities were implemented in this regard.

- **Conducted Screening of the Confirmation of Charges Hearing in the Case of Dominic Ongwen: January 21 – 27, 2016**

From 21 – 27 January, 2016, the ICC field outreach office in collaboration with the Foundation for Justice and Development

Initiatives (FJDI) conducted a live screening of the confirmation of charges hearing in the case of the ICC Prosecutor Versus Dominic Ongwen. The screenings were to be conducted in 9 selected locations across northern Uganda, with Lukodi chosen as one of the locations. FJDI was selected to conduct the screenings in Lukodi on behalf of the ICC field outreach office.

- **Supported 5 Community Members from Pabo to participate in the trial of Thomas Kwoyelo in Kampala: April 4, 2016**

The [Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives](#) (FJDI) in collaboration with [Avocats Sans Frontières](#) (ASF) facilitated five community representatives from Pabo to attend the pre-trial hearing in Kampala. When they were given an opportunity to narrate their experience at the community dialogue, which was held two days later in Pabo, they thanked ASF and FJDI representatives present for the opportunity.

- **Attended an ICC Community Outreach in Lukodi: April 19, 2016**

On April 19, 2016, FJDI representatives attended a community outreach in Lukodi organized by the field outreach office of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The community outreach meeting was organized with the intention of updating the community members in Lukodi about new developments concerning the case of Dominic Ongwen before the ICC.

- **Attended and Facilitated Community Dialogue in Atiak: April 22, 2016**

On Friday April 22, 2016, FJDI attended and facilitated a community dialogue in Atiak, Amuru District. The community dialogue was organized by the Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACORD) with the aim of updating community members on recent TJ developments in Uganda.

- **Attended the Lukodi Massacre Memorial Prayers: May 19, 2016**

On 19th May 2016, residents of Lukodi village commemorated the 12th anniversary of the Lukodi Massacre. Representatives of the FJDI attended the ceremony and interacted with two survivors of the massacre. The prayers are held annually to remember the victims who lost their lives almost twelve years ago when LRA rebels raided Lukodi village.

- **Community Outreach in Pabo: 13 – 17 June 2016**

From Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 June 2016, FJDI in collaboration with Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) conducted community outreach in the parishes of Kal, Labala, Gaya, Palwong, Pogo and Parubanga. The purpose of the outreach was to explain how victims could participate in the ongoing case of Thomas Kwoyelo before the International Crimes Division (ICD).

- **Conducted Trial Monitoring in the Case of Thomas Kwoyelo: August 15 – 17, 2016**

On Monday, August 15, the long awaited trial of former Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commander Colonel Thomas Kwoyelo began with a pre-trial hearing presided over by Justice Susan Okalany, a judge of the High Court of Uganda. FJDI, with support from the [International Justice Monitor \(IJM\)](#) and [REDRESS Trust](#) conducted trial monitoring.

- **Attended the 3rd Thomas Kwoyelo Pre-Trial Hearing: September 21 – 23, 2016**

From 21 to 23 September 2016, the International Crimes Division (ICD) sitting at the high court in Gulu held a third pre-trial hearing in the regard to the Kwoyelo trial. FJDI, with support from the [International Justice Monitor \(IJM\)](#) and [REDRESS Trust](#) attended the hearings and conducted trial monitoring.

- **Screening of the Opening of the Trial of Dominic Ongwen in Lukodi: December 6 – 7, 2016**

From December 6 – 7 2016, FJDI in partnership with the ICC Field Outreach unit conducted a live screening to broadcast the opening of the trial of Dominic Ongwen which began on December 6 in The Hague, Netherlands. The hearing was attended by approximately 900 participants on day one, and 600 participants on day two.

- **Conducted a Community Dialogue in Pabo: April 5, 2016**

On April 7, 2016, FJDI in collaboration with ASF held a community dialogue in Pabo to sensitize the community members about the outcome of the pre-trial hearing that took place on April 4, 2016. Pabo and the surrounding areas is not only the home area of Kwoyelo, but it is also the location in which he is alleged to have committed most of the crimes he is charged with.

- **Community Dialogue in Amuru Sub-County: December 14, 2016**

On December 14, 2016, FJDI in collaboration with ACORD Gulu Sub-Office organized a community dialogue in Amuru Sub-County. This was the second community dialogue being organized by ACORD and FJDI in the same location. The purpose of the dialogue was to update community members in Amuru about recent updates on transitional justice in Uganda.

- **Conducted a Radio Talk show on the Trials of Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo: Gulu FM, April 5, 2016**

After the community dialogue in Pabo, ASF and FJDI representatives held a radio talk show on Gulu FM Radio in Gulu Town. The show lasted for one hour; approximately half an hour was spent on updating the audience about the trial and another half hour was spent in answering questions from the listeners.

- **Conducted a Radio Talk show on Transitional Justice in Uganda: December 16, 2016**

On December 16, 2016, FJDI in collaboration with ACORD Gulu Sub-Office organized a radio talkshow to discuss key transitional justice issues pending in Uganda. The purpose of the radio talk show was to update the general public about recent updates on transitional justice in Uganda.

2. Advocacy

Advocacy plays a major role in ensuring that transitional justice programs are implemented, and that they are successful and relevant. Advocacy also helps in ensuring that the voices of CSOs are taken into consideration in the implementation of transitional justice programs. During the course of the year 2016 the FJDI conducted a limited but significant number of advocacy initiatives as outlined below:

Key Achievements and Impact

1. **The fight against global impunity:**
Issues 2 statements in support of the ICC
2. **Networking:** facilitated a meeting between CSOs in Gulu and Heads of Mission of the European Union
3. **Policy:** Contributed to the passing of the Alcohol ordinance in Gulu District

- **Issued a CSO Statement to the ICC: April 22, 2016**

On April 22, 2016, the FJDI issued a statement applauding The Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its March 23, 2016, decision in which it confirmed 70 charges brought by the ICC Prosecutor against Dominic Ongwen and committed him to trial before a Trial Chamber.

- **Issued a Statement Condemning Attacks against the ICC: May 13, 2016**

On May 13, 2016, FJDI issued a press release condemning the failure by Uganda to arrest President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan. The issuing of the statement was brought about by the fact that on Thursday May 12, 2016, President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan was in Uganda to

attend the swearing in ceremony of President Museveni despite the fact that he was wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a result of atrocities committed in the Darfur region, for which he stands accused.

- **Facilitation of a Meeting of European Union Heads of Mission in Uganda: November 22, 2016**

On November 22, 2016, FJDI helped to coordinate and facilitate a meeting between select CSOs working in Gulu district and a high profile delegation of Heads of Mission of the European Union who visited Gulu. FJDI helped to coordinate and mobilize a select group of 10 CSOs from Gulu who were invited to participate in the meeting which was held at Churchill Courts Hotel from 2 – 4pm.

- **Attendance of a CSO Meeting Convened by the Minister of State for Northern Uganda: December 20, 2016**

On Tuesday December 20, FJDI attended a meeting convened by the new Minister of State for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation, Hon. Freedom Grace Kwiwucwiny. The purpose of the meeting, as stated in the invitation by the Hon. Minister was to get acquainted with the activities of NGOs working in northern Uganda, and to introduce to them some critical government programs.

- **Participated in a Advocacy aimed at passing the Alcohol Ordinance in Gulu District: June - December, 2016**

On June 13, 2016, the Refugee Law Project (RLP) convened a High Level Policy and Legislative Advocacy Meeting in Gulu on the Alcohol Ordinance. The meeting was a follow up of an earlier development when the Gulu district council on 29 January 2016 passed an Alcohol Ordinance for the control of manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks mostly in sachets. Later during the year, FJDI joined a group of CSOs that had come together to advocate for the implementation of the ordinance.

3. Research and Documentation

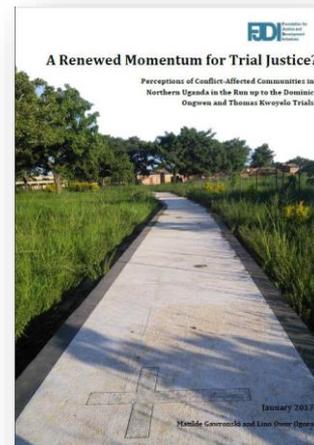
Research and documentation remains pivotal helping to advancing knowledge in the field of transitional justice.

One of the major achievements registered by FJDI in 2016 was to conduct research focusing on the relevance of trial justice in Uganda. To collect data for this report, FJDI conducted three in-depth focus group discussions from May 11 to 13, 2016 in three communities where Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo are accused of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. The FGDs were conducted in order to find out community members' views and opinions in the run up to the trials of Ongwen at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and Kwoyelo at the International Crimes Division (ICD) in Uganda.

Key Achievement and Impact:

1. Information and new knowledge on TJ generated: Conducted research leading to the production and publication of a report entitled:

The final report, entitled “A Renewed Momentum for Trial Justice? Perceptions of Conflict-Affected Communities in Northern Uganda in the Run up to the Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo Trials” was set to be released in early 2017.



4. International Events

FJDI's was represented at three international events in the year 2016. These events are outlined below:

- **Participated in the Assembly of State Parties in The Hague, Netherlands: November 16 - 24, 2016**

From November 16 to 24, 2016, FJDI was invited by the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) to participate in the fifteenth session of the Assembly of State Parties (ASP), that took place from 11-24 November 2016 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

- **Attended a Fellowship on Truth, Justice and Remembrance in Germany: November 24 – December 10, 2016**

From November 24, to December 10, 2016, the FJDI's executive director, participated in an international Seminar on Truth, Justice and Remembrance in Berlin, Germany. The fellowship program facilitated cross-regional learning about dealing with the past in different societal contexts.

- **Attended the Opening of the Trial of Dominic Ongwen in The Hague, Netherlands: December 6 – 7, 2016**

On December 6, the trial of Dominic Ongwen, a former commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) started in The Hague, Netherlands. To bolster victim participation, the ICC field office, with support from the Danish Embassy in Uganda, mobilized and sponsored a delegation of ten community representatives to attend the opening of Ongwen's trial. FJDI was privileged to represent CSOs at this meeting.

5. Workshops & Meetings

FJDI was privileged to be invited to a number of workshops and meetings convened locally in Uganda. These meetings and workshops are outlined below:

- The Justice Tafakari Forum on transitional justice, by the Refugee Law Project: 15 January 2016;
- Workshop on Complementarity and Transitional Justice, by the Refugee Law Project: March 3 – 4, 2016
- Workshop on Addressing Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Post Conflict Northern Uganda, by the Platform for Social Justice (PSJ) : April 19, 2016
- Joint CSO – ICD Outreach Strategy Workshop, by the Refugee Law Project: April 20, 2016, Dove’s Nest Hotel, Gulu
- Information Session on progress in the case of Dominic Ongwen, the ICC: April 26, 2016
- The Institute for African Transitional Justice Seminar, by the Refugee Law Project: May 30 – June 4, 2016
- Human Rights Promotion and Advocacy Training, by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders (HRD): July 1-5, 2016
- CSO Platform Meeting on the trial of Thomas Kwoyelo, by the Refugee Law Project: August 19, 2016
- Workshop on Integrating Transitional Justice in Uganda’s Curriculum, Refugee Law Project: August 29 – 30, 2016
- Meeting on the Human Rights Documentation Project (HRDP) in Uganda, by the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ): September 31, 2016
- Launch of a baseline report on land conflicts in Amuru, by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI): September 19, 2016
- Meeting on the Human Rights Documentation Project, by the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC): September 22, 2016
- Workshop on reparations in Uganda, by Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF) and Redress Trust: September 26 – 27, 2016
- Workshop for CSOs on UPR Recommendations, by UN Office of Human Rights (OHCHR) : November 28 – December 04, 2016

FJDI Team 2017

Board

1. Alfred Otong, Chairman
2. Opiru Godfrey Binaisa, Member
3. Akello Cecilia Nokrach, Member
4. Anyoli Jerry Grants, Member

Staff

1. Lino Owor Ogora, Director and Founder
2. Odoch George, Head of Programs
3. Opota Boniface Oboke, Communications Officer
4. Akello Paska, Finance Assistant
5. Mugero Jesse; Senior Research Fellow
6. Akullo Evelyn Otwili; Senior Research Fellow
7. Olanya Paul; Transport and Logistics Assistant
8. Nkayimbi Sarah, Volunteer

Community Mobilizers

1. Munu Samuel: Abia, Lira
2. Odong Hannington: Koch Goma, Nwoya District.
3. Oyet Vincent: Lukodi, Gulu District
4. Engemu James: Obalanga, Amura District.
5. Achan Betty: Atiak, Amuru District
6. Alebo Christopher: Arua Town, Arua District
7. Ensio Onyango: Mucwini, Lamwo District
8. Ononge Martin: Mukura, Ngora District



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