



The Lord's Resistance Army: Implementing Policy to End an Enduring Problem

Thursday, May 5, 2011
9:30-11:30 am

Council on Foreign Relations
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Forum Details:

Operating without any clear political agenda for nearly 25 years, the Lord's Resistance Army may be one of the most enduring and perplexing militias in the Great Lakes region. They have used a cease fire and peace talks to scout new territory, have consistently replenished their numbers through child abductions, and they continue to brutally attack civilians. Yet fighting them has been described as "shooting at bees." When under attack, as in Operation Lightning Thunder which began in 2008, they have dispersed, attacked civilians, and then regrouped in new, larger territories. Nearly a year ago, President Obama signed a law committing the United States to helping resolve this problem. How can we defeat a militia that scatters when attacked and shows no signs of committing to a peace agreement?

Speakers:

Karl Wycoff

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Africa

Michael Poffenberger

President, Resolve

Moderator:

Alan Goulty

Former UK Ambassador to Sudan

Speaker Bios:

Karl Wycoff

Karl Wycoff is currently serving as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs. He was previously Director for the Office of Central Africa Affairs from 2007-2008.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1980. In Africa, he has served at the U.S. Embassies in Monrovia, Liberia and Yaounde, Cameroon. He has worked as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Rangoon, Burma, and in Vientiane, Laos. Previously he was posted as Principal Officer at the United States Consulate General in Shenyang, China. From 2005-2007, he was detailed to Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe as the Director of its Action against Terrorism Unit.

In Washington, Mr. Wycoff has served in the Department's Executive Secretariat, in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and as Associate Coordinator in the Office of the Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism. He has worked in the White House Situation Room. He is a graduate of the Department's Senior Seminar, a year-long executive training program.

Michael Poffenberger

As the founding Executive Director, Michael Poffenberger leads the organization's programs, develops its strategic vision, and works to enhance collaboration with key partners. His work has been featured in a number of media outlets, including the Washington Post, National Journal, and U.S. News & World Report. Michael serves on the Board of Directors for the

Grassroots Reconciliation Group and the Advisory Board of Athletes for Africa.

Prior to co-founding Resolve in 2006, he worked as Associate Director of the Africa Faith and Justice Network and at the Center for Social Concerns at the University of Notre Dame.

Moderator Bio:

Alan Goulty

The Hon. Alan Goulty retired in 2008 after 40 years in the British Diplomatic Service following his four year tenure as Ambassador to Unisia. His career as a diplomat included postings to Sudan from 1972-1975 and as Ambassador from 1995-1999. He served as UK Special Representative to Sudan from 2002-2004 and as UK Special Representative for Darfur from 2005-2006. He studies Arabic at the Middle East Center for Arab Studies in (MECAS) in Beirut for three years and subsequently served at the British Embassy there from 1971-1972. He also has had postings in Washington and Cairo, with periods in London at the Foreign Office, including in 2000 as Director for the Middle East and North Africa following his tenure as a Research Fellow at the Weatherhead Center of Harvard University. He is a non-resident Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, an adjunct professor at Georgetown, and Secretary and Trustee of an English-registered charity, Together for Sudan, and of Friends Together for Sudan, a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Virginia.

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