

Uganda: Leader of Terrorist Group caught; A Major Success

November 3, 2023

November 2, 2023: The Government of Uganda has announced a significant success in its fight against terrorism by capturing the leader of an armed militia group called the **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)**, which has been blamed for the brutal murder of two foreign tourists and their local guide in a national park just last month.

The operation to apprehend the militia leader, who goes by the name "**Njovu**", was conducted through a raid in which six members of his group were killed. The Ugandan government provided this information on Thursday, shedding light on the successful military-intelligence-led operation that led to the capture. The detained leader will face trial for his alleged involvement in the tourist murders.

The ADF, is **based in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, along the mountainous border between DRC and Uganda.



Republic of Uganda: Population: 47.73 Mn (31st), Area: 241,038 Km²(79th)
GDP: \$46.38 Bn (90th), GDP per capita: \$1,060 (196th)

ADF had become a cause of greater concern for both Uganda and the international community after it affiliated with ISIL. The group has been accused of carrying out numerous attacks on civilians, resulting in loss of life and destruction.

The group was sanctioned by the United States and the United Nations in 2014 for terrorist activities in the region, including attacks on children

June 16, 2023: ADF has been involved in various acts of violence, including the June 16, 2023 **attack on Lhubirira secondary school**, in the **town of Kasese** in western Uganda near the DRC border. In that incident, 42 people, including 37 students, lost their lives, making it one of the deadliest attacks in Uganda in over a decade.

October 17, 2023: ADF is also responsible for the October 17, 2023 murder of a honeymooning couple – David Barlow from Britain and Celia Barlow from South Africa – along with their Ugandan guide Eric Ayai. The trio were killed while on a safari in Queen Elizabeth National Park near the DRC border.



Celia and David Barlow

David was a director of a family wood-yard that's been here for 11 generations.

Celia was senior vice-president of a hotel chain.

Uganda's President, **Yoweri Museveni**, has been vocal about his determination to eradicate the ADF.

----A Brief BACKGROUNDER on **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)**----

The group initially emerged as a rebel coalition opposing the Ugandan government in 1995. Three years later, ADF After facing defeat by the national army, they retreated into the DRC and shifted their **focus towards engaging in illicit activities such as timber and gold trade, as well as farming.**

that has links to the **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**, also known as ISIS.

In 2015, ADF leader **Jamil Makulu** was arrested in Tanzania. His successor, **Musa Seka Baluku**, pledged allegiance to **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**, also known as ISIS., about four years back. This led to a significant shift in the ideology and tactics of ADF. This prompted the Ugandan government to designate them as a **"terrorist organization."**

Uganda has also claimed to have thwarted several other planned ADF attacks this year, including a plot to target churches in the town of Kibibi. The government's efforts to combat the ADF have been ongoing, with a focus on safeguarding national security and protecting civilians from further harm.

The capture of the ADF leader represents a significant milestone in Uganda's fight against terrorism. It serves as a testament to the joint efforts of the military and intelligence agencies in tackling extremist groups that pose a threat to peace and stability in the region. The Ugandan government remains committed to dismantling the ADF and ensuring the safety of its citizens and visitors alike.

By—**Abel in Burundi**

Note: Please read “Uganda: Opposition leader arrested upon landing at national airport” dated October 5, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/uganda-opposition-leader-arrested-at-airport/> .

*EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com applauds the Government of Uganda for its success against the terrorist group. We call upon President **Yoweri Museveni** to conduct elections through a fair and transparent process and transfer power peacefully.*

*Let President **Museveni**, after six terms, now think of leaving a **legacy, which strengthens democracy in Uganda.***