

**Appeal to the media and to the political authorities
before the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in Kampala.**

The undersigned organisations who are working for the good of the people of Northern Uganda, appeal to the political authorities and to the mass media who will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Summit in Kampala, from November 23rd to 25th, to visit Northern Uganda to see for themselves the tragic living conditions of the people in that part of the country.

While the peace talks between the Ugandan Government and the rebels of the LRA in a 21 year long war barely continue, more than a million people are forced to live in refugee camps in miserable conditions, awaiting to return to their homes and lands abandoned because of the war.

For their return it is first necessary to ensure a lasting peace, then the clearing of landmines from the land, the bringing of water wells into use again, the reconstruction of dispensaries, schools, houses for teachers, the distribution of working tools and seeds and, in the absence of certificates of land ownership, the protection of orphans and of those who cannot prove their residence in villages which are now destroyed.

To understand these needs it is necessary, for those attending the Commonwealth meeting, to leave the capital Kampala and go into Northern and Eastern Uganda, to meet the people and to see with their own eyes those lands which in the last month have also been affected by floods.

Peace needs thousands of steps, even outside the capital.

Trusting in your interest and concern.

Yours sincerely.

*Commissione Giustizia e Pace della Conferenza degli Istituti Missionari in Italia (CIMI),
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Religiosi Camilliani,
Associazione Amici di Angal,
Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII,
Associazione Economia Alternativa,
Associazione Ombre nel mondo,
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Cipsi (Coordinamento di iniziative popolari di solidarietà internazionale),
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