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Incident briefs/updates in Loima Division as from Dec 07 to march 2008.

Loima division covers areas of Lorengippi, Namoruputh and Lokiriama locations and neighbours Moroto and Kotido districts of Karamoja region and Pokot north district of Kenya.

The entire division is surrounded by hostile communities like; the tepeth and matheniko in moroto district, the jie from Kotido and the pokots from Alale division.

In a period of four months (December 2007 to March 2008) the following incidences occurred;

On the 2nd of December, 07 suspected jie raiders attacked Urum area of Lochor-alomala in Lokiriama Location and went away with 55 calves of four households through kotein escarpment to Kotido district in Uganda. During the incident one Turkana herdsman was killed. No efforts of follow-up or intervention received from the government.

On the 24th February, 2008. Jie bandits/ thieves sneaked into Lokoromeri kraals at Lochor alomala sub-location and went away with 8 donkeys and 3 cattle and reports from the livestock owners indicated the footprints of animals went towards Nakapelimoru in Kotido district.

On the 6th march, 08. The jie warriors attacked Turkana shoats in the grasing field. In the incident it's reported that around 130 shoats from five households were driven away towards Kotido district.

On the 24th March, 08. 25 donkeys for one family were reported to have been driven by un known group of which later the community followed the footprints and entered jie settlements within Kotido County.

On 31st march, 08. The incident happened at Lolung area at Lokiriama Location, Where 16 cattle for Turkana were stolen by three Tepeth bandits from Tepeth Sub-county. It's reported that the owner of the cows exchanged fire with the bandits in the event he was injured in the shout out. Later, other reports from the community showed Giran a renowned peace committee was injured and another killed in the event by a Turkana herdsman injured.

Comments

In a period of one year the entire corridor of Loima has been peaceful due to the many cross-border interventions from the NGOs, CSOs and governments which provided pastoralists an opportunity to share resources amicably and also exercise trade relations among themselves. This trend witnessed in the increase of incidences will propel many other issues from communities if not address at earlier stage.

In recommendation measures/interventions should be put in place immediately by peace building stakeholders to reduce the skirmishes within communities which can later cause violent aggressions.

Riam Riam

31st March, 08