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Established in November 1999 with the aim of protecting and promoting the rights of forced migrants in Uganda, the RLP operates as an autonomous project within the Faculty of Law of Makerere University, Kampala, and focuses on three main areas: legal assistance, training, and research and advocacy. The RLP works towards ensuring that asylum seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons are, as specified under national and international law, treated with the fairness and consideration due to fellow human beings.

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The authors would like to thank Uganda's National Council of Science and Technology for permission to conduct this study, which is based on the work of five field researchers who interviewed more than 900 people, including 257 individual interviews and 31 group discussions between September and December 2003. Most of the fieldwork was carried out in Gulu, Kitgum, Lira and Soroti districts, with additional interviews in Luwero, Kampala, London and Washington DC. The views and experiences of 66 local government officials, 14 central government officials, 54 religious and traditional leaders, 53 ex-combatants and abductees, 17 representatives from the UPDF and security services, 114 men and 123 women IDPs, 272 schoolchildren and child IDPs, as well as teachers, journalists and representatives from the business community were collected. In addition, an extensive review of the literature on the war to date was undertaken, and is used throughout the report.