



## **HIU Highlights Report No.13** **April 1, 2006 – June 30,** **2006**

*The Humanitarian Information Unit serves as a USG interagency center to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate unclassified information critical to USG decision makers and partners in preparation for and response to humanitarian emergencies worldwide, and to promote best practices for humanitarian information management*

This report describes select initiatives underway, recent collaborations, key meetings, and upcoming items of interest. All products that are mentioned in this report are attached and are also available on the HIU website. See page 6 for **NEW** log-on information.

### **Status of Select Initiatives:**

#### **June 2 Event on Humanitarian Information Management:**

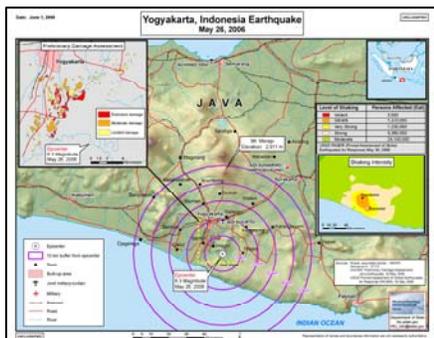
On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the HIU hosted an all-day workshop on Humanitarian Information Management



Best Practices in Rosslyn, Virginia. The HIU invited participants representing a variety of outside organizations to offer their thoughts on how better to mainstream information management into humanitarian response initiatives. Discussions covered topics such as the institutional barriers to humanitarian information management, the challenges of training and education, and how to improve the sharing of critical information. Panelists included representatives from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Department of Defense; the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation; the Crisis

Management Initiative; InterAction; George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management; and Georgetown University (POCs: Jean Arkedis, [ArkedisJM@state.gov](mailto:ArkedisJM@state.gov) and Victoria Jabara, [JabaraVM@state.gov](mailto:JabaraVM@state.gov)).

## **Java Earthquake Product**

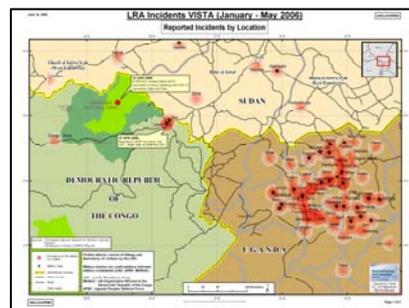


On May 26, 2005, an earthquake struck the Indonesian Island of Java, killing over 5,700 people and rendering 1.5 million people homeless. The HIU compiled information from various government and nongovernmental sources to produce a map indicating preliminary damage assessments of the most affected areas, and an accompanying information memorandum analyzing the immediate effects of the earthquake, including its impact on the volcanic eruption of nearby Mount Merapi. This map product can be found on the HIU website (POC: Dennis King, [KingDJ2@state.gov](mailto:KingDJ2@state.gov) and

David Springer, [SpringerDT@state.gov](mailto:SpringerDT@state.gov)).

## **Lord's Resistance Army Analysis**

At the request of USAID Africa's division and State Department's Africa Bureau, the HIU produced a VISTA\* graphic portraying activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda, southern Sudan, and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The VISTA included a map displaying the location and prevalence of incidents, a temporal bar graph indicating the number of people killed and abducted by the LRA by month, and a chronology summarizing key events related to the LRA. The VISTA was provided to Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs for a mission to Africa, other senior State Department and USAID officials, the US Embassy and USAID Mission in Kampala, NGOs, and ReliefWeb. This product can be found on the HIU website (POC: Dennis King, [KingDJ2@state.gov](mailto:KingDJ2@state.gov) and Christopher Ard, [ArdCM@state.gov](mailto:ArdCM@state.gov)).



## **HIU White Paper: Afghan Women's Council Meeting**

In preparation for the U.S.–Afghan Women's Council meeting in Kabul May 17-19, Gina Weatherup, a Presidential Management Fellow on a rotational assignment to the HIU from the Pentagon, prepared a paper on the advancement of women's rights in Afghanistan. The paper, titled "Afghan Women's Rights Advance Unevenly," was sent to the Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, who also co-chairs the Council along with the Afghan Foreign Minister and the Afghan Minister for Women's Affairs. The paper discusses significant progress that has been made on women's rights since the Taliban was expelled from power as well as critical issues -- such as education, health, and civil rights -- that still pose a challenge. This white paper can be found on the HIU website (POC: Gina Weatherup, [gina.weatherup@hqda.army.mil](mailto:gina.weatherup@hqda.army.mil)).

*\*VISTA stands for Visualized Information/Synthesized Temporal Analysis, and is an HIU innovation designed to present geographic, tabular, textual and chronological information in a coherent, easy-to-read format for improving situational awareness during humanitarian crises. These "static" (paper) VISTAs are the forerunners of a web-based product being developed by the HIU. For more information contact Dennis King.*

## **Collaboration Efforts:**

### **Emergency Capacity Building Workshop**

HIU staffer, Kathleen Miner, was invited to participate in the Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) workshop in Seattle, Washington on April 24-25 hosted by the Interdisciplinary Program on Humanitarian Relief at the University of Washington. The workshop focused on information management and the challenges and opportunities faced by NGOs as related to their use of information and technology requirements in humanitarian assistance operations. The workshop was framed around reviewing an assessment done on information technology and information requirements for the seven NGOs that are part of the ECB: CARE, Catholic Relief Services, International Rescue Committee, MercyCorps, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision. The HIU benefited from the opportunity to gain insight into the information management process from the viewpoint of the NGOs (POC: Kathleen Miner, [MinerKR@state.gov](mailto:MinerKR@state.gov)).

### **Maputo Health Management Information Systems Meeting and Technical Assistance to Namibia**

On April 24-28, HIU team member Nathan Heard attended a conference in Maputo, Mozambique on health management information systems within the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and chaired a session on the use of geographic information systems for AIDS relief. The session included presentations by Livia Montana of USAID Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results (MEASURE)/Demographic and Health Surveys, John Spencer of MEASURE/Evaluation, and Allen Hightower of the Center for Disease Control in Kenya. The meeting covered spatial data infrastructure, GIS software, and numerous applications of GIS from the field. Following the workshop, Mr. Heard continued to Windhoek, Namibia to provide technical assistance on the use of GIS to the PEPFAR country team. Assistance included the generation of a master list of HIV/AIDS-related service providers, the services they provide, and the geographic location of their services. The trip culminated in training in the use of GIS for HIV/AIDS applications. Attendees included staff from the Ministry of Health, Central Bureau of Statistics, Center for Disease Control, and USAID. The country team has since used GIS to visualize the coverage of PEPFAR-funded services as part of routine program planning (POC: Nathan Heard, [HeardNJ@state.gov](mailto:HeardNJ@state.gov)).

### **Technical Advisory Group Meeting**

On May 2-3, Dennis King attended the Technical Advisory Group meeting on the Complex Emergencies Database (CE-DAT) maintained by the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and sponsored by the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration. CE-DAT was created in 2003 to provide quick access to accurate and reliable data critical for humanitarian decision-making. The meeting focused on challenges of the CE-DAT project and discussed ways of improving the database. Technical advice was given by the HIU as well as by the technical advisory group committee (POC: Dennis King, [KingDJ2@state.gov](mailto:KingDJ2@state.gov)).

## **International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management**

HIU staffer Dennis King participated in the International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) held in Newark, NJ on May 14-17. He gave a presentation on the most recent HIU VISTA product. The ISCRAM Conference was attended by over 200 participants, representing governments, international organizations, academic institutions and private sector consulting firms, and was devoted to presentations and discussions of the latest state-of-the art information technologies and research in the field of crisis and emergency management (POC: Dennis King, [KingDJ2@state.gov](mailto:KingDJ2@state.gov)).

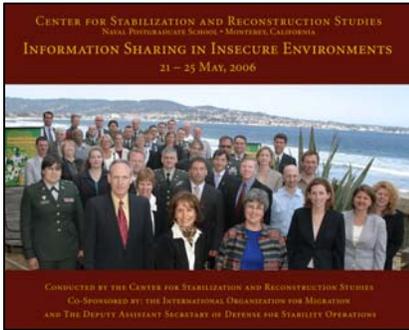
## **HIV-information Confidentiality and Security Workshop**

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) jointly held an HIV-information Confidentiality and Security Workshop from May 15-17 in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop gathered people living with AIDS and area experts from law, ethics, health informatics, and health program planning. Because there are particular technical challenges to preserving confidentiality when using spatially explicit data, organizers invited HIU's Nathan Heard to develop a bibliography on the subject and attend the workshop. The conclusion of the meeting resulted in a draft set of guidelines for ensuring confidentiality and security of information connected to the delivery of care for people infected with HIV (POC: Nathan Heard, [HeardNJ@state.gov](mailto:HeardNJ@state.gov)).

## **Geospatial Symposium and Technology Expo 2006**

On May 23-24 HIU staffer David Springer attended the Partnership for Peace Geospatial and Technology Exposition 2006 co-sponsored by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and the Ministry of Defense of Romania held in Bucharest, Romania. Participants included representatives from governments of the United States, Romania, United Kingdom, Albania, Germany, Armenia, and many others, as well as representatives from the geospatial technology industry. The goal of the conference was to encourage each partner nation to learn how to establish and refine their nation's ability to share interoperable geospatial information in support of an emergency response activity that may occur not only within their national territory but also within their regional territory and/or within their greater global community. Mr. Springer gave a presentation on the U.S Department of State and HIU's support to the Darfur crisis, Tsunami in Indonesia, and the Pakistan earthquake. A successful outcome of the conference was the exploration of possibilities for developing and expanding partnerships in co-production, data exchange, and strengthening international interoperability (POC: David Springer, [SpringerDT@state.gov](mailto:SpringerDT@state.gov)).

## **Information Sharing in Insecure Environments Workshop**



On May 21-26, HIU staffers participated in the Information Sharing in Insecure Environments workshop in Monterey, CA. The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the Naval Post-Graduate School and was co-sponsored by the International Organization for Migration, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations. Kathleen Miner and Jean Arkedis gave an overview presentation on current initiatives on humanitarian information management (IM). Other conference participants represented many of the HIU's key partner communities of interest, including US and non-US military, US civilian agencies, NGOs, and International Organizations. The workshop provided an opportunity for targeted outreach, education, and networking with key contacts in the IM communities of interest. (POCs: Kathleen Miner, [MinerKR@state.gov](mailto:MinerKR@state.gov) and Jean Arkedis, [ArkedisJM@state.gov](mailto:ArkedisJM@state.gov)).

## **Other Items of Interest**

We are pleased to announce the latest additions to join the HIU team:

The HIU welcomes Paul Bartel as the Information Management Analyst. Mr. Bartel specializes in economic and geographic analysis of humanitarian issues. He has considerable overseas experience in Africa and Latin America promoting information networks among a variety of organizations. HIU also welcomes a new Deputy Chief, Lowry Taylor. She comes to the HIU from the U.S. Army War College, where she earned a Masters in Strategic Studies. She has a PhD. in Geography from Northwestern University. She is a Foreign Service Officer who has served in the Middle East and South Asia and a number of positions in Washington.

The HIU is also pleased to have two interns join us for the summer. Sara Caez-Rivera is currently finishing her PhD in Industrial Organizational Psychology at Carlos Albizu University in San Juan, Puerto Rico and also has a Masters degree in Demographics. Martha Sortland is completing her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the University of Minnesota and plans to graduate next year. They are both supporting the HIU on a variety of projects. Welcome to all!

## **Attachments:**

a) Map: Yogyakarta, Indonesia Earthquake product, May 26, 2006

b) Map and Graphic: LRA Incidents VISTA: Reported Incidents by Location (January – May 2006), June 14, 2006

**HIU Contact Information:**

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[HIU\\_info@state.gov](mailto:HIU_info@state.gov)

HIU Website:

**Please note there is a new username and password!** To visit our website, please log on to <http://hiu.state.gov> and use the following case-sensitive username and password.

**Log-in Information:** Username: User12

**Password:** Password123

HIU Direct Telephone Lines & Agency Affiliation:

Alan L. Davis, Director (USAID):	202-203-7771	Jean Arkedis (DoS PMF):	202-203-7776
David Springer (NGA):	202-203-7789	Nathan Heard (STG contract)	202-203-7788
Tiffany Hill (STG contract):	202-203-7791	Paul Bartel(STG contract)	202-203-7787
Dennis King (DoS):	202-203-7782	Victoria Jabara(STG contract)	202-203-7784
Noam Unger (DoS)	202-203-7773	Christopher Ard(CSC contract)	202-203-7774
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Lowry Taylor (DoS)	202-203-7783	Sara Caez-Rivera(DoS intern)	202-203-7210
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HIU Steering Committee Members:

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STATE/INR: CRodley

STATE/INR/GGI: LSchwartz

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NASA: SAmbrose

S/CRS: MAsquino

ODNI: TFingar

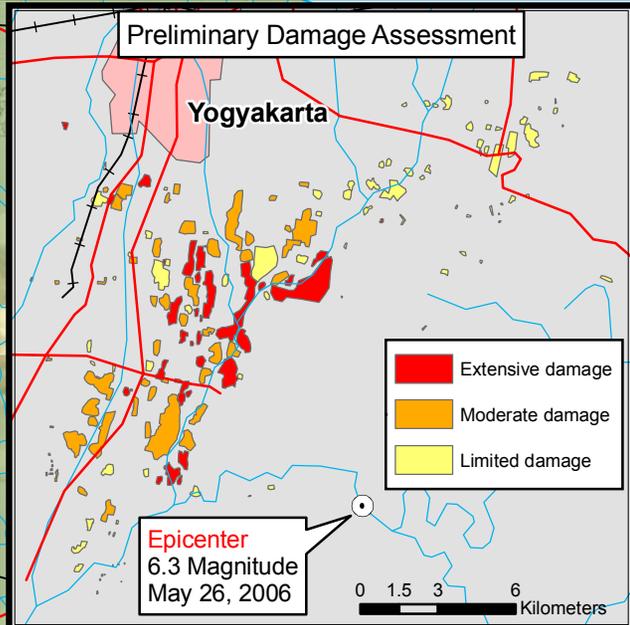
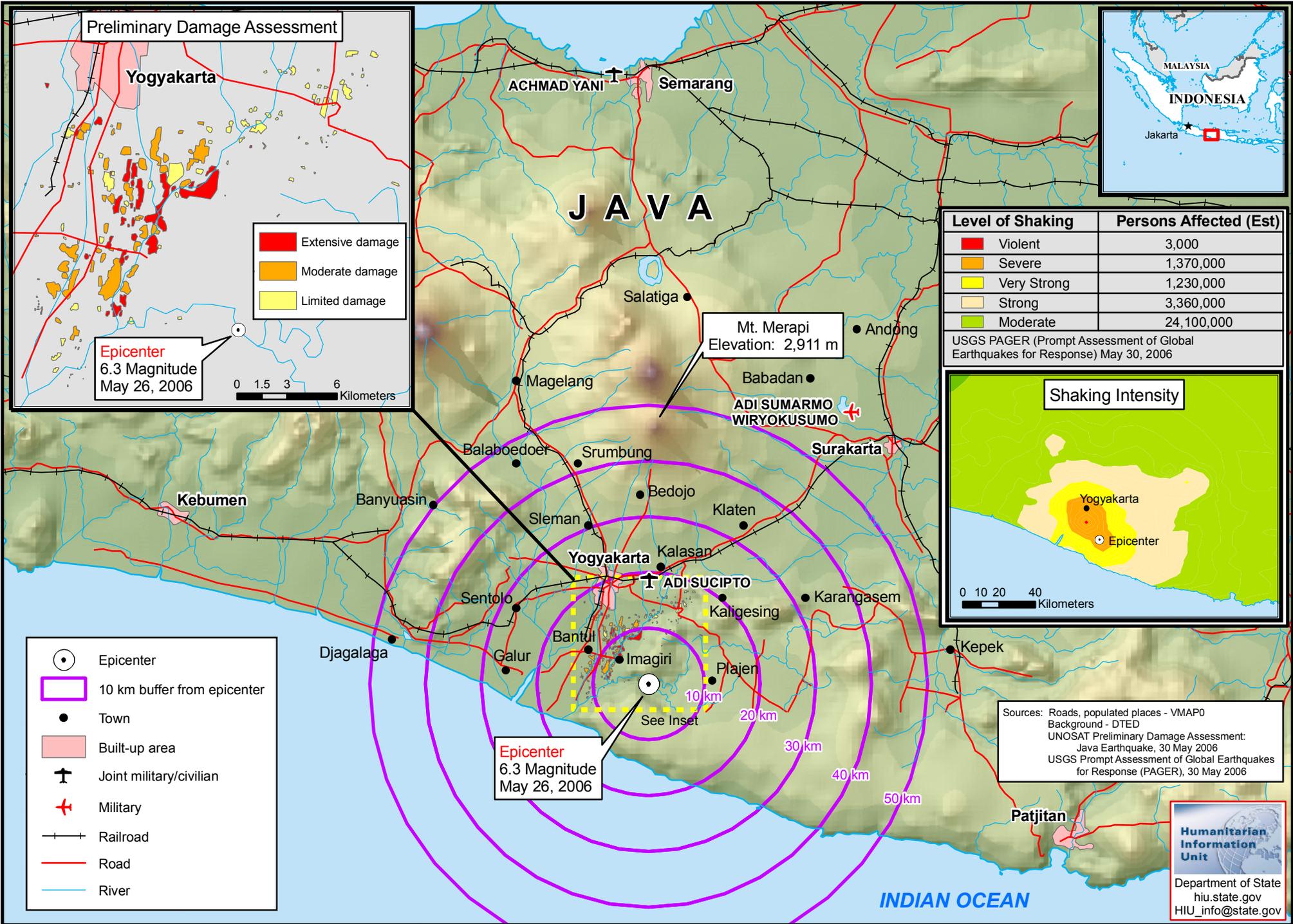
NGA: RWilliams

ASD/NII: SKirsch

NDU/ITEA: EKjonnerod

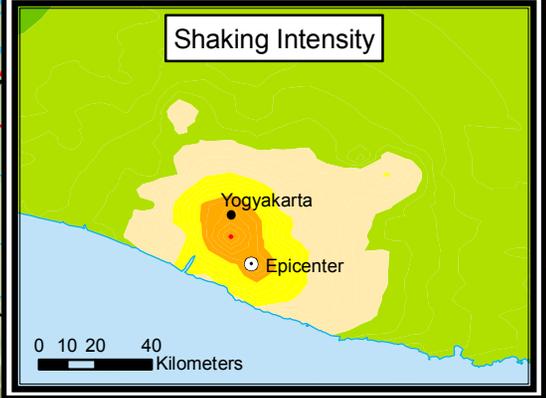
\* A separate distribution of this report is routinely made to a larger interagency USG audience.

# Yogyakarta, Indonesia Earthquake May 26, 2006



Level of Shaking	Persons Affected (Est)
Violent	3,000
Severe	1,370,000
Very Strong	1,230,000
Strong	3,360,000
Moderate	24,100,000

USGS PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response) May 30, 2006



**Epicenter**  
6.3 Magnitude  
May 26, 2006

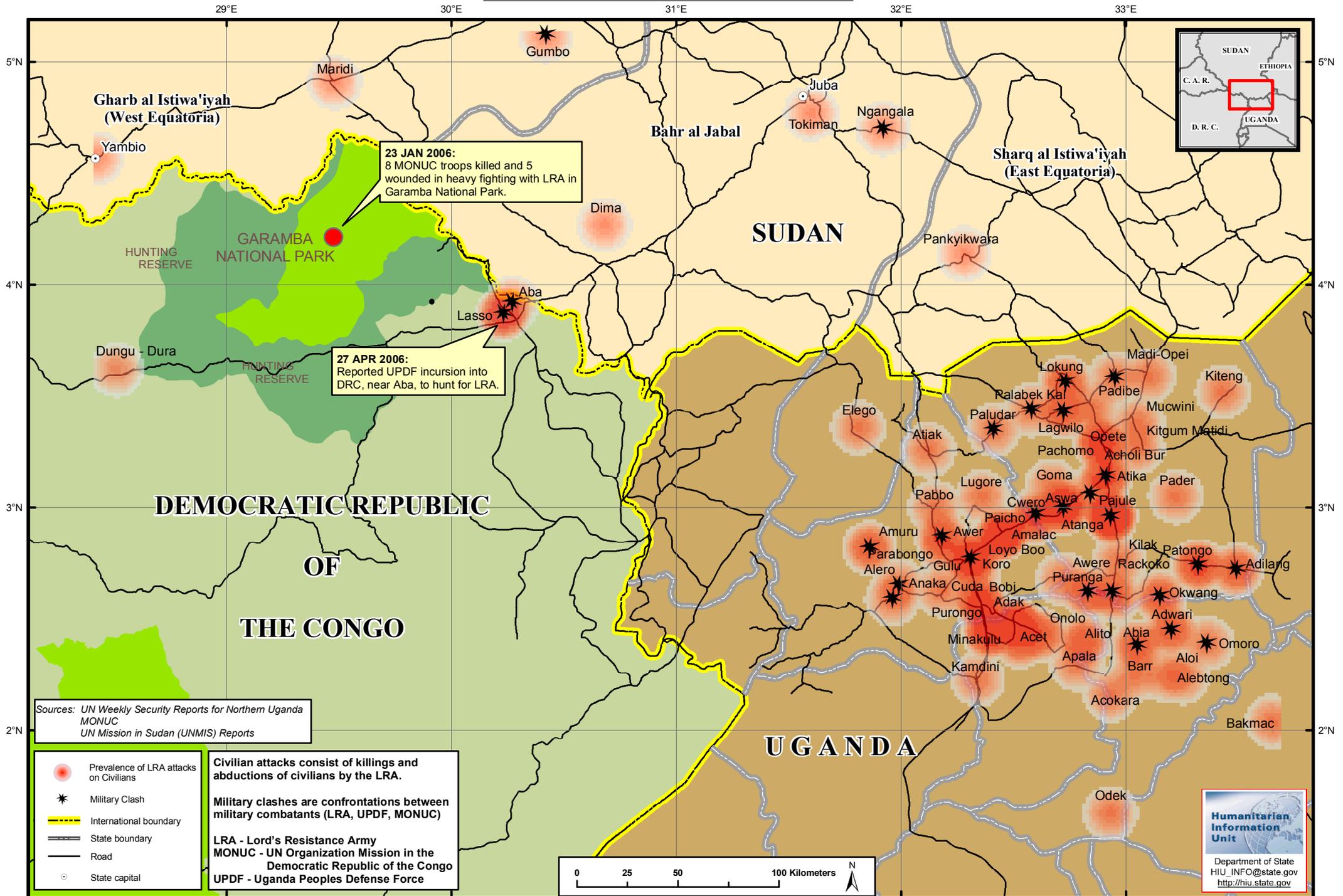
Sources: Roads, populated places - VMAP0  
Background - DTED  
UNOSAT Preliminary Damage Assessment: Java Earthquake, 30 May 2006  
USGS Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response (PAGER), 30 May 2006

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# LRA Incidents VISTA (January - May 2006)

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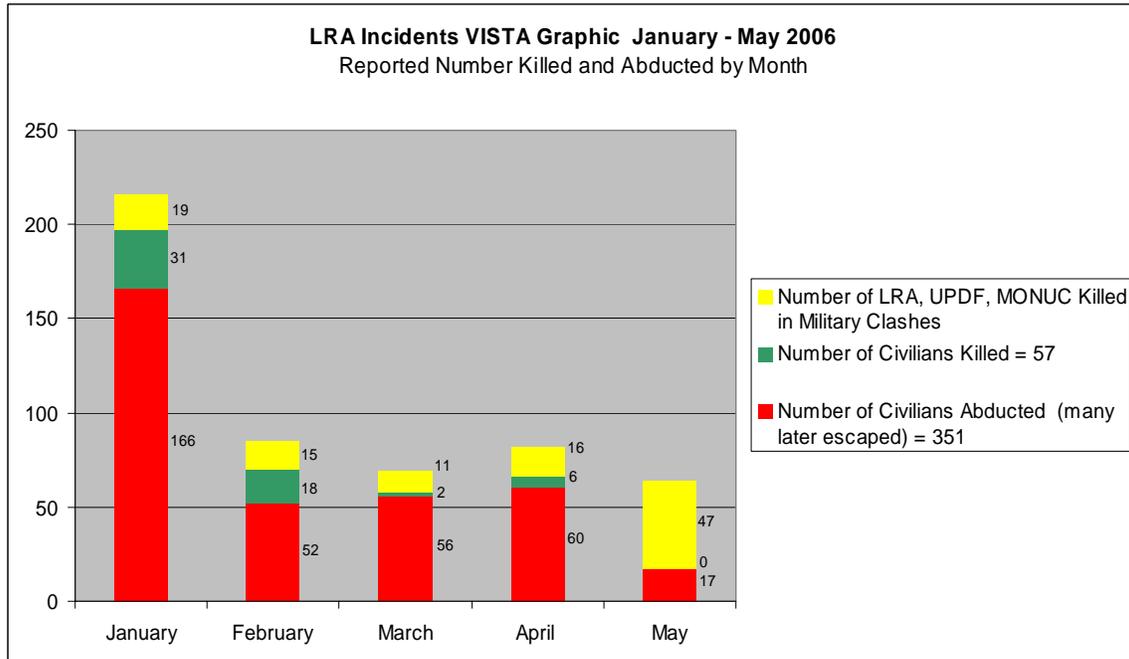
## Reported Incidents by Location



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Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

## Reported LRA Incidents VISTA\* (January – May 2006) Number of Civilians Killed and Abducted by Month



### Selected Chronology of Events – VISTA Timeline

DATE	EVENT
Jan 2006	Major UPDF offensives launched against LRA forces in northern Uganda. LRA leadership reportedly moves into eastern DRC from Uganda and southern Sudan.
Jan 23, 2006	Eight Guatemalan MONUC peacekeeping troops killed and five wounded in firefight with LRA in Garamba National Park, DRC.
Feb 25, 2006	Yoweri Museveni was officially declared winner of a third term as President of Uganda, winning 59 per cent of the total vote.
Mar 2006	LRA Commander Richard Odong captured on the Yei-Juba road in southern Sudan. LRA commander Bosco Atubo caught in Aba, DRC. Both are turned over to Ugandan Government
Mar 2006	LRA attempts raid on Pajule IDP camp in northern Uganda, but repulsed by UPDF.
Apr 2006	Ugandan Government launches “decongestion” resettlement program to close IDP camps and facilitate return of an estimated 100,000 Ugandan IDPs back to their home villages.
Apr 27, 2006	UPDF reported to have entered DRC near Aba from southern Sudan to hunt LRA and clash with Congolese army.
May 2006	UPDF reports it has killed 226 LRA rebels and captured over 100 since January 2006.

### Acronyms

LRA – Lord’s Resistance Army
MONUC – UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UPDF – Uganda Peoples Defense Force

**Sources:** UN Weekly Security Reports for Northern Uganda  
MONUC and UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) Reports



\* VISTA (Visualized Information Synthesized Temporal Analysis) is a new product of the Humanitarian Information Unit, providing geo-temporal analysis and visualization.