

Aid groups fear new LRA Christmas massacre

Aid agencies have called for efforts by the international community to prevent a third consecutive year of massacres by Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, rebels in central Africa in the run up to Christmas

 Areas where LRA has committed attacks



► **LRA:** Launched armed rebellion against Ugandan government in 1986, resulting in one of Africa's longest-running conflicts

► **Based:** Originally in Uganda, moved to DRC and southern Sudan in 2005 due to pressure from Ugandan army

► **Aims:** No clear political agenda beyond desire to establish state based on Christian Bible and **Ten Commandments**

► **Brutality:** LRA notorious for maiming, rape, abduction and murder of civilians, and use of child soldiers. Group listed by U.S. as terrorist organization

► **Christmas massacres:** 865 civilians beaten to death on Christmas Eve 2008 and following three weeks. Over 300 people murdered in Dec 2009

LRA leader **Joseph Kony**, 49 – elusive, self-styled "prophet" of Acholi people in northern Uganda. Wanted by UN's International Criminal Court for 33 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes

