

Traditional Justice and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of the Massacre in Pajong Village, Northern Uganda

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This Article examines the significance and effectiveness of using traditional justice methods, specifically the ritual of *Matu Oput* among the Acholi people of northern Uganda, in post-conflict situations. The context of this Article is the aftermath of the massacre caused by the Lord's Resistance Army in Pajong-A village, in Mucwini, northern Uganda. The aforementioned massacre caused the current hostility between the Pajong and Pubec-Pamong clans, who both claim victimhood in the post-massacre situation.

The Authors acknowledge the shortcomings of applying traditional justice methods such as *Matu Oput* in the transition of northern Uganda from a situation of conflict. As this peace-building mechanism is contextual, the Authors consider the on-going tension and lack of cooperation between the clan of the perpetrators and the clan of the victims as a call for a dialogical framework within which an inherently inter-subjective communicative rationality could be entertained for sustainable peaceful co-living. Before such ritual can be an effective method of justice, it therefore requires the willingness of the victim to accept the perpetrator back to the community.