

Army, Karamoja leaders meet over cattle raids

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MOROTO. The Uganda People's Defence Forces commanders and leaders in Karamoja sub-region on Wednesday held a crisis meeting to discuss the resumption of cattle raids between the Karimojong and their neighbouring Turkana pastoralists.

The meeting was called by the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen David Muhoozi, and chaired by the Minister of Karamoja Affairs, Mr John Byabagambi, at UPDF Third division headquarters in Moroto District.

This follows a series of raids and gun exchange between UPDF and armed Turkanas grazing in Karamoja.

UPDF soldiers have had clashes with armed Turkana pastoralists with the latest incident on Sunday that left one pastoralist dead and one gun recovered after a 20-minute battle.

According to the army,

the pastoralists had raided cattle and goats and sheep from Losilang Village in Kotido District and were driving the livestock to Kenya.

The Turkana and the Karimojong have been living in harmony in the last five years until they disagreed over water and pasture and resumed raiding each other last week.

Capt Abert Arinaitwe, the UPDF 3rd division spokesperson, confirmed the closed-door security meeting with the leaders.

To consult Kenya

Capt Arinaitwe said the leaders did not come up with a conclusion about the issue until they meet with their Kenyan counterparts.

"They were basically sharing experience on what to be done but they didn't come up with a lasting solution because some leaders asked time to allow them meet with their Kenyan counterparts," he said.

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