After Rape

Violence, Justice, and Social Harmony in Uganda

Holly Porter

International African Institute, London and



Contents

| | List of figures | <i>page</i> ix |
|---|---|----------------|
| | Acknowledgements | х |
| | List of abbreviations and acronyms | xii |
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| | The story of two rapes | 1 |
| | Social harmony | 2 |
| | Rape, wrongdoing, and justice | 6 |
| | The northern Uganda war and Acholi realities | 8 |
| | Brief chapter overview Concluding reflections: on writing about rape | 13 15 |
| | Concluding reneedons. on writing about rape | 15 |
| 2 | Life and participant reflection in northern Uganda | 20 |
| | The research project | 26 |
| | Inhabiting patriarchal dimensions of social harmony | 30 |
| 3 | Rape, wrongdoing, and justice | 44 |
| | Legal definitions and social understandings of rape | 45 |
| | Counting rape in Acholi | 48 |
| | Rape within the logic of violence in war | 52 |
| | Accounting for rape Wrongdoing | 55 64 |
| | Iustice | 65 |
| | • | |
| 4 | Acholi love: sex and social belonging | 75 |
| | Sex and meaning | 79 |
| | 'Meeting' to marriage Sexual education | 93 |
| | Conclusion | 101 104 |
| | | 104 |
| 5 | Consent and rape: when does 'no' mean no? | 106 |
| | Distinguishing sexual transgression from acceptable sex | 108 |
| | Notions of consent | 109 |
| | Notions of rape | 119 |
| | Conclusion | 128 |
| 6 | Social harmony and the space between local solutions | |
| | and judicial systems | 130 |
| | The meaning of justice | 134 |
| | | |

vii

٩

9

| | 'Embedded' and 'distanced' response to crime | 140 |
|---|--|-------------|
| | Institutional trust and boundaries of moral jurisdiction | 144 |
| | Revenge and forgiveness | 149 |
| | Moral community and perceptions of punishment | 152 |
| | Conclusion | 155 |
| 7 | Mango trees, offices, and altars: the role of relatives, | |
| | NGOs, and churches | 157 |
| | Relatives | 160 |
| | NGOs | 169 |
| | Churches | 176 |
| | Conclusion | 183 |
| 8 | Comparing the aftermath of civilian and combatant | |
| | rape | 185 |
| | Abduction and rape with intent to marry | 188 |
| | Rape by strangers | 204 |
| | Conclusion: reflections on implications for transitional justice | 210 |
| 9 | Conclusion: medicine and lightning | 213 |
| | Theoretical reflections | 214 |
| | The story of the Ogre and the mother of Ayaa | 217 |
| | Meaning in context | 220 |
| | Final thoughts | 2 26 |
| | References | 229 |
| | Index | 248 |
| | | |