

SCOUTS-L

ZAIRE

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Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtpc@pucc.Princeton.EDU [128.112.129.99]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with SMTP id QAA19190; **Sat, 22 Feb 1997 16:53:10 -0500**

Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)

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Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV release 1.8b)

with NJE id 6165 for SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU; **Sat, 22 Feb 1997**

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Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 6164; **Sat, 22 Feb 1997 15:48:08 -0600**

Received: from emout14.mail.aol.com by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)

with TCP; **Sat, 22 Feb 97 15:48:06 CST**

Received: (from root@localhost) by emout14.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

id QAA07947 for SCOUTS-L@tcubvm.is.tcu.edu; **Sat, 22 Feb 1997 16:46:51**

-0500 (EST)

Message-ID: <970222164639_619975290@emout14.mail.aol.com>

Date: **Sat, 22 Feb 1997 16:46:51 -0500**

Reply-To: BigEdBSA@AOL.COM

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: Ed Henderson <BigEdBSA@AOL.COM>

Subject: Zaire Boy Scout Association story in the news

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

X-Status:

BUKAVU, Zaire (AP) - On the anniversary of their founder's birth, Boy Scouts wielding machetes slashed down tall grass and

uprooted weeds Saturday on the grounds of a hospital for those wounded in Zaire's civil war.

The Scouts in rebel-controlled eastern Zaire celebrated not only the 140th anniversary of the birth of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of scouting. They also celebrated their freedom.

For 14 years, President Mobutu Sese Seko had banned the Scout Association and replaced it with a youth group to promote his own repressive form of politics.

“We continued to be Scouts, but secretly,” said troop leader Emmanuel Missige Amani, 48. “We couldn't wear our scarves, and we had to meet in churches. But we kept doing good deeds.”

In 1986, Scout leaders revolted, he said, and Mobutu allowed them to rejoin the Scout Association, the world's largest international youth organization, with a membership of 25 million boys and girls in 142 countries.

Scouting was introduced in Zaire by Belgium, the former colonial ruler, in 1940.

Today, there are 5,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Bukavu, the largest town under the control of the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

Few among them own uniforms, but most proudly wear scarves - each with a design distinguishing troop membership. Their leaders have no merit badges to distribute, nor manuals to guide them, nor camping supplies. Government troops stole the Scouts' tents when they cleared out of town in October.

But the Scouts continue to help clean up the city and make other improvements, such as helping build housing for the homeless.

With machetes and rubber-gloved hands, more than 100 Scouts tidied up the grounds at General Hospital, where a ninth person died Saturday of wounds suffered in the government bombing of Bukavu on Monday.

“I'm a Scout to serve my country,” said Saloum Mulinda, 19. “I do about 80 percent of my learning in school, and the other 20 percent comes from scouting. I try to do at least one good deed a day.”

Troop leader Jean-Claude Maniebwa said building character is the main goal in this country where morale has been badly damaged by nearly 32 years of Mobutu's rule.

“We teach them to be good citizens, to respect one another, to make them understand, for example, that when they hit someone they're hurting themselves, too,” Maniebwa said.