



STATEMENT ON BATERING OF SCHOOL PUPILS AND THEIR TEACHERS

For Immediate Release 6th October 2017

As civil society organizations and human rights advocates we are dismayed with the manner in which pupils and teachers of Winterland Primary School were assaulted and beaten by a notorious ragtag militia code-named Boda Boda 2010. The pupils were clad in attires with colours of the national flag heading to participate in the Annual Police Week event at Nkumba University in Entebbe, on 3rd October 2017.

We are deeply concerned with the following:

- a. The increasing privatization of security management and reliance on militia groups to foment chaos and stifle legitimate public debate and dissent in Uganda.
- b. The proliferation and re-emergence of the militia groups such as Boda Boda 2010 and the attendant threat to public safety and security. These infamous militia groups have kept emerging at the height of political events, whose activities have been alleged to be graced by some individuals in the circles of the Uganda Police Force and other security agencies. These groups have wantonly abused the rights of individuals with impunity just like what happened with the pupils of Winterland Primary School.
- c. The threat to rule of law as these groups have become law unto themselves, defying lawful orders and legitimate organs of the state. This was demonstrated on 3rd October 2017 when the Boda Boda 2010 militia group defied lawful orders of a senior police officer ASP, Mohammed Byansi the in charge of Natete Police Station, and assaulted two police officers.
- d. Return to the infamous reign of terror as people live in a state of fear.
- e. Degeneration of the state.

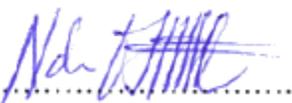
We affirm with great sense of urgency:

- i. That it is the responsibility of the State to protect its citizens under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, more specifically the Uganda Police Force.
- ii. That the basic tennets of Rule of Law should be respected.
- iii. That the Citizens have a duty to cooperate with and obey lawful orders of the Police.

We therefore demand that:

1. The attack on innocent pupils and their teachers be investigated by the Uganda Police Force and the individuals/perpetrators involved be held to account.
2. The Uganda Police Force investigates the Boda Boda 2010 and others suspected militia groups and their activities and have the groups prosecuted and totally disbanded
3. The Uganda Police Force performs their constitutional mandate and not relegate it to goons/militia groups who have continued to take the law in their hands and abuse the rights of the citizens.
4. The Uganda Police Force and other security agencies desist from interfering with citizens' freedom of expression.

Signed By:

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Mohammed Ndifuna
Executive Director, HURINET-U

For and on behalf of:

1. UNATU
2. ANNPCAN
3. Concern for the Girl Child
4. Joy for Children
5. ACTV
6. AGHA
7. ACFODE
8. COUPSTA
9. HURINET-U