

Press statement on the rampant killings and gun violence and the general insecurity in Uganda

For immediate release, 27th April 2017

The Uganda CSOs, wishes to express concern over the increased killings, attacks in homes by goons and gun violence in Uganda that continues to claim lives of citizens.

The persistent attacks and threats by sending anonymous letters by the purported attackers in the Districts of Sembabule, Masaka, Mpigi, Rwengo, mukono, Soroti, Kawempe, Kira town municipality among others. The letters are sent with names and the date for the attackers and indeed in some situations they have achieved their mission. ON the 23rd April, 2017 another letter was sent warning some ministries and government departments. These include ministry of energy, NEMA, Makerere University among others.

It should be recalled that, scores of persons have been killed in ; on the march 17th March 2017 AIGP Andrew Felix kawesi, his bodyguard Erau and driver Wamewo were gunned down in Kampala, on 26th November 2016, Sheik Maj. Mohammed Kiggundu was gunned down alongside his body guard in Masanafu a Kampala Saburb, Sheikh Ibrahim Hassan Kirya was shot dead on 30 June 2015, Sheikh Ismail Ssebugwawo was killed in January 2015, Sheikh Abdulrashid Wafula the Imam of Bilal Mosque in Mbale Town was gunned down. On 21 May 2015, Joan Kagezi, the senior principal state attorney was shoot from Kiwatule a Kampala suburb on March 30th 2015, Sheikh Mustafa Bahiga was shot dead at Bwebajja Mosque along Entebbe Road on December 28th 2014, Abdul , the Shiite leader popularly known as Dakhtur, was gunned down December 25, 2014 at his home in Mayuge District, Sheikh Abdul Karim Sentamu a prominent Muslim scholar was gunned down on William Street, Kampala on April 20, 2012, Abubaker Kiweewa was shot dead by unknown assailants in Kyanja, a city suburb on June 22, 2012, Sheikh Abdul Jawali Sentunga, August 2012 while Sheikh Yunus Abubakar Mudungu, August 2012.

CSOs note that, the continued systematic killings and attacks to homes are a manifestation of an advancement of crime and gun violence in Uganda; they have been

executed by an organized and well trained group with a mission to cause breakdown of law and security in the country. What continues to baffle most stakeholders is the failure by state security agencies to investigate these incidents to a logical conclusion which has mounted fear among the members of the public but also undermines confidence in state capacity to secure its citizens. The police act as well as the 1995 constitution bestows upon the UPF the obligation to protect the citizenry and their property. The current warring trends demonstrate the states failures to play this role. The “**responsibility to protect**” lies in the hands of the state.

In regard to the above, CSOs recommends that;

- I. A joint taskforce comprised of various security agencies should be established to decisively investigate the attacks in the Districts and in Kampala, the killing of AIGP Felix Kaweesi, the Muslim clerics and Joan Kagezi;
- II. The police should investigate as a matter of urgency the allegations of some suspects in their custody that the police are some times involved in protecting criminals as they carry out their missions. This is not new as the same allegations were insinuated by the guard when the offices of HURINET-U were broken into.
- III. UPF should urgently reform the crime intelligence and information gathering system to meet the current crime dynamics in the country;
- IV. The UPF should revitalize the community policing program and partner with members of the community in fighting crime;
- V. UPF and UPDF should work towards restoring confidence among members of the public by ensuring the safety and security of citizens;
- VI. Deliberate effort should be made to reduce the number of guns in the hands of civilians. The state should also work towards re-examining the private security companies and their operations.
- VII. We urge the citizenry to be vigilant and work together in ensuring their safety as they say help the police to help you.
- VIII. We call upon the revamping or revitalization of the local community defense initiatives so that communities start taking back the security of their country. This should also be in line with the government streamlining the initiatives of the local council elections.

Signed by;

1. Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-U)
2. Centre for constitutional Governance (CCG)
3. FIDA UGANDA CHAPTER
4. Human rights Network for journalists (HRNJ)
5. Defenders Protection initiative (DPI)
6. National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda (NCHRDU)
7. National NGO Forum

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!

For more information, please contact:

Human Rights Network-Uganda,

Plot 94, Old Kiira Rd, Ntinda

P.O.BOX 21265 Kampala. (U)

Tel 1: +256 414 286923

Tel 2: +256 414 286881

Tel 3: +256 312 516682

info@hurinet.or.ug

Dated at Kampala this 27th Day of April, 2017

Mohamed Ndifuna

CEO-HURINET-U

