



UPR Adoption of Uganda March 2017

Uganda deserves praise for having a policy of economic integration of refugees, unlike neighboring countries. But despite ~~creating multiple offices and positions nominally~~ creating multiple positions to address human rights issues in country, ~~many~~ much of Uganda's human rights commitments remain unfulfilled.

In practice, the government shows limited commitment to protecting freedom of expression, association, and ~~assembly for its own citizens. State~~ assembly. State violence, including torture and extrajudicial killings, occur without investigation.

Many abuses were ~~on full display in Uganda~~ evident during the 2016 elections. Despite the government's ~~often stated commitment to holding free and fair elections~~ promises, ~~recent elections raised there significant concerns~~ significant concerns were voiced, reflected in the conclusions of local electoral observers that the ~~elections~~ elections were ~~not free nor~~ neither free nor fair.

The government had ~~stated to the working group that it advocates~~ "forsaid that it supports "a strong, vibrant and responsible free press, freedom of speech and broad participation." But in fact, government officials and police arrested and beat over a dozen journalists, in some cases during live broadcasts, during the 2016 electoral period. On election day, the telecommunications regulator directed telecom companies to block social media networks for "security reasons" and the ban lasted five days. Those are not the actions of a government seeking broad participation of its citizens.

Some laws are either selectively applied, such as the Public Order Management Act, ~~which grants police leadership wide discretionary powers to permit or disallow any assemblies.~~ Others laws that could improve human rights protections are simply not implemented. ~~For example, the anti-torture law was passed, but security forces continue to torture suspects, and use excessive force to conduct abusive operations.~~ Despite, for instance, the anti-torture law, state officials continue to act with impunity. Police and prosecutors do not bring charges under the anti-torture act in practice. In practice, charges simply are not brought.

~~Despite a human rights desk within the police and the military, impunity for violations by these state actors continues.~~ There have been no investigations into the killings by the police and the military from September 2009 or in April 2011. Since this UPR process began, in November 2016, at least 600 people, including children, have been killed by the military and police during joint operations in Kasese, Western Uganda, ~~killed at least 100 civilians, including children,~~ during a military assault on the region's cultural institution. The military has openly admitted that there is no investigation into the conduct of security forces involved in the assault and killings, while hundreds of civilians face criminal charges in connection with the events and remain behind bars. An independent international impartial investigation with international expertise commission of inquiry may be the only way that the circumstances surrounding the conduct of the security forces in Kasese will be investigated and brought to light.