



**JUBILEE CAMPAIGN
ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (2003)**

**Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee regarding the
Republic of Uganda
For the 138th Session
26 June - 28 July 2023
STATES PARTIES REPORTS**

Submission by
Jubilee Campaign

Jubilee Campaign is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2003. Our work focuses on promoting the rights of religious and ethnic minorities and raising the status of vulnerable women and children - to protect them from bodily harm and exploitation.

I. Introduction

Jubilee Campaign, in special consultative status with ECOSOC, submits this analysis of religious freedom and human rights in the Republic of Uganda as a contribution to the Consideration of State Party Reports in advance of the Human Rights Committee's 138th Session in June and July 2023.

II. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹ - Articles relevant to present submission

Article 6(1)

Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 36 (2019)² further elaborates:

7. States parties must respect the right to life. This entails the duty to refrain from engaging in conduct resulting in arbitrary deprivation of life. States parties must also ensure the right to life and exercise due diligence to protect the lives of individuals against deprivations caused by persons or entities whose conduct is not attributable to the State.

20. States parties must enact a protective legal framework that includes effective criminal prohibitions on all manifestations of violence or incitement of violence that are likely to result in deprivation of life, such as intentional and negligent homicide, unnecessary or disproportionate use of firearms, infanticide, "honour" killings, lynching, violent hate crimes, blood feuds, ritual killings, death threats and terrorist attacks. The criminal sanctions attached to these crimes must be commensurate with their gravity, while remaining compatible with all the provisions of the Covenant.

23. The duty to protect the right to life requires States parties to take special measures of protection towards persons in vulnerable situations whose lives have been placed at particular risk because of specific threats or pre-existing patterns of violence. Such persons include [...] victims of domestic and gender-based violence [...] members of ethnic and religious minorities [...] States parties must respond urgently and effectively in order to protect individuals who find themselves under a specific threat, by adopting special measures such as the assignment of around-the-clock police protection, the issuance of protection and restraining orders against potential aggressors and, in exceptional cases, and only with the free and informed consent of the threatened individual, protective custody.

Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

¹ UN General Assembly, [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), 16 December 1966, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171.

² UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 36*, [CCPR/C/GC/36](#), 3 September 2019.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 20 (1992)³ further elaborates:

1. The aim of the provisions of article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is to protect both the dignity and physical and mental integrity of the individual. It is the duty of the State party to afford everyone protection through legislative and other measures as may be necessary against the acts prohibited by article 7, whether inflicted by people acting in their official capacity, outside their official capacity, or in a private capacity.

4. The Covenant does not contain any definition of the concepts covered by article 7, nor does the Committee consider it necessary to draw up a list of prohibited acts or to establish sharp distinctions between the different kinds of punishment or treatment; the distinctions depend on the nature, purpose and severity of the treatment applied.

Article 9 (1; 3)

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgment.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 35 (2014)⁴ further elaborates:

States parties have the duty to take appropriate measures to protect the right to liberty of person against deprivation by third parties. State parties must protect individuals against abduction or detention by individual criminals or irregular groups, including armed or terrorist groups, operating within their territory.

The right to personal security also obliges States parties to take appropriate measures in response to death threats against persons in the public sphere, and more generally to protect individuals from foreseeable threats to life or bodily integrity proceeding from any governmental or private actors. States parties must take both measures to prevent future injury and retrospective measures, such as enforcement of criminal laws, in response to past injury.

An arrest or detention may be authorized by domestic law and nonetheless be arbitrary. The notion of 'arbitrariness' is not to be equated with 'against the law', but must be interpreted more broadly to include elements of inappropriateness, injustice, lack of predictability and due process of law, as well as elements of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality.

³ UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 20*, [HRI/GEN/1/Rev.9 \(Vol. I\)](#), 10 March 1992.

⁴ UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 35*, [CCPR/C/GC/35](#), 16 December 2014.

Arrest or detention as punishment for the legitimate exercise of the rights as guaranteed by the Covenant is arbitrary, including freedom of opinion and expression (art. 19), freedom of assembly (art. 21), freedom of association (art. 22), freedom of religion (art. 18), and the right to privacy (art. 17). [...] Enforced disappearances violate numerous substantive and procedural provisions of the Covenant and constitute a particularly aggravated form of arbitrary detention.

Article 17 (1; 2)

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.

Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 18

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.

Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 22 (1993)⁵ further elaborates:

The measures contemplated by article 20, paragraph 2 of the Covenant constitute important safeguards against infringement of the rights of religious minorities and of other religious groups to exercise the rights guaranteed by articles 18 and 27, and against acts of violence or persecution directed towards those groups. The Committee wishes to be informed of measures taken by States parties concerned to protect the practices of all religions or beliefs from infringement and to protect their followers from discrimination.

Article 19 (1; 2)

Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 34 (2011)⁶ further elaborates:

⁵ UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 22*, [CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.4](#), 30 July 1993.

⁶ UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 34*, [CCPR/C/GC/34](#), 12 September 2011.

9. Paragraph 1 of article 19 requires protection of the right to hold opinions without interference. This is a right to which the Covenant permits no exception or restriction. Freedom of opinion extends to the right to change an opinion whenever and for whatever reason a person so freely chooses. No person may be subject to the impairment of any rights under the Covenant on the basis of his or her actual, perceived or supposed opinions. All forms of opinion are protected, including opinions of a political, historic, moral or religious nature.

23. States parties should put in place effective measures to protect against attacks aimed at silencing those exercising their right to freedom of expression. [...] Nor, under any circumstance, can an attack on a person, because of the exercise of his or her freedom of opinion or expression, including such forms of attack as arbitrary arrest, torture, threats to life and killing, be compatible with article 19 [...]

48. Prohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the Covenant. Thus, for instance, it would be impermissible for any such laws to discriminate in favour or against one or certain religions or belief systems, or their adherents over another, or religious believers over non-believers. Nor would it be permissible for any such prohibitions to be used to prevent or punish criticism of religious leaders or commentary on religious doctrine and tenets of faith.

Article 20 (2)

Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.

Article 24 (1)

Every child shall have, without discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State.

The Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 17 (1989)⁷ further elaborates:

Moreover, in cases where the parents and the family seriously fail in their duties, ill-treat or neglect the child, the State should intervene to restrict parental authority and the child may be separated from his family when circumstances so require.

III. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; Freedom from arbitrary deprivation of life

Uganda's Constitution states that the nation shall have no official religion and in Article 29 elaborates that citizens have the freedoms of conscience, religion, assembly, and association.⁸

⁷ UN Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 17*, [HRI/GEN/1/Rev.1 at 23](#), 7 April 1989.

⁸ [Uganda: Constitution of the Republic Uganda](#) [Uganda], 22 September 1995.

Uganda's Penal Code Act contains an entire chapter (Chapter XIII) on Offences relating to religion, including Article 122 criminalizing blasphemy. Article 122 stipulates that "any person who, with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any other person, writes any word, or any person who, with the like intention, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of any other person or makes any gesture or places any object in the sight of any other person, commits a misdemeanor and is liable to imprisonment for one year."⁹ Furthermore, as outlined by lawyer and doctoral researcher Nimrod Muhumuza, Article 122 is so imprecise that "a prospective suspect's [individual accused of blasphemy] fate depends on the feelings and the sensibilities of another individual" thus violating the principle of legality which requires that offenses must be clearly defined and 'criminal law must not be extensively interpreted to an accused's detriment.'" (Article 19; General Comment No. 34)

A. Violence against Christian converts and faith leaders (articles 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 19)

(a) 2023

May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of Muslims physically assaulted Christian convert and former Islamic teacher <i>Shaquru Ndifuna</i> after conversion was publicly disclosed. Shaquru was attacked in his home by four Muslims who claimed he had "blasphemed the Islamic religion" and demanded that he "confess that Jesus is not the Son of God, and that Allah is the only God to be worshiped and Muhammad is His prophet."¹⁰
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim college student killed Christian university student Jeremiah Mwanga in his dorm room on campus. Prior to the attack, Jeremiah told his friends that he was receiving text messages "threatening to kill him for misleading Muslims by preaching to them the gospel of Christ as well as converting them to the Christian faith".¹¹ Muslim extremists stabbed to death Christian evangelist <i>Engineer Herbert</i> while returning home from work. Engineer's friend reported "his acts of supporting and helping preachers were seen in Muslim circles as misleading many Muslims who left Islam and joined Christianity, especially young men and women".¹² On Good Friday, Muslim extremists detonated a bomb outside of NABI Pentecostal Church during an overnight worship service. Fortunately there were no casualties, though the authorities have only arraigned one of the six suspects. The detained individual confessed to the attack, citing it as an act of jihad and service to Allah.¹³
March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim family members of Pastor <i>Adinani Bulwa</i> attacked and killed him in his home. The pastor had been living in another region of Uganda but was forced to return to his hometown in January due to opposition from local Muslims. Back in his birth village, four of Adinani's relatives followed in his path and converted to Christianity. The remaining vengeant Muslim family members carried out Adinani's murder.¹⁴ A Muslim mob attacked Pastor John Balidawa and his teenage son Gilbert Sanja while they were making preparations for an overnight vigil at Ebenezer Christian Center. John and Gilbert were beaten, slapped, and kicked until unconscious. When they awoke in the hospital they were informed that their phones had been stolen and the church building had been destroyed.¹⁵
February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim mob attacked Pastor <i>Arthur Asadi Babi</i> after he left a religious debate wherein 37 local Muslims had converted to Christianity. Pastor Arthur was stoned, clubbed, and beaten with sticks, and he was left with extensive injuries on his neck, legs, hands, and genitals.¹⁶

⁹ [Uganda. Penal Code Act \(Chapter 120\)](#), 15 June 1950 [updated as at 30 September 2020].

¹⁰ Morning Star News, "[New Christian Beaten Unconscious for Leaving Islam](#)", 8 May 2023.

¹¹ International Christian Response, "[Christian College Student in Uganda Slain for Sharing Christ](#)", 1 May 2023.

¹² Morning Star News, "[Lay Evangelist Stabbed to Death in Uganda](#)", 21 April 2023.

¹³ Morning Star News, "[Jihadists Bomb Christians' Good Friday Service in Uganda](#)", 17 April 2023.

¹⁴ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Relatives Kill Pastor for His Faith](#)", 28 March 2023.

¹⁵ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Extremists Attack Pastor, Son in Uganda](#)", 22 March 2023.

¹⁶ Morning Star News, "[Pastor Attacked after Invitation to Christian-Muslim Debate](#)", 28 February 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27-year-old Muslim man <i>Siraji Sabiri</i> abducted 40 Christian children by pretending to be the leader of a charity offering scholarships. It is believed that Siraji had planned to sell them to a militant group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Authorities rescued the children - all of whom were between the ages of 5 and 16 years - and arrested Siraji.¹⁷
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Muslim men attacked Christian father of four <i>Ahamada Mafabi</i> by pushing him off of his motorcycle and slitting his throat. Ahamada was returning from a religious debate where he angered Muslims and was threatened to “stop your blasphemous utterance”.¹⁸

(b) 2022

December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim man and imam Hamuza Lubega caned his two brothers who had converted to Christianity, <i>Arafah Senyange</i> and <i>Zulufa Hajati</i>. The two men had returned from church worship and were reading the Bible outside when they were attacked.¹⁹ a Muslim mob set fire to and destroyed the home of a Christian family that had recently converted two local Muslim families to Christianity. Though there were no casualties, the father reported being told by one of the assailants that the destruction of his home was a warning for more dangerous acts to come if they don't stop their evangelism.²⁰ Pastor <i>Frank Mutabaazi</i> offered a ride to a Muslim man pretending to be a Christian member of his church. When the passenger directed the pastor to an unfamiliar location, a group of Muslim men sprayed Mutabaazi with acid. Pastor Mutabaazi survived but suffered tremendous burns to his mouth and loss of vision.²¹ A group of Muslim extremists killed Christian teacher <i>Abdu Muying</i> and his son <i>Hamisi Sentongo</i> after luring them to the home of a local Muslim under the guise of praying for his ill wife. When the two Christians arrived they were beaten by a mob of extremists. The father and son sustained injuries to their backs, shoulders, head, arms, hands, and legs, but are recovering.²²
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim mob ambushed an evening church service and attacked Pastor <i>Agaba Ezera</i> for his sharing of the gospel to local residents which led them to convert to Christianity. The pastor is recovering from injuries to his arms and head.²³ Pastor <i>Jude Sitaalo</i> and his wife <i>Naisiga</i> were beaten with sticks and knives by Muslims who ambushed a meeting at Believers' Church. The pastor revealed that prior to the attack he had been receiving threats to “let our children come back to Islam, and if not we are going to kill you and destroy your church”. The threat references the recent conversion of five young men to Christianity.²⁴
October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim group attacked Christian evangelists <i>Robert Okia</i> and <i>Wilberforce Mutenga</i>, father of six and two, respectively, with sticks and knives. They were targeted for their sharing the gospel and converting people to Christianity.²⁵ Two Christian evangelists, <i>Andrew Dikusooka</i> and <i>Ronald Musasizi</i>, were attacked by Islamic scholars with whom they had engaged in a religious debate. The debate caused some renowned Muslims to convert to Christianity, which incited the perpetrators.²⁶
September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian convert woman <i>Shadia Namuzungu</i> was attacked by an imam who she previously informed she had accepted Christ after praying for healing from health issues and

¹⁷ Morning Star News, [“Police Rescue 40 Christian Children in Kidnapping Scam”](#), 26 February 2023.

¹⁸ Morning Star News, [“Radical Muslims Kill Christian after Religion Debate”](#), 10 January 2023.

¹⁹ Morning Star News, [“Home Burned. Two Christians Injured in Separate Attacks”](#), 4 December 2022.

²⁰ Morning Star News, [“Home Burned. Two Christians Injured in Separate Attacks”](#), 4 December 2022.

²¹ Morning Star News, [“Pastor Sprayed with Acid in Ambush in Kampala, Uganda”](#), 30 December 2022.

²² Morning Star News, [“Muslim Extremists Lure, Attack Christian Teacher and Son”](#), 19 December 2022.

²³ Morning Star News, [“Pastors Wounded in Separate Attacks in Uganda”](#), 29 November 2022.

²⁴ Morning Star News, [“Pastors Wounded in Separate Attacks in Uganda”](#), 29 November 2022.

²⁵ Morning Star News, [“Christian Evangelists Attacked for Preaching to Muslims in Uganda”](#), 23 October 2022.

²⁶ International Christian Response, [“Evangelists Sustain Knife Wounds after Debates in Uganda”](#), 7 October 2022.

	<p>subsequently recovering. The imam pulled together a group with six other Muslims who then beat and kicked Shadia.²⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Muslims beat Christian convert and father of four, <i>Musa Wabwire</i>, after learning that Musa was skipping mosque prayers and instead listening to a Christian radio station.²⁸ Muslim man Saidi Mudogo physically beat and abandoned his wife, Falida Nazziwa, after he had returned home early from his work as a truck driver and learned that Falida had been attending nighttime Christian services. Saidi chased Falida and two of their children out of the home. Falida was treated for both external and internal injuries.²⁹ 23-year-old Christian woman <i>Namata Habiiba</i> passed away after ingesting rat poison that her stepmother Namu Sauya put in her meal. Earlier that day, Sauyu became angry when she learned that Namata had attended a church service.³⁰
August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim extremists hijacked the boats of a group of Christian missionaries who were traveling to start a new church in Apac District. The assailants demanded that the group - <i>Ankunda, Peter Agaba, Juliet Ashaba, Johnson Karungi, and Julius Lweere</i> - renounce Christianity and killed them when they refused by throwing them off of the boat to drown.³¹ Pastor <i>Godfrey Ssemujju</i> expressed that he was fearful that he might be killed for his faith, as another local pastor, Robert Bwenje, was killed in July. Pastor Godfrey reported receiving texts warning him to stop converting people to Christianity or he will be killed and "Allah will reward us [killers] with it".³²
July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large Muslim mob ambushed the home of Christian convert family, Musa Kasadha, his wife, and their six children. A local Christian council rescued the family and discovered that they had all been physically beaten.³³ Later in July, Muslim extremists attacked and amputated Musa's hand.³⁴ Christian evangelist and father of four <i>Sozi Odongo</i> was attacked and killed with a sharp implement following his participation in an open-air religious event. Prior to his murder, Odongo was receiving text messages threatening "stop preaching to our people using the holy Koran, or else you will risk your life".³⁵ A Muslim mob attacked Pastor Baingana James and destroyed his church building. Pastor <i>Baingana James</i> reported that prior to the attack he had received a threatening phone call from Sheikh Mwesigye Ja'afari demanding that he force seven recently-converted Christians to Islam. On the day of the attack, the assailants stormed the church and attacked the pastor as well as congregation members including women and children.³⁶ Muslim men Ashirafu Kasamba and Kabagambe Kadiri attacked and killed Christian man <i>Robert Bwenje</i> while he was returning from a religious debate. The assailants chanted Allahu Akbar during the attack.³⁷ A Muslim mob killed Christian convert and father of five <i>Simolya Latifu</i> in a sword attack. During the incident, the assailants castigated Simolya for his evangelism.³⁸
May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim man Haji Shariifu Agaba stabbed the eye of and killed his daughter, Christian convert woman <i>Hawa Amoti</i>. Haji was incensed over his daughter's acceptance of Christ earlier that day. One of Hawa's brothers who attempted to protect her recalled their father telling Hawa that "I want to remove these eyes so that you stop seeing churches forever".³⁹ Muslim extremists attacked Associate Pastor Ivan Serunjoji and Bishop Sserugga John

²⁷ Morning Star News, "[Christians Beaten, Lose Homes in Separate Attacks](#)", 3 October 2022.

²⁸ Morning Star News, "[Christians Beaten, Lose Homes in Separate Attacks](#)", 3 October 2022.

²⁹ Morning Star News, "[Young Woman in Uganda Killed after Accepting Christ](#)", 29 September 2022.

³⁰ Morning Star News, "[Young Woman in Uganda Killed after Accepting Christ](#)", 29 September 2022.

³¹ Morning Star News, "[Five Christians Thrown Off Boat and Drowned in Uganda](#)", 8 September 2022.

³² Morning Star News, "[Pastor Fears for His Life following Death Threats in Uganda](#)", 8 August 2022.

³³ Morning Star News, "[Pastor Fears for His Life following Death Threats in Uganda](#)", 8 August 2022.

³⁴ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Extremists Cut Off Hand of Christian Convert](#)", 16 August 2022.

³⁵ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Extremists in Uganda Kill Evangelist at His Home](#)", 4 August 2022.

³⁶ Morning Star News, "[Christian Killed after Open-Air Event in Uganda](#)", 24 July 2022.

³⁷ Morning Star News, "[Christian Killed after Open-Air Event in Uganda](#)", 24 July 2022.

³⁸ Morning Star News, "[Christian Convert from Islam Killed in Eastern Uganda](#)", 6 July 2022.

³⁹ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Father Kills Daughter on Day She Converts](#)", 14 June 2022.

	<p>Assaph while they were returning from Emmanuel Mugabi's funeral. The survivors identified the perpetrators as the same group of Muslims that attacked Bukomero Miracle Center Church.⁴⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth pastor <i>Emmanuel Mugabi</i> passed away due to a blood clot which resulted from being hit in the head with an axe during a Muslim mob's attack on Bukomero Miracle Center Church a week earlier.⁴¹ A group of Muslims destroyed the home of Pastor <i>Wilberforce Naaya</i> and the compound of Malakachomo Revival Church. The perpetrators were angered over local sheikh Musyoya Anasi's and his wife's conversion to Christianity after the woman recovered from an illness after prayer.⁴² Muslim extremists killed two Christians, 70-year-old <i>Jonathan Kalyecheru</i> and another unnamed victim, in an arson attack upon Holy Healing Ministry International Church.⁴³
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian bishop <i>Amon Sadiiki</i> was attacked while returning from a religious debate with a Muslim community. Assailants slashed the bishop's stomach, head, and legs. Amon spent two weeks in hospital recovering. His son Frank Amon was also attacked - though less severely - on his way home from visiting his father at the hospital.⁴⁴ A Muslim man slashed his Christian convert wife, <i>Zaina Gimbo</i>, after he heard her singing worship songs on Easter Sunday. Zaina, who is also a mother, survived the attack but sustained injuries to her face, hand, and back.⁴⁵ A secret Christian who was the headmaster of an Islamic school, <i>Yusufu Mwanje</i>, was beaten and lit on fire by school staff chanting Allahu Akbar who were angry after seeing Mwanje pray in private. Mwanje was treated at hospital and terminated from his job.⁴⁶ An unnamed Muslim woman poisoned her husband, former sheikh <i>Hiire Sadiki</i>, with ptomaine and insecticide after she learned that her husband had converted to Christianity. Hiire passed away as a result of the poisoning. His pastor explained he had called Sadiki's wife who called him an infidel and that her husband deserved to die "for forsaking Islam".⁴⁷
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Muslim mob attacked former imam turned Christian convert <i>Swaleh Mulongo</i>. The attack was orchestrated by the sheikh who had replaced Swaleh's position at the mosque, Abubakar Sekimpi. Swaleh survived the attack but suffered from severe head wounds and a broken wrist.⁴⁸ Muslim families threw acid on Christian convert family <i>Juma Waiswa, Nasimu Naigaga</i>, and the couple's 13-year-old daughter <i>Amina</i>. The perpetrators called them apostates and demanded they recant Christianity. The family is recovering but their home was destroyed.⁴⁹
February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian speaker <i>John Michael Okero</i> was reading out loud excerpts from the Quran and comparing it to the Bible when a group of Muslims accused him of blasphemy and beat him to death; the assailants subsequently burnt John's body.⁵⁰ Muslim relatives attacked Christian convert <i>Sadi Bwanga</i> on the very same day he had accepted Christ. Sadi was taken to the hospital and has been discharged having made a full recovery, though his home has been destroyed by his assailants.⁵¹ Christian evangelist <i>Malingumu Bruhan</i> was beaten by Muslim relatives when he returned to his hometown to attend a funeral. The assailants told Bruhan that his Christian faith embarrassed the family and that it was "time for me to receive punishment from Allah, whereby I was going to be burned alive and the birds of the air will enjoy me as their

⁴⁰ Morning Star News, "[Youth Pastor Killed in Muslim Extremist Attack on Church](#)", 3 June 2022.

⁴¹ Morning Star News, "[Youth Pastor Killed in Muslim Extremist Attack on Church](#)", 3 June 2022.

⁴² Morning Star News, "[Muslim Villagers Destroy Church Building and Pastor's House](#)", 17 May 2022.

⁴³ Morning Star News, "[Two Christians Killed in Church Burning in Uganda](#)", 10 May 2022.

⁴⁴ Morning Star News, "[Two Christians Killed in Church Burning in Uganda](#)", 10 May 2022.

⁴⁵ Morning Star News, "[Young Mother Knifed on Easter for Becoming Christian](#)", 24 April 2022.

⁴⁶ Morning Star News, "[Head of Islamic School Burned, Fire for Becoming Christian](#)", 15 April 2022.

⁴⁷ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Sheikh Poisoned after Converting to Christianity](#)", 8 April 2022.

⁴⁸ Morning Star News, "[Family Sprayed with Acid for Leaving Islam](#)", 22 March 2022.

⁴⁹ Morning Star News, "[Family Sprayed with Acid for Leaving Islam](#)", 22 March 2022.

⁵⁰ Morning Star News, "[Hardline Muslims Kill Evangelist at Open-Air Event](#)", 8 March 2022.

⁵¹ Morning Star News, "[New Christian Seriously Injured after Church Service](#)", 18 February 2022.

	meat". ⁵²
January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of six Muslims interceded Christian evangelist <i>Charles Kamy</i> while he was traveling to participate in a religious debate. The mob beat Charles unconscious, stating "you have been terrorizing our religion. Today Allah has called you, and you are going to meet him". Charles survived and was taken to hospital.⁵³ • Christian convert and former mosque imam <i>Bashir Sengendo</i> was lured to his hometown under the guise of agricultural work, but he was beaten by his Muslim relatives. Nearly two weeks after the attack which left severe head and back injuries and major blood loss, Bashir passed away at Namutumba Hospital.⁵⁴

(c) 2021

December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bodies of <i>Shamira Nakato</i> and her two children, 8 years old and 3 years old, respectively, were found hanged. Earlier, Shamira's husband Hamidu Kasimbi had found out that she and the couple's eldest son accepted Christianity. On the day of the incident, a neighbor witnessed two Muslim men assembling a wooden structure, the one on which the three were later hanged.⁵⁵ • A Muslim mob attacked Bishop <i>Raymond Malinga Opio</i> after he spoke at a religious event where four Muslims converted to Christianity. The assailants had tricked Bishop Raymond into helping repair one of their motorcycles, and they then began beating him. The attackers dispersed after seeing car headlights approaching. • A Muslim mob beat <i>Oliva Apio</i>, the widow of a Christian evangelist who was killed a year earlier for his religious work. The mob also beat the couple's 16-year-old daughter, rendering her paraplegic.⁵⁶ • Christian mother <i>Aisha Nambeya</i> and her five children between the ages of two and nine years escaped their home and community after Aisha's Muslim husband severely beat her upon finding her with a Bible.⁵⁷
October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor <i>Stephen Lugwire</i> was working on his grazing fields when he was beaten to death by three unidentified assailants wearing Islamic dress. Pastor Stephen's daughter Brenda witnessed the murder and claimed that the perpetrators said the pastor would "face the wrath from Allah" for not removing his church and allowing the construction of a mosque.⁵⁸ • The decapitated remains of 60-year-old Christian convert and Church of Christ elder <i>Alex Mukasa</i> were found in a sugarcane plantation, and his head in a swamp, in Luuka District. In the weeks prior to his murder, Alex had been receiving death threats from local Muslims; it is believed there were five perpetrators.⁵⁹ • Muslim family members of Christian convert <i>Mustafa Obbo</i> beat and flogged him when he returned to his hometown to visit his ill mother. Mustafa's attackers included his own father, uncle, and older brother; fortunately, he was saved by a classmate, though he suffered major injuries to his legs and back.⁶⁰ The following month, Mustafa died after being set on fire by his two brothers.⁶¹

⁵² Morning Star News, "[Evangelist Beaten, Tied Up to Be Burned for Converting](#)", 16 February 2022.

⁵³ Morning Star News, "[Christian Apologist Beaten Unconscious in Kampala, Uganda](#)", 2 February 2022.

⁵⁴ Morning Star News, "[Former Mosque Leader in Uganda Beaten for Faith in Christ](#)", 24 January 2022.

⁵⁵ Morning Star News, "[Mother, Children in Uganda Hanged for Faith in Christ](#)", 5 January 2022.

⁵⁶ Morning Star News, "[Christian Widow, Daughter Beaten Unconscious in Uganda](#)", 12 January 2022.

⁵⁷ Morning Star News, "[Newly Christian Families Driven from Homes in Uganda](#)", 30 December 2021.

⁵⁸ Morning Star News, "[Pastor Slain for Refusing to Remove Church Building](#)", 14 November 2021.

⁵⁹ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Extremists Suspected in Killing of Church Elder in Uganda](#)", 10 November 2021.

⁶⁰ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Relatives Beat, Starve Christians in Eastern Uganda](#)", 22 October 2021.

⁶¹ Morning Star News, "[Christian Previously Beaten Lured into Lethal Trap](#)", 17 November 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian mother <i>Jafalan Muduwa</i> and her 8-year-old son escaped a room in which her Muslim husband had detained and starved the two for 13 days in anger over finding two Bibles in Jafalan's bag. Her husband called her a "blasphemous wife".⁶²
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of Muslims attacked and killed Pastor <i>Barnabas Musana</i> while he was on his boat in a lake. In the months leading up to the incident, local Muslims, began threatening the pastor, his wife, and their two children. Pastor Barnabas was killed for his evangelism in a village where he converted 15 months to Christianity within the span of six months. The perpetrators attacked the pastor while he was out fishing, and Barnabas' body was found mangled in a local river.⁶³ A Muslim mob attacked 83-year-old Christian widow <i>Harriet Namuganza</i> approximately one month after she housed two young Christian converts, 18 and 22 years old respectively. Harriet suffered injuries to her ribs but is in recovery.⁶⁴
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six Muslim teenagers killed 19-year-old Christian convert and fisherman <i>Dante 'Patrick' Tambika</i>. The group had waited for Patrick to disembark a boat on which he was fishing. The perpetrators demanded that Patrick renounce Christianity and return to Islam and, when he refused, strangled him to death.⁶⁵ 32-year-old <i>Saban Sajabi</i>, a former Islamic instructor and traveling sheikh who converted to Christianity and married a Christian woman, was lured into a swamp area, beaten to death, and buried in an ant pit by a mob hired by Saban's Muslim relatives. Saban's wife Sarah Birungi witnessed her husband's death before perpetrators told her Saban was killed because "Islam cannot tolerate infidels".⁶⁶ Muslim man Kasimu Kawona became angry and killed his 20-year-old Christian convert son <i>Tabiruka Tefiuro</i>, chasing him into their neighbor's home where he then hung Tabiruka by his neck with a rope and used a knife and farming hoe to kill him. Kasimu explained he had killed his son because he had "disgraced the Islamic religion".⁶⁷ The Muslim brother of Christian convert and mother of two, <i>Harriet Nanzala</i>, attacked her after he witnessed her reading the Bible. Harriet was slashed in the ankle by a knife but recovered. Her brother, Kwon Mugooda, claimed that "after my release, I will kill Harriet for renouncing Islam".⁶⁸
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Muslim father of recently-converted Christian mother of four <i>Hajira Namusoby</i> beat her and forced her to ingest mosquito repellent. Hajira's father was angered over her recent divorce from her abusive Muslim husband and remarriage to a Christian man. Hajira was rescued by a neighbor.⁶⁹
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39-year-old recent Christian convert <i>Abduclawali Kijwalo</i> was on his farmland when his brother, Musoga Murishid, arrived and questioned whether Abduclawali had renounced Islam. When Abduclawali confirmed this, Musoga tried to kill him by striking him in the head with a machete. Abduclawali survived the attack and is on the road to recovery.⁷⁰ Islamist extremists set the home of Pastor <i>Isima Kimbugwe</i> on fire in Kibuku District. They had earlier threatened him against spreading the gospel to Muslim. At the scene of the fire,

⁶² Morning Star News, "[Muslim Relatives Beat, Starve Christians in Eastern Uganda](#)", 22 October 2021.

⁶³ Morning Star News, "[Pastor Killed for Proclaiming Christ to Muslims, Sources Say](#)", 14 October 2021.

⁶⁴ Morning Star News, "[Elderly Christian Woman Beaten for Housing Converts from Islam](#)", 23 September 2021.

⁶⁵ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Extremists Kill 19-Year-Old Christian in Boat for His Faith](#)", 8 September 2021.

⁶⁶ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Relatives Set Lethal Trap for Convert to Christianity](#)", 26 August 2021.

⁶⁷ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Father Kills Son for His Christian Faith, Sources Say](#)", 19 August 2021.

⁶⁸ Morning Star News, "[Woman Survives Attempt on Her Life for Becoming Christian](#)", 16 August 2021.

⁶⁹ Morning Star News, "[Mother Beaten Unconscious for Leaving Islam, Marrying Christian](#)", 9 August 2021.

⁷⁰ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Brother of Christian Attacks Him with Machete](#)", 14 July 2021.

	<p>Pastor Isima's deceased body was found alongside a note saying "your enmity to Islam is what you have ripe". Pastor Isima leaves behind a wife and two teenage children.⁷¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The father of 38-year-old Christian convert <i>Hajat Habiiba Namuwaya</i> beat and forced her to ingest poison as revenge for her renunciation of Islam. Prior to the attack, Hajat's mother warned her that the family was planning to kill her.⁷² • Imam Uthman Olingha killed Bishop <i>Francis Obo</i> of Mpingire Pentecostal Revival Church, citing "Allah's word to kill all infidels who 'mislead' Muslims by sharing the Gospel".⁷³ • A group of Catholics physically and verbally assaulted an unnamed Christian evangelist woman for sharing the Gospel outside of the Uganda Martyrs Catholic Shrine in Namugongo. The Catholics that attacked the woman called her a "prostitute" and "Satan" in a video that was circulated by NTV Uganda.⁷⁴
<p>May 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Muslim employer by the name of Ahirafu Kasenyi hired multiple hitmen to kill one of his employees, a Christian evangelist by the name of <i>Fred Isiko</i>. Prior secretly recorded conversations showed Ahirafu telling Fred to convert to Islam if he wished to remain employed, though Fred refused.⁷⁵ • In Kibuku District, Muslim family members burnt down the home of Christian convert <i>Louis Levi Baula</i>. Louis and his wife Sifah Ainekisha noticed that their ill son's health was improving following their visit with a local pastor and decided to attend Sunday worship services at the church.⁷⁶ • <i>Kanifa Namulondo</i>, the widow of a Christian convert Siriman Kintu – who was beheaded in 2015 for his religious conversion – escaped her home with her five children after she heard local Muslims outside of her home saying "The husband betrayed our religion. We should do away with the entire family".⁷⁷ • Muslim extremists beheaded and removed the tongue of Christian pastor <i>Thomas Chikooma</i> immediately following his participation in a debate about Christianity and Islam in which he angered Muslim extremist audience members.⁷⁸
<p>April 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor <i>Yolomim Oduchu</i> passed away after eating a poisoned meal he was served at a Muslim-operated hotel located near a plot of land he refused to sell to local Muslims on account of his plans to build his own church there. One perpetrator, Muslim man Aliasia Opedru, admitted to the murder and to desecrating the deceased's grave following the burial.⁷⁹ • Ugandan Christian <i>Hassan Muwanguzi</i> sustained injuries after being deliberately struck by a Muslim on a motorcycle, allegedly in response to Hassan's work assisting persecuted Christian converts. Prior to the incident, Hassan had been receiving messages from Muslims saying "we have been warning you about this several times. But you have refused to heed our directive, so be ready with whatever action we are going to take."⁸⁰ • Muslim relatives of recently-converted Christian mother of seven <i>Salimati Naibira</i> severely beat and disowned her on Easter Sunday, which was the first day Salimati attended a

⁷¹ Morning Star News, "[Islamic Extremists Burn Pastor to Death in Uganda](#)", 6 July 2021.

⁷² Morning Star News, "[Muslim Father Beats, Poisons Daughter for Turning to Christ](#)", 2 July 2021.

⁷³ Aaron Sseruyigo, "[Man kills pastor over outreach to Muslims in Uganda, arrested](#)", *Uganda Christian News*, 21 June 2021.

⁷⁴ Aaron Sseruyigo, "[7 Major responses to attack on street evangelist at Namugongo](#)", *Uganda Christian News*, 4 June 2021.

⁷⁵ Anton Carillo, "[Muslim Employer Sends Hitmen to Kill Christian Employee Who Refused to Convert to Islam. Report Says](#)", *Christian Daily*, 10 June 2021.

⁷⁶ Morning Star News, "[Employer Allegedly Sends Hit Men to Kill Christian: In another village, Muslim relatives destroy home of new believer](#)", 8 June 2021.

⁷⁷ Morning Star News, "[Muslims Burn Down Christian Widow's Reconstructed House](#)", 16 May 2021.

⁷⁸ Morning Star News, "[Pastor Slain after Leading Muslims to Christ at Religious Debate](#)", 12 May 2021.

⁷⁹ Morning Star News, "[Muslims Allegedly Poison Pastor over Plans for Church Building](#)", 2 May 2021.

⁸⁰ *Supra* note 79.

	<p>church service. While recovering, Salimati recalled being slashed in the leg and back by her husband, which caused her to fall unconscious.⁸¹</p>
February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imam Caled Bwambale Hussein ordered a group of Muslims to rape three female relatives – ages 19, 17, and 16 years – of Christian Pastor <i>Nelson Walina</i> after he found out that his wife, Mariam Mbambu, had converted to Christianity after attending the pastor’s church. Pastor Nelson had previously received messages from unidentified individuals warning him against evangelism lest he face “severe punishment”.⁸² • A Muslim man beat his Christian convert wife, 25-year-old mother of three <i>Janati Kyoleka</i>, after he found out about her religious conversion. He had additionally thrown acid upon Janati.⁸³
January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family of Pastor <i>Moses Nabwana</i> was attacked for a second time in their home just a month after being attacked by local Muslim radicals in December 2020. The mob strangled the pastor’s wife, <i>Lovisa Naura</i>, sliced the knee open of the couple’s 10-year-old daughter, and inflicted an eye injury on the other 12-year-old daughter.⁸⁴ • A Muslim man attacked his pregnant Christian wife <i>Mansitula Buliro</i> after she revealed to him she experienced a vision of Christ and had visited a Christian neighbor to pray. Mansitula suffered a miscarriage as a result of the assault.⁸⁵

(d) 2020

December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of Muslim extremists raped a 50-year-old Christian female pastor – name redacted for privacy and security reasons – after months of receiving messages from Muslim neighbors that “we as Muslims have no relations with infidels”.⁸⁶ • The Muslim husband of 38-year-old Christian convert and mother of three, <i>Zubeda Nabiryre</i>, forced her to drink pesticide after he found her secret stash of Bibles.⁸⁷ • A Muslim mob beat Christian pastor <i>Moses Nabwana</i> and his wife in their home. Earlier that day at the couple’s church, an imam converted to Christianity, and a local mosque was informed of the ‘apostasy’.⁸⁸
November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim relatives attacked Christian convert and former Islamic teacher <i>Emmanuel Hamuzah</i> after he refused to renounce Christianity and return to his former faith. The assailants beat Emmanuel with sticks and killed his 6-year-old son by stepping on his neck.⁸⁹ • Muslim extremists stopped Pastor <i>Wilson Niwamanya</i> and his 12-year-old son <i>Simon</i> while they were returning home from distributing Christian literature. The attackers shouted “this man must die for disrespecting our religion”; pastor Wilson sustained severe head injuries but survived the attack, though his son perished from stab wounds.⁹⁰

⁸¹ Morning Star News, [“Mother of Seven Wounded, Loses Family for Becoming Christian”](#), 13 April 2021.

⁸² Morning Star News, [“Pastor’s Relatives Raped after Imam’s Wife Turns to Christ”](#), 11 March 2021.

⁸³ Morning Star News, [“Christian Mother in Uganda Hit with Acid for Her Faith, Sources Say”](#), 26 February 2021.

⁸⁴ Morning Star News, [“Family of Assaulted Pastor Attacked Again by Area Muslims”](#), 28 January 2021.

⁸⁵ Morning Star News, [“Woman Loses Family after Responding to Visions, She Says”](#), 22 January 2021.

⁸⁶ Morning Star News, [“Muslim Extremists Rape Pastor in Eastern Uganda, Sources Say”](#), 30 December 2020.

⁸⁷ Morning Star News, [“Muslim in Uganda Forces Christian Wife to Drink Pesticide”](#), 17 December 2020.

⁸⁸ Morning Star News, [“Pastor, Wife in Uganda Attacked after Imam Becomes Christian”](#), 12 January 2021.

⁸⁹ Morning Star News, [“Pastor, Two Christian Boys Killed in Islamist Attacks in Uganda”](#), 26 November 2020.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim extremists killed <i>David Omara</i> after he praised Christianity and disputed Islam in a radio broadcast.⁹¹
September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 13-year-old son of Christian convert and former imam <i>Sulaiman Pulisi</i> was killed. The boy's 15-year-old sister has since been rescued and reported that she was used as a "sex object" during her time in captivity of a Muslim shaman.⁹²
July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim family members attacked Christian converts and cousins <i>Ahmad Waisana</i> and <i>Jalilu Kamutono</i> after it was revealed that the two had begun listening to a radio program led by a former sheikh who had converted to Christianity, as well as attended a religious debate. The younger cousin Jalilu passed away due to injuries sustained in the attack, with his cousin in critical state.⁹³
June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim radicals beat and drowned 25-year-old Pastor <i>Peter Kyakulaga</i> and 22-year-old church member <i>Tuule Mumbya</i> in an act of revenge for their activities peacefully evangelizing Muslims along the river coast during fishing trips.⁹⁴ • Muslim radicals attacked the wife of Christian convert and former imam <i>Marijan Olupot</i> in response to his newfound faith.⁹⁵ • A Muslim mob trespassed upon the home of Christian convert <i>Mbulakyaalo Badawuyi</i> and demanded that he renounce his faith and return to Islam. When Mbulakyaalo refused, the assailants beat him with sticks and set fire to his home.⁹⁶
May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Muslim father set fire to his 24-year-old daughter <i>Rehema Kyomuhendo</i> after he overheard her talking about Jesus in a phone conversation with a Roman Catholic. Ms. Kyomuhendo survived the attack.⁹⁷
April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim radicals physically assaulted <i>Lydia Nabirye</i>, the 23-year-old daughter of a Church of God evangelist.⁹⁸
February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27-year-old Christian convert <i>Sylvia Shamimu Nabafa</i> was beaten by her father, Haji Juma Suleiman, after he was informed she had converted religions and regularly attended church. Sylvia was six months pregnant at the time of the attack, but she is recovering well and her pregnancy remains healthy.⁹⁹ • An unnamed pastor began receiving threatening text messages after he accepted a family of eleven Christian converts to stay in his church compound. The wife had originally converted after experiencing some relief from anxiety after praying at a church. Over the course of six months the woman's nine children accepted Christianity. The woman's husband was at first angry over his wife and children's new faith but soon converted as well. The family had to flee their village in December 2019 after receiving threats from their Muslim relatives.¹⁰⁰

B. Arbitrary and prolonged detention of muslims and attacks on their institutions (articles 9, 17, 18, 19)

⁹¹ Morning Star News, ["Muslims Ambush, Kill Pastor after Radio Broadcast in Uganda"](#), 6 November 2020.

⁹² Morning Star News, ["Christian Boy in Uganda Feared Killed in Ritual Sacrifice"](#), 28 September 2020.

⁹³ Morning Star News, ["Christian Dies. Cousin in Critical Condition after Assault in Uganda"](#), 26 August 2020.

⁹⁴ Morning Star News, ["Pastor, Church Member Die for Proclaiming Christ in Eastern Uganda"](#), 30 July 2020.

⁹⁵ Morning Star News, ["Villagers Burn Home, Beat Wife of Former Muslim Sheikh in Eastern Uganda"](#), 22 June 2020.

⁹⁶ Morning Star News, ["Villagers Burn Home, Beat Wife of Former Muslim Sheikh in Eastern Uganda"](#), 22 June 2020.

⁹⁷ Morning Star News, ["Muslim Father in Uganda Burns Daughter for Becoming Christian"](#), 21 May 2020.

⁹⁸ Morning Star News, ["Young Christian Woman and Pregnant Convert Seriously Injured in Eastern Uganda"](#), 20 April 2020.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ Morning Star News, ["Family of 11 Homeless for Leaving Islam in Eastern Uganda"](#), 27 February 2020.

2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In late June 2022, seven Muslim leaders who led the conversion of a group of Ugandans to Islam were arrested while residing on Walusi Hill in Luwero, including Imam <i>Isa Kisinja</i> and six other leaders who led faith conversions. Remaining suspects include Muwanda Kyambadde, Abdulrahman Mudde, Mubarak Lubulwa, Shafik Kazibwe, and Amirat Masturah Nakyeyune. It was also reported that the authorities evicted 70 new Muslim converts from their residences on Walusi Hill. The Muslims were kept in unlawful detention as they had not been pressed with charges or presented in court.¹⁰¹ It was reported that <i>Umar Kabonge Ajobe</i> of Luwero District was abducted from his home by a group of seven armed plainclothes police who handcuffed Umar and shoved him to the floor. Umar's wife who witnessed the incident reported that the authorities seized the couple's two cellphones and shoved Umar into a Toyota Hiace (generally referred to as a 'drone') before driving away to an undisclosed location where he has remained as of December 2022.¹⁰²
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2021, authorities arrested Sheikh <i>Swaibu Segujja</i>, a Zakat representative (coordinator of almsgiving collection) and imam of Butanza Mosque in Luwero District; he was detained alongside his wife and mother. It was reported that the three were released soon after their original arrest. Officials also arrested Sheikh <i>Muhammed Ssemwanga</i>, the imam of Lusenke Mosque and a teacher at Lugo Orphanage and Rashid Ibn Warid Islamic Primary School. Days earlier, authorities arbitrarily arrested and subsequently shot to death Sheikh <i>Muhammad Abbas Kirevu</i>, though no reason for his extrajudicial killing has been provided. It is believed that, similar to the unwarranted arrests of other Muslim leaders, Sheikh Kirevu was targeted on unproven allegations of Islamic extremism. Sheikh Ali Shiuyo has explained that police targeting of Muslims increases following terrorist attacks despite that those arrested have no provable connection to these crimes. "Even our Christian neighbour are worried about our lives. Immediately after the Kampala twin bomb blasts, my Christian neighbours came and sympathized with me, saying how [they] know they [police] are going to start arresting Muslims again".¹⁰³
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 18 May and 29 May 2020, Ugandan authorities arbitrarily arrested six Muslim civilians; five of the detained individuals had leadership roles in their mosques, including being Imams or Muezzins. The first arrest was of <i>Umaru Nsubuga</i> of Namaseene village, who was shot in the leg while attempting to flee his home and who has not been heard from by his mother since his arrest. Police then arrested 53-year-old <i>Lamulah Nakyeyune</i> and her son in Butego village, 61-year-old Imam <i>Twaha Kayondo</i> of Kijjabwemi mosque, and two men <i>Noordin Ssali</i> and <i>Bashir</i>; police confiscated personal items, documents, and Kayondos' motorcycle. Prior to the 2020 arrests, Nsubuga and Nakyeyune were arrested in 2017 for their alleged links to the murder of a former police spokesperson, but they were released over a year later due to lack of evidence.¹⁰⁴

IV. Gender-Based violence, intimate partner violence, and violence against women - articles 6 & 7

A November 2021 survey¹⁰⁵ conducted by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Women Count, and Spotlight Initiative indicates that out of 2,683 girls and women between the ages of 15 and 59 years, 45% (1,207) have at some point in their lives been subjected to physical violence at the hands of their romantic partners.

¹⁰¹ Brian Luwaga, "[Seven Leaders of Muslim Converts Detained for A Week Without Charge](#)", *Uganda Radio Network*, 30 June 2022.

¹⁰² The Independent Uganda, "[Armed men driving 'drone' kidnap man in Luwero](#)", 20 March 2022.

¹⁰³ The Observer Uganda, "[Two Sheikhs arrested in Luwero](#)", 22 November 2021.

¹⁰⁴ Davis Buyondo, "[Arrest of Six Muslims in Masaka Sparks Protests](#)", *Uganda Radio Network*, 1 June 2020.

¹⁰⁵ Uganda Bureau of Statistics, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Women Count, & Spotlight Initiative, [National Survey on Violence in Uganda - Module 1: Violence against Women and Girls](#), November 2021.

Separately, 36% of respondents (966) were victims of sexual violence from partners. Even outside of intimate relationships, women and girls reported incidences of physical and sexual violence (55%), largely perpetrated by male family members. The survey further revealed that 55% of women reported experiencing emotional violence and/or controlling behaviors from their partners.

- Physical violence includes: slapping, throwing of objects, pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, burning, choking, and threatened/actual use of weapons such as knives or guns
- Sexual violence includes: rape (threatened, coerced, or physically forced to engage in sexual intercourse), performing non-consensual sexual acts upon - or demanding sexual acts from - another individual
- Emotional abuse: verbal insults, public humiliation, threats and intimidation
- Controlling behaviors: preventing individual from contacting or visiting friends and/or family, demanding to know the location of the individual at all times, controlling an individual's access to healthcare and financial assets

The World Bank and The Republic of Uganda Office of the Prime Minister released a report in September 2020 highlighting the existing issues regarding gender-based violence (GBV) in Uganda. Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains the most common form of GBV in the nation, though it is seldom reported by the victims. Male respondents of the study reported that, while they have a generally negative view of domestic violence, they tend to resort to it in instances when their partner is disobedient. Emotional violence –dehumanizing, humiliating, berating, and threatening – as well as sexual violence and rape are also extremely common in Uganda. The main obstacles to tackling IPV in Uganda include societal expectations of the woman's subservience to their male partners, the misconception that domestic abuse should remain a private matter, and the shame and stigma associated with being raped or punished by an intimate partner.¹⁰⁶ Even Ugandan women have indicated that they justify intimate partner violence towards women to some extent in certain circumstances, including when a woman disobeys her husband (27%), refuses to engage in sexual intercourse, questions her husband's fidelity, and herself engaging in extramarital affairs (43%).¹⁰⁷

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown has observably increased rates of GBV and violence against women (VAW) in Uganda. Tensions caused by unemployment, socio-economic stress, starvation, pandemic anxiety, and idleness have increased rates of physical, psychological, and sexual harm in Uganda (i.e., pushing, slapping, punching, forced confinement, neglect, deliberate burns, severe cutting, sexual defilement, marital rape, forced pregnancy). 46% of Ugandan women reported experiencing physical domestic violence "when in fear of an upsurge of COVID-19, lockdown and quarantines". In the month between 30 March 2020 and 28 April 2020, 3,280 cases of GBV were recorded in Uganda, a major increase compared to non-pandemic times.¹⁰⁸

The World Health Organization identifies the following major existing steps to be taken to improve Uganda's health system in its response to GBV and VAW: more comprehensive training on assistance/treatment of survivors; increased post-rape care and midwifery education programs; gathering of "medico-legal evidence" for prosecution of relevant GBV and VAW cases.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ The Republic of Uganda Office of the Prime Minister & The World Bank Group, [Linking, Aligning, and Convening: Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Children Prevention and Response Services in Uganda's Refugee Hosting District](#), September 2020.

¹⁰⁷ Uganda Bureau of Statistics, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Women Count, & Spotlight Initiative, [National Survey on Violence in Uganda - Module 1: Violence against Women and Girls](#), November 2021.

¹⁰⁸ Madinah Nabukeera, [Prevention and response to gender-based violence \(GBV\) during novel Covid-19 lock-down in Uganda](#), The Journal of Adult Protection, Volume 23 Issue 2, 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁹ World Health Organization, [Strengthening the health system response to violence against women in Uganda](#), 19 October 2020.

V. Violence against children, child sexual abuse, & child neglect

According to a 2019 survey conducted by The Republic of Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, and Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Uganda (TPOUG), 75% of Ugandan children have reported experiencing violence; 50% have experienced physical abuse. In educational institutions in Uganda, corporal punishment – including slapping, punching, and beating with canes is still commonly used despite legislations prohibiting it. Ugandan adults between the ages of 18 and 24 responded to the survey. 70% of men reported experiencing physical violence as boys; 60% of women reported experiencing physical violence as girls; and 90% of all respondents said they had been subjected to it on multiple occasions. Over 57% of girls and 53% of boys have been subjected to sexual violence before the age of 16. Female respondents identified child marriage and exploitative relationships as a main catalyst for sexual violence, as well as stigma against victims and deficient law enforcement. The primary reason many respondents refrained from reporting acts of physical and sexual violence against them as a child was the perception that they were at fault in the incident, that violence was not a real problem, or that no benefit would come out of reporting.¹¹⁰

Uganda, being one of the nations with the most severe COVID-19 lockdown measures, witnessed increased rates of child sexual, emotional, and physical violence, as well as neglect. The Uganda Child Helpline (UCHL), which responds to calls reporting violence against children and usually received an average of 100 daily calls pre-pandemic, reported receiving approximately 1,369 calls a day within 16 days in April 2020. Between 10 and 26 April, UCHL received 21,904 reports. The majority of these reports of violence against children included neglect, physical abuse, and even two cases of homicide, with the main determinants being the guardian's increased stress-induced aggression.¹¹¹

VI. Suggested questions for the Republic of Uganda

1. Please provide information on steps taken to reevaluate the non-compliance of national legislation with obligations pursuant to international conventions and covenants. This includes Article 122 of Chapter XIII of the Penal Code Act of Uganda which criminalizes alleged blasphemy and which is therefore in contravention of Article 19 of the present Covenant (see General Comment No. 34; para 48.) Furthermore, provide information on any steps taken, if any, to align national legislation with international human rights obligations, whether it be via repeal, amendment, revision, etc.
2. Please clarify what measures have been taken, if any, to provide protection and security to individuals at risk of violations of their right to freedom from arbitrary deprivation of life as punitive sanctions for individuals' expressions of religious belief and/or nonbelief. More specifically, what steps have been taken in protection of faith minorities, such as Christians, who routinely receive death threats, are viciously attacked, and are killed for their expressions of belief or disbelief. As per General Comment No. 36 regarding Covenant article 6, states parties are required to protect its civilians - particularly those of marginalized or vulnerable groups - from arbitrary deprivation of life committed by state and non-state actors alike.

¹¹⁰ The Republic of Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development & Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Uganda, [Uganda Violence Against Children Survey: Key Findings And Actions](#), 2019.

¹¹¹ Quraish Sserwanja, Joseph Kawuki, & Jean H Kim, "[Increased child abuse in Uganda amidst COVID-19 pandemic](#)", Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, Volume 57(2), 9 December 2020.

3. Please provide information on what steps have been taken, if any, to identify, investigate, and prosecute perpetrators of violence against or murder of faith minorities, especially regarding individuals who have left Islam in the northern and other regions of Uganda.
4. Please explain what measures have been taken, if any, to combat the arbitrary detention of faith leaders by state actors without warrant, without charges, and without trial, as all three are violations of article 9 of the present Covenant (General Comment No. 35).
5. Please clarify what steps have been taken, if any, to improve the status of religious freedom in Uganda, specifically with regards to increasing confidence in the ability to manifest one's beliefs without fear of reprisal from state and/or non-state actors, as outlined in article 18 of the present Covenant (General Comment No. 22)
6. Please explain what progress has been made, if any, to improve GBV/IPV/VAW evidence gathering and preservation, reporting and referral mechanisms, record-keeping, victim privacy management, and witness protection; expand criminal investigation capacities.
7. Please provide information on what measures have been taken, if any, to establish and promote health services and psycho-social services tailored to treat survivors of GBV/IPV/VAW and encourage incident reporting among victims and witnesses.
8. Please clarify what progress has been made, if any, to develop an early detection mechanism for violence against children (VAC) ; when necessary, engage in pre-emptive intervention and offer support and social services to children and families in situations of vulnerability that aggrandize the risk of future VAC.
9. Please explain what steps have been taken, if any, to improve VAC evidence gathering and preservation, reporting and referral mechanisms, record-keeping, victim privacy management, and witness protection; expand criminal investigation capacities.

VII. Annex 1: Photograph documentation (all images courtesy of Morning Star News under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States License¹¹²)

 <p>Hassan Muwanguzi</p> <p>Christian man struck by motorist after receiving threatening messages regarding his evangelism¹¹³</p>	 <p>Salimati Naibira</p> <p>Attacked by Muslim relatives while on her way to attend Easter worship services¹¹⁴</p>	 <p>Hajat Habiiba</p> <p>Poisoned by father for converting to Christianity¹¹⁵</p>
 <p>Charles Kamyia</p> <p>Christian man attacked by Muslims while on his way to attend a religious debate¹¹⁶</p>	 <p>Hiire Sadiki</p> <p>Former Muslim sheikh poisoned by wife after she learned of his conversion to Christianity¹¹⁷</p>	 <p>Emmanuel Mugabi</p> <p>Youth pastor killed during an attack by a Muslim mob upon Bukomero Miracle Center Church¹¹⁸</p>

¹¹² Attribution 3.0 United States ([CC BY 3.0 US](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/us/)).

¹¹³ Morning Star News, "[Muslims Allegedly Poison Pastor over Plans for Church Building](#)", 2 May 2021.

¹¹⁴ Morning Star News, "[Mother of Seven Wounded, Loses Family for Becoming Christian](#)", 13 April 2021.

¹¹⁵ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Father Beats, Poisons Daughter for Turning to Christ](#)", 2 July 2021.

¹¹⁶ Morning Star News, "[Christian Apologist Beaten Unconscious in Kampala, Uganda](#)", 2 February 2022.

¹¹⁷ Morning Star News, "[Muslim Sheikh Poisoned after Converting to Christianity](#)", 8 April 2022.

¹¹⁸ Morning Star News, "[Youth Pastor Killed in Muslim Extremist Attack on Church](#)", 3 June 2022.



Bukomero Miracle Center Church



Amon Sadiiki

Bishop attacked by Muslim mob following his participation in a religious debate¹¹⁹



Ahmad Waisana and Jalilu Kamutono

Cousins severely beaten by Muslim relatives for converting to Christianity. Jalilu passed away from injuries sustained during the attack¹²⁰



Musa John Kasadha

Christian convert attacked by Muslim mob, resulting in the amputation of his hand¹²¹



Zubeda Nabirye

Christian convert forced by husband to ingest pesticide as punishment for her new faith¹²²



Abdudlawali Kijwalo

Christian convert attacked by Muslim brother for proudly declaring his new faith¹²³

¹¹⁹ Morning Star News, [“Two Christians Killed in Church Burning in Uganda”](#), 10 May 2022.

¹²⁰ Morning Star News, [“Christian Dies, Cousin in Critical Condition after Assault in Uganda”](#), 26 August 2020.

¹²¹ Morning Star News, [“Muslim Extremists Cut Off Hand of Christian Convert”](#), 16 August 2022.

¹²² Morning Star News, [“Muslim in Uganda Forces Christian Wife to Drink Pesticide”](#), 17 December 2020.

¹²³ Morning Star News, [“Muslim Brother of Christian Attacks Him with Machete”](#), 14 July 2021.