



MCJL
MUSLIM CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND LAW



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
LAWYERS' FRATERNITY**
Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Prov 31:9



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF UGANDA

**A JOINT PETITION BY FAITH BASED AND PUBLIC INTEREST CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS,**

**ALLEGING EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLINGS OF UGANDAN CITIZENS BY
UGANDA SECURITY AGENCIES WITH A REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE, HEAR
AND ISSUE A REPORT ON THE SAME.**

We, Uganda Muslim Lawyers Association, Uganda Christian lawyers fraternity, Muslim Centre for justice and Law and the Network for Public interest litigation [the petitioners], Do hereby petition the Honourable Chairperson of the human rights commission to open and conduct an investigation, hear, make orders and issue a report on the alleged extra judicial killing of Ugandan citizens by the country's security agencies.

The petitioners note that Since 2012, there has been a wave of terror manifesting itself in gruesome murder of several persons including Muslim Clerics; Shiekh Muwaya Abdul-Kadir, Shiekh Mustafah Bahiga, Shiekh Yunus Sentamu, Shiekh Harunah Jemba, Major Muhammad Kiggundu among others. Apart from Shiekh, political leaders like Ibrahim Abiriga and civil servants like Andrew Felix Kaweesi, Kirumira Muhammad, Joan Kagezi have been killed in cold blood. These killings have posed a serious threat to peace and national security.

The state has come out to condemn the killings and clarified that the killings

are being committed by members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Many arrests have been made but we are yet to secure convictions. On the side of justice to the suspects, the process has been punctuated by instances of torture, denial of counsel at opportune moment, threats to relatives, re-arrests upon acquittal by court among other injustices. In April, 2015, the suspected leader of ADF Jamil Mukulu was arrested and he awaits trial 6 years down the road.

A right to a fair hearing is guaranteed under the 1995 Constitution. A fair hearing accords the public an opportunity to understand how and heinous crimes are being committed and by who. It enables security agencies to trace all the responsible culprits in an offence. A fair hearing further fosters a sense of justice to the victims and suspects and offers confidence in our criminal justice system.

Instances of extra-judicial execution by the security agencies have been piling up. In December, 2020, the President informed the nation that Zebra Senyange was killed by joint security agencies in the course of arrest. The Security agencies also killed over 54 people during the November, 2020 riots.

On 16th November, 2021, when Kampala was hit in the twin bombings, one of the suspected suicide bomber was shot dead and succumbed to wounds. In security operations that followed, Shiekh Kirevu Abbas was arrested from his home, handcuffed and gunned down shortly thereafter, according to statement by the eye witnesses.

The practice of killing suspects undermines the trust that Ugandans have in our justice system. It is also a violation of Article 22 (1) of the Constitution which provides that, *“No person shall be deprived of life intentionally except in the execution of a sentence in a fair trial by a court of competent jurisdiction in respect of a criminal offence under the laws of Uganda and the conviction and sentence*

Article 52 of the constitution, gives the commission the duty to investigate at its own or on a complaint made by any person or group of persons against violation of any human right while article 53 gives the commission power to

hear evidence relating to matter under investigation by calling for attendance of persons or production of documents relevant to any investigation by the commission.

In light of the above mandate, we pray that the commission carries out the following;

- a) Investigate extra judicial killing of Ugandan citizens by security agencies in response to domestic terror allegedly by ADF.
- b) To issue summons and hear evidence in accordance with article 53 (1) of the constitution.
- c) To grant the necessary remedies provided for under article 52 (2) of the constitution, including compensation for the families of the deceased.

We so pray

Uganda Muslim Lawyers Association

Muslim Centre for Justice & Law

Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity

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