



Uganda's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting Relating to:
The Death Penalty**

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

and

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

for the 83rd Session of the Committee against Torture

10– 28 November 2025

Submitted 22 August 2025

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit human rights advocacy organization, registered in Uganda under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2016. FHRI's vision is a society based on human rights and civic culture as a foundation for peace, stability, democracy, social justice and sustainable

development. FHRI's Mission is to promote respect and observance of human rights practices and civic values, enhance best practices through training, education, research, advocacy, ICTs, and strategic partnership. The organization has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (Paris), and is affiliated to the International Federation of Human Rights Defenders, (FIDH) in Paris, France. It is a membership organization with a total of 1,515 members. FHRI commands a 30-year experience and expertise in human rights activism in Uganda. FHRI has been at the forefront in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, publication of periodic human rights reports, legal aid service provision to victims of human rights abuse; reporting before regional human rights treaty bodies, the Judiciary, parliament, police and actively campaigns for the abolition of the death penalty including carrying out programs that promote citizen participation and state accountability. Currently, it is spearheading five campaigns namely; *My Rights, My Power, Access to Justice, Rights and Rule of Law, Freedom from Pre-trial detention, and the Campaign against the death penalty in Uganda*. FHRI is located at the Human Rights House, Plot 1853, John Kiyindi Road, Nsambya, Kampala Uganda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses Uganda's compliance with its international human rights obligations with respect to the death penalty and provides an update to the coauthors' 2022 Report to the Committee on Uganda's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the context of Uganda's laws, policies, and customs concerning the death penalty. This report examines significant challenges Uganda faces in upholding its obligations under the Torture Convention, particularly regarding the death penalty, torture, execution of the writ of habeas corpus, gender-based violence, and legal aid.
2. Uganda has recently expanded the use of military courts to try civilians, in direct contravention of constitutional and international human rights standards. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Act, which expands military jurisdiction over civilians, and the continued detention of opposition figures in unauthorized facilities, highlight the dissolution of judicial safeguards such as habeas corpus and fair trial rights.
3. Conditions of detention in Uganda remain dire, with severe overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, and inhumane treatment. The majority of people in detention are awaiting trial, often for many years. Reports of torture, denial of medical care, and deaths due to poor prison conditions are widespread.
4. Uganda's legislative developments, such as the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023, have perpetuated discriminatory practices and expanded the scope of capital offenses.
5. Legal aid remains inaccessible for many Ugandans, and authorities have failed to enact a national legal aid policy and bill, citing budgetary constraints.

Uganda fails to uphold its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

1. **While maintaining a *de facto* moratorium on executions, Uganda has expanded the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty, violating international human rights standards with discriminatory legislation (Concluding Observations paras. 39-40).**
6. In 2022, the Committee expressed regret that although the Penal Code contains eight sections under which offenses are punishable by death and that the Penal Code Act, the Anti-Terrorism Act, and Uganda People's Defence Forces Act subject 28 offenses to the death penalty, the language used in those laws was not consistent. The Committee also expressed regret that Uganda had not provided detailed and disaggregated data on the number of individuals under sentence of death.¹ The Committee recommended that Uganda ensure that death sentences of all persons who have been on death row for more than three years are commuted to prison terms. The Committee also recommended that Uganda provide annual disaggregated data about the people currently under sentence of death, improve legal assistance for people charged with capital crimes and for people under

¹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 39.

sentence of death, consider reducing the number of capital offenses, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.²

7. Uganda carried out its last execution of a civilian in 1999 and its last military execution in 2005.³ Nonetheless, Uganda does not have an official moratorium on executions,⁴ and in 2018, President Yoweri Museveni announced that Uganda could resume executions.⁵ According to Amnesty International, Ugandan courts handed down at least two death sentences in 2024, and by the end of 2024 at least 104 people were known to have been under sentenced of death.⁶
51. In October 2019, Uganda announced plans for a bill that would impose the death penalty on individuals who engage in consensual same-sex conduct.⁷ On March 22, 2023, Parliament passed the Bill.⁸ The Bill criminalized the act of “identifying as a homosexual” and required that citizens report such individuals to the authorities.⁹ The Bill extended an existing ban on consensual same-sex sexual conduct by banning the “promotion of homosexuality.”¹⁰ The Bill authorized the death penalty for acts of “aggravated homosexuality.”¹¹
52. “Aggravated homosexuality” includes same-sex relations: (i) involving a minor; (ii) involving a person living with HIV; (iii) involving a parent or guardian of the person against whom the offense is committed; (iv) involving a person having authority or control over the person against whom the offense is committed; (v) with a person that has a disability; (vi) where the offender is a habitual offender; or (vii) involving the offender’s

² Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 40.

³ Replies of Uganda to the list of issues in relation to its second periodic report, ¶ 50, 138th Sess., June 26 – July 28, 2023, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/UGA/RQ/2 (March 14, 2023); The Advocates for Human Rights, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative & The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Uganda Stakeholder Report on the Death Penalty for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review*, ¶ 24 (July 15, 2021).

⁴ Republic of Uganda (Uganda), CORNELL CENTER ON THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE, last updated 2021, <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/database/#/results/country?id=82>.

⁵ The Advocates for Human Rights, Foundation for Human Rights & The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Uganda’s Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Relating to the Death Penalty*, ¶ 4 (May 2, 2022).

⁶ Amnesty International, *Death sentences and executions 2024* (2025) at 34, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/8976/2025/en/>.

⁷ The Advocates for Human Rights, Foundation for Human Rights & The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Uganda’s Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Relating to the Death Penalty*, ¶ 10 (May 2, 2022).

⁸ Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda’s anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/>.

⁹ Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda’s anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/>.

¹⁰ Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda’s anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/>.

¹¹ Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda’s anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/>.

use of any drug or substance, with intent to stupefy or overpower the victim, in order to have same-sex sexual relations.¹² Consent of the other party is not a defense.¹³

53. On April 26, 2023, President Museveni sent the Bill back to Parliament, requesting that Parliament amend three key issues: (i) the Bill was too vague about what was being criminalized and that the Bill should focus on the act of homosexuality, rather than identifying as homosexual; (ii) clause 14 of the Bill, which created a duty to report homosexuality to Ugandan authorities, created constitutional contradictions and Parliament should remove or redraft the clause; and (iii) Parliament should remove clause 9, which focused on the premises where same-sex conduct takes place.¹⁴ President Museveni did not request that Parliament amend or remove the provisions authorizing the death penalty.
54. On May 2, 2023, the Ugandan Parliament passed an amended version of the Bill, incorporating some of President Museveni's proposals.¹⁵ Later that month, President Museveni signed the Amended Bill into law, despite pressure from other nations and from human rights organizations to issue a veto. The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 does not provide for the mandatory death penalty, but it authorizes the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality."¹⁶
55. In 2024, the Constitutional Court upheld the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023.¹⁷
56. After Parliament introduced the Bill in 2023, local groups reported that officials and private parties had stepped up attacks and discrimination targeting members of the LGBTQ+ community.¹⁸ These attacks included beatings, sexual and psychological violence, evictions, blackmail, loss of employment, online harassment, and denial of health care based on perceived or real sexual orientation or gender identity.
57. **Suggested questions** relating to the death penalty:
- Provide disaggregated data that the Committee requested in paragraph 40 of its 2022 Concluding Observations, and also include, for any women under sentence of

¹² Catherine Nicholls & Nimi Princewill, *Uganda lawmakers amend controversial anti-gay law but death penalty for HIV positive sex remains*, CNN, last updated May 2, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/02/africa/uganda-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-intl/index.html>; The Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2023, Bills Supplement to The Uganda Gazette No. 16, Volume CXVI (March 3, 2023). Also available online at: <https://www.jurist.org/news/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/03/Anti-Homosexuality-Bill-2023.pdf>.

¹³ The Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2023, Bills Supplement to The Uganda Gazette No. 16, Volume CXVI (March 3, 2023). Also available online at: <https://www.jurist.org/news/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/03/Anti-Homosexuality-Bill-2023.pdf>.

¹⁴ Natasha Kahungi, *Uganda Parliament passes anti-homosexuality bill with president's amendments*, JURIST LEGAL NEWS & RESEARCH SERVICES, May 2, 2023, <https://www.jurist.org/news/2023/05/uganda-parliament-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-with-presidents-amendments/>.

¹⁵ Catherine Nicholls & Nimi Princewill, *Uganda lawmakers amend controversial anti-gay law but death penalty for HIV positive sex remains*, CNN, last updated May 2, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/02/africa/uganda-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-intl/index.html>.

¹⁶ Catherine Nicholls & Nimi Princewill, *Uganda lawmakers amend controversial anti-gay law but death penalty for HIV positive sex remains*, CNN, last updated May 2, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/02/africa/uganda-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-intl/index.html>.

¹⁷ *Uganda: Court Upholds Anti-Homosexuality Act*, Human Rights Watch, last updated April 4, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/04/04/uganda-court-upholds-anti-homosexuality-act>.

¹⁸ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, 2025, p. 185.

death, information regarding the woman's relationship with any codefendants or victims.

- How many reports have officials, including the Uganda Human Rights Commission, received regarding discrimination and violence targeting members of the LGBTQ+ community since 2022? What steps have authorities taken to investigate these allegations and to hold perpetrators accountable? Have any people been charged with “aggravated homosexuality” under the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023? If so, what is the status of those cases?
- What procedures are in place to ensure that any person who has been under sentence of death for three years receives an adjustment of sentence to a term of imprisonment?
- What measures have authorities taken since 2022 to improve the quality of legal assistance for people charged with capital crimes and for people under sentence of death?
- What steps have authorities taken to reduce the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty?
- What measures have lawmakers taken to give consideration to ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty?

II. Women come into conflict with the law and are at risk of being sentenced to death due in part to inadequate official responses to gender-based violence (Concluding Observations paras. 27-28).

58. In 2022, the Committee expressed concern about the prevalence of gender-based violence and domestic violence as well as the absence of statistical data on official responses to complaints of gender-based violence.¹⁹ The Committee recommended that Uganda ensure that authorities thoroughly investigate all cases of gender-based violence, prosecute alleged perpetrators and hold them accountable, and ensure that victims receive redress. The Committee further recommended that Uganda institute mandatory training for all justice officials and law enforcement personnel on the prosecution of gender-based violence, and compile data on the number of complaints, investigations, and prosecutions of gender-based violence.²⁰

59. According to Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and PRI-Uganda, the main crime for which women are sentenced to death in Uganda is murder, often in the context of gender-based violence.²¹ This information is consistent with global data published by the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, recognizing that “[m]ost women have been sentenced to death for the crime of murder, often in relation to the killing of family members in a context of gender-based violence.”²² In Uganda, there is at least one reported

¹⁹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 27.

²⁰ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 28.

²¹ World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Global mapping of women under sentence of death*.

²² See the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (The Alice Project), *Judged for more than her crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, September 2018, p.4. Also available online at: <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/>.

case in which a woman was sentenced to death for killing her abuser.²³ This case suggests that when women are sentenced to death for killing another person, legal proceedings ignore gender-based violence and the imbalance in power dynamics between an accused woman and her abusive spouse or family member.²⁴ Women imprisoned in Uganda for committing offenses against life (i.e., murder, assault, or manslaughter) have typically experienced prolonged domestic violence at the hands of an abuser (partner, spouse, or another family member). As such, domestic violence is an important part of the context for homicides that women in Uganda commit.²⁵

60. Under Ugandan law, *Uganda v. Kamyuka Ivan* articulates the elements of self-defense to include: (1) an attack on the accused person or close relative; (2) reasonable belief that the person being attacked was in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm; (3) belief that it was necessary to use force to repel the attack; and (4) reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to prevent or resist the attack.²⁶ Though self-defense has been used widely in homicide cases against an intimate partner, it has not been accessible to women who kill following a *history* of abuse. This gap exists because women often cannot prove that an actual threat existed at the moment they used responsive force. Women subjected to protracted abuse at the hands of a stronger intimate partner may wait until the abuser is asleep or otherwise incapacitated before acting in self-defense. Consequently, courts view their response as unreasonable. Moreover, the requirement of apprehension of death or grievous bodily harm disregards the reality of severe but non-physical domestic violence.²⁷
61. The Judicial Training Institute launched a gender-based training manual in April 2022. This manual outlines a schedule covering gender-based violence causes and concepts.²⁸ In February 2022, Uganda adopted a Training Manual on Gender Responsive Adjudication for Judicial Officers. Despite this progress, authorities have not instituted mandatory training based on those manuals.²⁹

²³ Tanya Murshed, affiliated with Evolve, Interview with the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Mar. 18, 2015.

²⁴ See The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (The Alice Project), *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty*, Sep. 2018, p. 11. Available online at <https://dpw.lawschool.cornell.edu/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/>.

²⁵ Penal Reform International, *Women who kill in the context of domestic violence in Uganda: How does the criminal justice system respond?*, 2021, p. 5. Available online at https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Women-who-kill-in-the-context-of-domestic-violence_Uganda.pdf.

²⁶ Penal Reform International, *Women who kill in the context of domestic violence in Uganda: How does the criminal justice system respond?*, 2021, p. 5. Available online at https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Women-who-kill-in-the-context-of-domestic-violence_Uganda.pdf.

²⁷ Penal Reform International, *Women who kill in the context of domestic violence in Uganda: How does the criminal justice system respond?*, 2021, p. 16. Available online at https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Women-who-kill-in-the-context-of-domestic-violence_Uganda.pdf.

²⁸ The Judiciary: The Republic of Uganda, *Gender-Based Violence Training Manual Launched*, 2022. Available online at <https://www.judiciary.go.ug/data/news/1102/23126/Gender-Based%20Violence%20Training%20Manual%20Launched.html>.

²⁹ The International Association of Women Judges – Uganda Chapter (IAWJ-U), *Manuals on Gender Responsive Adjudication Adopted*, 2022. Available online at <https://nawju.judiciary.go.ug/manuals-on-gender-responsive-adjudication-adopted/>.

62. **Suggested questions** relating to women in conflict with the law and gender-based violence:

- Provide detailed information about every case in which a woman has been charged with a capital crime or sentenced to death since 2022. Include, for each case, the nature of the woman's relationship with any codefendants or victims. For each case, explain whether the defense asserted a defense of self-defense and the court's decision on that defense. Also provide details as to whether the defense presented any gender-specific evidence in mitigation at the time of sentencing, and the sentencing court's response to such evidence.
- Describe any progress since 2022 in investigating reports of gender-based violence, holding perpetrators accountable, and ensuring victims receive appropriate remedies.
- What efforts are underway to ensure that all judicial officers receive training regarding the 2022 manuals on gender-based training and gender-based violence?
- How do authorities ensure that defense counsel representing women in conflict with the law who have been charged with capital crimes are trained in gender-specific defenses and gender-specific mitigation?
- Have lawmakers taken any steps toward codification of gender-specific defense and gender-specific mitigation?

III. Uganda has failed to follow through on plans to adopt legislation creating a national legal aid policy (Concluding Observations paras. 45-46).

63. In 2022, the Committee recommended that Uganda expedite the enactment of the national legal aid policy and bill.³⁰ Despite advocacy from women lawyers and rights activists, Uganda has not adopted the bill, citing budgetary constraints and the need for at least Shs 46.7 billion annually to implement legal aid services nationwide.³¹

64. **Suggested questions** relating to legal aid:

- What steps is Uganda taking to expedite the passage of the national legal aid policy and bill?
- In the interim, what measures are authorities taking to ensure that all people charged with capital crimes and all people under sentence of death have access to qualified legal counsel?

³⁰ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 46.

³¹ Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, *Legal Committee to Reconsider National Legal Aid Bill*, 2023. Available online at <https://www.parliament.go.ug/news/555/legal-committee-reconsider-national-legal-aid-bill>.

IV. Allegations persist that authorities engage in widespread torture and ill-treatment (Concluding Observations paras. 11-12).

8. In its 2022 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed concern over the widespread and persistent use of torture and ill-treatment.³² It recommended full implementation of the 2017 Torture Regulations, proper documentation using Form 4 in line with the Istanbul Protocol, and stronger protections for victims and witnesses to ensure accountability and access to justice.³³
9. The Uganda Police Force has not adopted Form 4 or aligned its documentation practices with the Istanbul Protocol. It continues to rely on the Penal Code Act to record incidents of torture.³⁴
10. Torture, excessive force, and ill-treatment by security forces reportedly remain widespread and systematic,³⁵ reflecting a pattern of impunity and disregard for human rights by security forces.³⁶ In 2025, Ugandan authorities intensified their crackdown on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.³⁷ And over the past three years, authorities have used violence, including torture and arbitrary detention, against peaceful protesters.³⁸ Reports also highlight that human rights defenders face inhumane arrests and digital harassment, with little to no accountability for perpetrators.³⁹
11. **Suggested questions** relating to allegations of widespread torture and ill-treatment
 - What steps have authorities taken since 2022 to ensure the full implementation of the 2017 Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations across all law enforcement agencies?
 - What mechanisms are in place to ensure that law enforcement officers who engage in excessive force are investigated and held accountable, and how many such cases have authorities prosecuted since 2022?

³² Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (Dec. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 11.

³³ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (Dec. 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 12.

³⁴ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 131.

³⁵ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 38; Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights*, (New York, United States: Amnesty International Publications, 2025), 373-74. Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/8515/2025/en/>.

³⁶ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights*, (New York, United States: Amnesty International Publications, 2025), 373-74.

³⁷ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights*, (New York, United States: Amnesty International Publications, 2025), 374-75.

³⁸ Philip Wafula, *12 Bobi Wine Supporters Remanded to Prison over 'Wedding-Turned Political Rally*, Daily Monitor, Jan. 31, 2023, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/12-bobi-wine-supporters-remanded-to-prison-over-wedding-turned-political-rally--4097984>; The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, *Uganda: Ongoing Harassment of 27 Students at Kyambogo University in Kampala*, FIDH and the World Organisation Against Torture, May 6, 2025, <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uganda-ongoing-harassment-of-27-students-at-kyambogo-university-in>; Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights*, (New York, United States: Amnesty International Publications, 2025), 375.

³⁹ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 115-17.

- Has the Uganda Police Force adopted Form 4 for documenting torture cases in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol, and if so, what evidence exists of its consistent use in practice?
- What progress has been made toward enacting the Witness Protection Bill, and how is Uganda currently ensuring the safety of victims and witnesses of torture who fear reprisals?

V. Erosion of the right to habeas corpus and expansion of the authority of military courts put people at risk of prolonged arbitrary and unlawful detention (Concluding Observations paras. 15-16).

12. The Committee in 2022 expressed concern over the limited accessibility and effectiveness of habeas corpus procedures in Uganda.⁴⁰ It recommended that Uganda take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the right to habeas corpus in practice and effective guarantees for the release of individuals who are unlawfully detained.⁴¹
13. Recent developments raise concerns about the status of habeas corpus protections in Uganda. On 16 June 2025, President Museveni signed into law the Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Act, which expands the authority of military courts to try civilians.⁴² This law directly contravenes a January 2025 Supreme Court ruling that declared such trials unconstitutional and ordered officials to transfer all civilian cases to ordinary courts.⁴³ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned this move as a violation of international human rights law and a direct threat to the right to a fair trial and habeas corpus protections.⁴⁴
14. The highly publicized case of lawyer Eron Kiiza, whom a military court sentenced to nine months in prison for contempt of court, further illustrates these concerns.⁴⁵ In January 2025, Kiiza protested military officials' decision to deny him access to the defense bar during court proceedings against his client, an opposition leader and former presidential candidate who was facing court-martial in a politically motivated case. Military officers physically assaulted Kiiza and then detained him in an undisclosed location, where they

⁴⁰ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 15.

⁴¹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 16.

⁴² Monitor Reporter, *Civilians Back in Military Courts as Museveni Signs UPDF Amendment Law*, Daily Monitor, June 16, 2025, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/civilians-back-in-military-courts-as-museveni-signs-updf-amendment-law-5083292>.

⁴³ Karim Muyobo, *Legal Battle Looms After New UPDF Law Expands Military Court Powers*, Daily Monitor, June 16, 2025, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/legal-battle-looms-after-new-updf-law-expands-military-court-powers-5083910>.

⁴⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Uganda: Türk Urges President to Reject Bill Allowing Trials of Civilians in Military Courts*, Press Releases: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, May 23, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/05/uganda-turk-urges-president-reject-bill-allowing-trials-civilians-military>.

⁴⁵ RFK Human Rights, *Uganda: Summary Conviction of Eron Kiiza and Abuse of Military Courts an Assault on Human Rights*, Robert F. Kennedy, Jan. 16, 2025, <https://rfkhumanrights.org/our-voices/uganda-summary-conviction-of-eron-kiiza-and-abuse-of-military-courts-an-assault-on-human-rights/>; Amnesty International, *Uganda: Military court convicts human rights lawyer: Eron Kiiza*, Jan. 30, 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr59/8972/2025/en/>.

allegedly tortured him. They then returned him to the military court, which convicted him of contempt and sentenced him without trial.⁴⁶ According to the International Federation for Human Rights, he faces ongoing judicial harassment.⁴⁷

15. In a high-profile case, opposition politician Dr. Kizza Besigye and his aide Obeid Lutale were abducted in Nairobi, Kenya, and forcibly returned to Uganda, where they were arraigned before a military court on security-related charges.⁴⁸ This cross-border abduction and forced return occurred without extradition proceedings or due process.⁴⁹
16. The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) found that authorities hold many people in prolonged pre-trial detention, with some people remanded for years without trial, even after repeated court mentions.⁵⁰ Further, people detained in police facilities often lack legal representation.⁵¹ These findings underscore the Committee's concern that habeas corpus is not functioning as an effective remedy against unlawful and arbitrary detention, even in civilian courts.
17. **Suggested questions** relating to unlawful detention:
 - Since the enactment of the UPDF Amendment Act, how many civilians have been tried in military courts, for what crimes, and what mechanisms exist to ensure their access to habeas corpus proceedings before civilian courts?
 - Has Uganda undertaken any legal or institutional reforms to strengthen judicial oversight of detention and to preclude military officials from using military jurisdiction to circumvent habeas corpus protections?
 - What steps has Uganda taken to address prolonged pre-trial detention, and how do authorities ensure that pretrial detention complies with constitutional and international human rights standards?
 - Please provide an update on the appellate proceedings in the case of Eron Kiiza and respond to allegations that he has been subjected to judicial harassment.
 - What steps has Uganda taken to investigate the 2024 cross-border abduction and forced return of Dr. Kizza Besigye and Obeid Lutale, and what measures are in place to prevent similar incidents in the future?

⁴⁶ RFK Human Rights, *Uganda: Summary Conviction of Eron Kiiza and Abuse of Military Courts an Assault on Human Rights*, Robert F. Kennedy, Jan. 16, 2025.

⁴⁷ International Federation for Human Rights, *Uganda: Release on bail and ongoing judicial harassment of Eron Kiiza*, Apr. 23, 2025, <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uganda-release-on-bail-and-ongoing-judicial-harassment-of-eron-kiiza>.

⁴⁸ Wycliffe Muia, *How a Ugandan Opposition Leader Disappeared in Kenya and Ended up in Military Court*, BBC News Nairobi, Dec. 2, 2024, <http://bbc.com/news/articles/cp8x3vr6zj2o>.

⁴⁹ Tigere Chagutah, *Military Courts: The Front Line of Uganda's War on Dissent*, Aljazeera, Apr. 18, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/4/18/military-courts-the-front-line-of-ugandas-war-on-dissent>.

⁵⁰ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 66.

⁵¹ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 164.

VI. Authorities are taking active measures to undermine the independence of the judiciary and respect for the rule of law, increasing the risk of arbitrary death sentences (Concluding Observations paras. 17-18).

18. In 2022, the Committee expressed concern over the judiciary's vulnerability to political interference and lack of independence.⁵² It recommended that Uganda ensure judicial appointments align with international standards and provide clarity on the application of Islamic law in the country.⁵³
19. Article 28 of the Constitution of Uganda guarantees that every person is entitled to a fair, speedy, and public hearing before an independent and impartial court or tribunal established by law, in the determination of civil rights, obligations, or any criminal charge.⁵⁴ This article enshrines the principles of due process, justice, and the presumption of innocence. In practice, however, systemic delays and executive interference often undermine these guarantees.⁵⁵
20. Recent developments have heightened concerns about the erosion of judicial independence. In December 2023, President Museveni wrote directly to the Chief Justice, urging him to intervene in a court decision authorizing the auction of the national mosque.⁵⁶ The letter questioned the rationale of the judge's ruling and implied that the Supreme Court should overturn the decision—an act widely perceived as executive interference.⁵⁷
21. In a display of disregard for judicial authority, the Resident District Commissioner of Ntungamo, Geoffrey Mucunguzi, refused to appear in court to face charges of theft and housebreaking, declaring that he was not “answerable” to the judiciary and accusing the courts of corruption.⁵⁸ His public defiance prompted the judiciary to issue a statement condemning his conduct as a threat to judicial independence, with the Chief Justice warning that attempts to undermine court authority compromise the integrity of the justice system and erode public trust in the rule of law.⁵⁹
22. In the lead-up to the 2026 general elections, the government has increasingly relied on military courts to prosecute civilians, especially opposition figures and activists.⁶⁰ Uganda's Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is also President

⁵² Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 17.

⁵³ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 18.

⁵⁴ Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, art. 28, as amended (1995). Available online at https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Uganda_2017.

⁵⁵ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 143.

⁵⁶ Carmel Rickard, *New Challenges to Judicial Independence in Uganda*, African LII, Jan. 11, 2024, <https://africanlii.org/articles/2024-01-11/carmel-rickard/new-challenges-to-judicial-independence-in-uganda>.

⁵⁷ Carmel Rickard, *New Challenges to Judicial Independence in Uganda*, African LII, Jan. 11, 2024.

⁵⁸ Carmel Rickard, *New Challenges to Judicial Independence in Uganda*, African LII, Jan. 11, 2024.

⁵⁹ Carmel Rickard, *New Challenges to Judicial Independence in Uganda*, African LII, Jan. 11, 2024.

⁶⁰ Tigere Chagutah, *Military Courts: The Front Line of Uganda's War on Dissent*, Aljazeera, Apr. 18, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/4/18/military-courts-the-front-line-of-ugandas-war-on-dissent>.

Museveni's son, has publicly supported the continued use of military courts for civilians.⁶¹ The expansion of military jurisdiction over civilians, especially in cases involving critics of the government, undermines the right to trial before an independent and impartial judiciary that is insulated from political influence.

23. Suggested questions relating to judicial independence:

- How does the government ensure that the judiciary remains independent from executive and military influence?
- How many civilians remain under prosecution in military courts as of August 2025? What charges are they facing and what are the potential penalties for those offenses? What mechanisms exist to ensure their cases are transferred to civilian courts in line with the Supreme Court's January 2025 ruling?
- What safeguards are in place to protect judges and judicial officers from political retaliation or influence when hearing cases involving the military, high-level government officials, or prominent critics of the government?

VII. Training on interrogation methods and documentation of torture is lacking, increasing the risk that courts will use confessions obtained through torture to sentence people to death (Concluding Observations paras. 19-20).

24. In 2022, the Committee expressed concern over the absence of mandatory training for law enforcement and medical personnel, including training to identify and document evidence of torture.⁶² It recommended that Ugandan authorities develop comprehensive, mandatory training programs aligned with the Istanbul Protocol and implement methods to assess their effectiveness.⁶³

25. The UHRC has raised alarm over law enforcement's continued use of torture during investigations, attributing it in part to insufficient training in lawful evidence-collection methods and a lack of awareness of legal prohibitions against torture.⁶⁴ According to the Commission, some officers resort to coercive tactics due to limited understanding of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act and the inadmissibility of evidence obtained through such means.⁶⁵

⁶¹ *Uganda Confirms Military Trials for Civilians Despite Supreme Court Ruling*, Aljazeera, May 20, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/20/uganda-confirms-military-trials-for-civilians-despite-supreme-court-ruling>.

⁶² Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 19.

⁶³ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 20.

⁶⁴ Priscilla Maloba & Eunice Nangobi, *UHRC Report Pins Civilians, Security Forces on Torture*, Monitor, June 20, 2024, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uhrc-report-pins-civilians-security-forces-on-torture--4663514>.

⁶⁵ Jane Nafula & Sylvia Namagembe, *UHRC Condemns Torture in Gathering Evidence from Suspects*, Monitor, June 27, 2024, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uhrc-condemns-torture-in-gathering-evidence-from-suspects-4671136>.

26. In 2024, the UHRC conducted 21 human rights training workshops, reaching 2,054 participants.⁶⁶ These trainings contributed to general human rights awareness, but there is no indication that they included modules targeting the Convention Against Torture or the Istanbul Protocol.⁶⁷ Notably, the UHRC trained 252 UPDF personnel on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012, but there is no evidence of specialized training for medical personnel or investigators on identifying and documenting torture-related injuries—a critical gap in the prevention and accountability framework.⁶⁸
27. Furthermore, the UHRC and civil society organizations report that public sensitization on human rights remains low, and that impunity among security forces continues to fuel torture practices.⁶⁹ The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims recorded over 1,000 torture complaints in Uganda between 2018 and 2023, suggesting that the government has not fully implemented the Committee’s recommendations on mandatory, CAT-specific training or on monitoring the effectiveness of such programs.⁷⁰
28. **Suggested questions** relating to training:
- What specific steps has Uganda taken to develop and implement mandatory training programs for law enforcement and medical personnel on compliance with the Torture Convention and the Istanbul Protocol?
 - How does the government assess the effectiveness of its human rights training programs, and what training outcomes have authorities measured since 2022?
 - What proportion of law enforcement and medical personnel have received training specifically focused on identifying, documenting, and responding to torture and ill-treatment?
 - How has Uganda addressed the lack of awareness among public officials and the general population regarding anti-torture laws and the rights of people in detention?

VIII. Authorities persist in using “ungazetted” or unauthorized places of detention (Concluding Observations paras. 21-22).

29. The Committee in 2022 expressed concern over ongoing reports of unauthorized detention sites.⁷¹ It reiterated its recommendations to abolish all “ungazetted” places of detention,

⁶⁶ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 160-61.

⁶⁷ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 160-61.

⁶⁸ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 164.

⁶⁹ Priscilla Maloba & Eunice Nangobi, *UHRC Report Pins Civilians, Security Forces on Torture*, Monitor, June 20, 2024.

⁷⁰ Priscilla Maloba & Eunice Nangobi, *UHRC Report Pins Civilians, Security Forces on Torture*, Monitor, June 20, 2024.

⁷¹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 21.

ensure full transparency about all detention locations, prosecute the people responsible for arbitrary detention, and guarantee remedies for victims.⁷²

30. Recent events show that Ugandan authorities continue to operate unauthorized detention facilities.⁷³ In May 2025, Uganda's military chief, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, publicly admitted on social media that he had personally detained E.M., the bodyguard of opposition leader Bobi Wine, in his private basement, a location outside the legal framework of gazetted detention centers.⁷⁴ The UHRC issued a formal directive demanding E.M.'s immediate release, declaring his detention unlawful under Article 53 of the Constitution.⁷⁵ This incident, along with reports of abductions, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearances targeting opposition figures, demonstrates that the government persists in using unauthorized detention sites and has failed to ensure accountability for officials who use them.⁷⁶

31. **Suggested questions** relating to unauthorized places of detention:

- What steps has Uganda taken since 2022 to provide a full and accurate list of all places of detention?
- Please provide details about any investigations or prosecutions of officials or military personnel involved in operating unauthorized detention sites or engaging in arbitrary detention.
- What remedies, if any, have authorities provided to individuals unlawfully detained in unauthorized facilities, including E.M., the bodyguard of opposition leader Bobi Wine?
- What follow-up actions did authorities take in response to the UHRC's May 2025 directive ordering the release of E.M.?

IX. Conditions of detention, including for people under sentence of death, remain dire (Concluding Observations paras. 23-24).

32. The Committee in 2022 expressed concern that, despite some efforts to reduce overcrowding, Uganda's detention facilities remained severely congested, particularly due to high rates of pretrial detention.⁷⁷ It recommended aligning detention conditions with the

⁷² Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 22.

⁷³ Caroline Kimeu, *Ugandan President and Son Accused of Sponsoring Violence in ICC Testimony*, The Guardian, Jul. 12, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jul/12/uganda-president-son-yoweri-museveni-muhoozi-kainerugaba-accused-sponsoring-violence-icc>.

⁷⁴ Reuters, *Missing Uganda Opposition Activist Charged and Remanded*, His Lawyer Says, Reuters, May 5, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/missing-uganda-opposition-activist-charged-remanded-his-lawyer-says-2025-05-05/>.

⁷⁵ Aljazeera, *Uganda's Military Chief Says Holding Opposition Activist 'In My Basement'*, Aljazeera, May 2, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/2/ugandas-military-chief-says-holding-opposition-activist-in-my-basement>.

⁷⁶ Caroline Kimeu, *Ugandan President and Son Accused of Sponsoring Violence in ICC Testimony*, The Guardian, Jul. 12, 2023.

⁷⁷ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 23.

Nelson Mandela Rules and ensuring adequate healthcare and other resources for people in detention.⁷⁸

33. Reports suggest that detention conditions remain cruel and degrading.⁷⁹ In Luzira Prison, J.M. reported that prison authorities confined him in a 2.5 square meter cell with poor ventilation, forced him to share space with a bucket for human waste, denied him adequate medical care despite his chronic illness, subjected him to isolation and beatings, and interfered with his communications with legal counsel.⁸⁰ Similarly, authorities in Masaka Central Prison reportedly subjected E.M., whose case is described in paragraph 30 above, to torture and held him in conditions so severe that the Uganda Medical Association publicly appealed for his release, citing open wounds, swelling, psychological trauma, and inadequate prison medical facilities for his treatment needs.⁸¹
34. Overcrowding remains at crisis levels, with a population of over 80,000 people in detention—nearly three times holding capacity.⁸² The majority of people in detention are pretrial detainees, many held beyond the legal remand period, in direct violation of the Nelson Mandela Rules.⁸³ People are often forced to sleep on floors in overcrowded cells, with inadequate access to sanitation, clean water, and ventilation.⁸⁴ In Kitalya Prison, some people reportedly resort to taking sleeping pills due to the impossibility of sleeping naturally in crowded conditions, while in Kiruhura Prison, three inmates suffocated to death.⁸⁵ Reports also highlight systemic failures in healthcare provision, including drug shortages, lack of mental health services, and denial of treatment for chronic illnesses.⁸⁶
35. **Suggested questions** relating to conditions of detention:
- What steps have authorities taken to reduce the number of people held before trial beyond the legal remand period, and how is compliance monitored?
 - How do prison officials ensure that people in detention with serious medical conditions receive adequate and timely access to healthcare in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules?

⁷⁸ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 24.

⁷⁹ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 73, 142, 144.

⁸⁰ Juliet Kigongo, *I'm Being Tortured in Prison- Mukulu*, Daily Monitor, May 14, 2025, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/i-m-being-tortured-in-prison-mukulu-5041490>.

⁸¹ David Walugembe, *UMA Asks Govt to Allow Eddie Mutwe Access Treatment Outside Prison*, Daily Monitor, May 9, 2025, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uma-asks-govt-to-allow-eddie-mutwe-treatment-outside-prison-5035362>.

⁸² Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 61.

⁸³ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 66, 73.

⁸⁴ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 71-74.

⁸⁵ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 73.

⁸⁶ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 67, 72.

- What procedures are in place to allow people in detention who allege torture or ill-treatment to obtain independent medical evaluations?

X. Ill-treatment in detention persists and monitoring of detention centres remains inadequate (Concluding Observations paras. 25-26).

36. In 2022, the Committee expressed concern about ongoing ill-treatment by “inmate leaders” and prison staff.⁸⁷ It recommended strengthening independent, unannounced monitoring, ensuring an effective complaints mechanism, supporting the UHRC, and operationalizing trained human rights committees within detention facilities.⁸⁸
37. The UHRC continues to inspect detention facilities, but these visits, such as its June 2025 inspection in Eastern Uganda, are typically announced in advance, contravening the Committee’s recommendation for unannounced, independent monitoring.⁸⁹
38. Widespread overcrowding, arbitrary detention, and poor infrastructure create conditions that facilitate abuse by both staff and “inmate leaders.”⁹⁰ Reports suggest that ill-treatment of people in detention remains widespread; inmate leaders administer beatings and prison staff subject people to solitary confinement and caning.⁹¹
39. The Internal Security Organisation held M.N. for 17 months in an ungazetted facility, subjecting him to torture, denying access to medical care, and forcing him to sleep in a flooded cell while shackled, illustrating the severity of abuse in detention.⁹² Similarly, E.K.’s allegations of beatings and continued mistreatment underscore the vulnerability of detainees and the urgent need for independent, unannounced inspections and effective complaint mechanisms.⁹³
40. In 2024, the UHRC received 3,940 complaints, of which only 249 met the threshold for human rights violations,⁹⁴ and only 10 were brought by prisoners.⁹⁵ Of the 917 complaints

⁸⁷ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 25.

⁸⁸ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 26.

⁸⁹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 26. Stephen Eligu, *UHRC to Inspect Detention Facilities in Eastern Uganda*, Uganda Radio Network, June 10, 2025, <https://www.ugandaradionetwork.net/story/uhrc-to-inspect-detention-facilities-in-eastern-uganda>.

⁹⁰ Maha Aon, Simon Oberconz, Marie Brasholt, *The Association Between Health and Prison Overcrowding, A Scoping Review*, National Library of Medicine (2025), Available online at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12219723/>.

⁹¹ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 152.

⁹² Carmel Rickard, *Tortured Ugandan Wins Award Against Intelligence Operatives*, African LII, July 18, 2023, <https://africanlii.org/articles/2023-07-18/carmel-rickard/tortured-ugandan-wins-award-against-intelligence-operatives>.

⁹³ Sarah Johnson, *Lawyer for Ugandan Opposition Politician ‘Arrested and Tortured,’* The Guardian, Jan. 16, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/16/lawyer-for-ugandan-opposition-politician-arrested-and-tortured-eron-kiiza-kizza-besigye-yoweri-museveni>.

⁹⁴ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 128.

⁹⁵ Uganda Human Rights Commission, *The 27th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Uganda in 2024*, (2024), 130.

carried forward, only 531 were conclusively investigated, while a separate audit revealed that some cases had remained unresolved for over a decade, with 97% of pending tribunal cases older than six years.⁹⁶ These findings raise serious concerns about the UHRC's capacity to provide timely redress.

41. **Suggested questions** relating to ill-treatment in detention and monitoring of detention centres:

- What steps has Uganda taken to ensure that inspections of detention facilities by the UHRC and other bodies are conducted without prior notice, as recommended by the Committee?
- What investigations or disciplinary actions have been taken in response to reports of abuse by prison staff or inmate leaders?
- How does the UHRC explain the small number complaints brought by people in prison? What efforts has the UHRC undertaken to sensitize people in detention to the availability of the complaint mechanism? What have been the outcomes of the complaints brought by people in prison?
- How has Uganda addressed the significant backlog of unresolved complaints at the UHRC, and what measures are in place to ensure timely and effective redress for detainees?

⁹⁶ Edward Akol, *Auditor General Warns of 10-Year Case Backlogs at UHRC*, The Independent, Jan. 28, 2025, <https://www.independent.co.ug/auditor-general-warns-of-10-year-case-backlogs-at-uhrc/>.