

Front Inner Cover

THE FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit human rights organization. Established in 1991, FHRI is legally registered as a Non-governmental human rights organization under the Non-governmental Organizations Registration Statute 1989. It is duly incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap.110 as a body corporate. The organization seeks to enhance the knowledge, respect and observance of human rights, promote exchange of information and best practices through training, education, research, legislative advocacy and strategic partnerships in Uganda. 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 and is affiliated to the International Federation of Human Rights Defenders, (FIDH).

FHRI has successfully implemented four strategic plans since its inception in December 1991. Each of these programs has focused on research and human rights monitoring, education, legislative analysis, advocacy and provision of legal aid services. The current fifth strategic plan (2006- 2008) code named; '*The High Performance Phase*', seeks to advance the Human Rights Agenda in Uganda while deepening engagement of the supply and demand side of rights and building on the achievements registered by the organization since 1991.

During the last sixteen years of its existence, FHRI has published human rights reports on the country human rights situation, inspected police and prison detention centers, rendered legal aid services to the poor, conducted capacity building for the police, prisons, local government and the judiciary, presented parallel reports to regional and UN bodies, conducted legal rights training to community leaders, made proposals to key legislative reforms and spearheaded campaigns against the application of the death penalty and practices of torture in Uganda. In addition, the organisation has facilitated the formation of community based human rights groups, sponsored weekly radio talk shows and human rights centred drama and established a Human Rights and Democracy Resource Centre to support program implementation.

FHRI is proud to be associated with a number of partners at the national, regional and international level. In 2007, FHRI actively maintained collaboration with its implementing partners including: Uganda Prisons Service, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Parliament of Uganda, Uganda Law Reform Commission, The Justice Law and Order Secretariat, The Judicial Studies Institute/Judicial Training Committee, the Directorate of Public Prosecution, Department of Information, Office of the Prime Minister, Katende, Sempebwa & Co. Advocates, Kakuru & Co. Advocates, Alaka & Co. Advocates, Kabugo Tamale & Co. Advocates, Civil Society Coalition on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Uganda, Human Rights Network (HURINET), Uganda Governance Monitoring Project, Planning, Development and Rehabilitation (COU), Community based human rights groups such as: Pastoral Women Alliance to Break Cultural Chains (PWABC), Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness; Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation, Women's Initiative for Development and Paralegal Activities Association (WIDPAA) and The Uganda Paralegal Society among others and Higher Institutions of Learning including: Ndejje University, Makerere University, Kampala International University, Kibuli Teachers' Training College, Bugema University and Busoga University. The Foundation for Needy Communities (FDNC), Uganda Law society and the Legal Aid Project, the Association of Human Rights Organisations (AHURICO), Coalition Against Torture and Uganda Lawyers Christian Fraternity, were also part of the implementing partners during the year.

Other groups that FHRI collaborated with during the year include among others; the Uganda Journalists Human Rights Network, Uganda Parliamentary Press Association, Platform for Labour Action, Uganda Media Development Foundation, HURIPED, Uganda Law Society, DENIVA, NURRU, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, ANPCANN, Uganda Debt Network, Uganda Joint Christian Council, FIDA-Uganda, UWONET, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Uganda), Uganda Land Alliance, Refugee Law Project, UNDP, Anti Corruption Coalition among others.

At the international level, FHRI jointly executed programs and collaborated with the Death Penalty Limited (UK), REDRESS TRUST (UK), FIDH, Common Wealth Human Rights Initiative, Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA), Geneva for Human Rights and the NGO Coalition on the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as the Eastern African focal point for the NGO Coalition. The organisation during the year, worked closely with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Penal Reform International, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, INTERIGHTS, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, Action for Prevention of Torture, the Common Wealth Observer Group, the East Africa Law Society, World Democracy Forum and the International Centre for Not for Profit Law.

The print and electronic media were key partners during the year. They include: CBS FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Sanyu FM, UBC, WBS, New Vision, Monitor publications, Weekly Observer, Bukedde, among others.

FHRI receives financial support for its programs from Foundations, individuals and donor agencies that have interest in the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic governance worldwide.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative is indebted to countless individuals and organizations who made our work possible during the year.

We wish to acknowledge in a special way the following donor partners for their technical and financial support that made the implementation of the 2007 program possible:

- Humanistic Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (HIVOS-Netherlands).
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).
- DANIDA (Democratization, Civil and Political Rights- HUGGO).
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- Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS).
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- Partners for Democracy and Governance (PDG).
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD).
- US Embassy- Democracy and Human Rights Fund.
- US Embassy- Small Grants Program.
- Open Society Initiative (OSI).
- War Child Canada (WCC).
- DIAKONIA.
- International Commission of Jurists (Kenya).

A special thanks to REDRESS Trust UK, The Death Penalty Limited (UK), World Democracy Forum, Coalition for an Effective African Court, ICNL, Church of Uganda (PDR), Kakuru & Co. Advocates, Kabugo, Tamale & Co. Advocates, Lukwago & Co. Advocates, Excel Graphics and Housing Finance Company (Uganda) Ltd for their support to FHRI during the year.

To the many individuals and companies that supported our work, we say thank you.

Last but not least, to the victims of human rights who sought legal assistance from us, thank you for your trust in our services.



Ms. Barbra Katende
Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is indeed with great honour that I present to you the Annual Report of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative for the period ended 31st December 2007! FHRI views this tool as an accountability mechanism to its members, partners and the communities among whom we work. We see this as an opportunity to take stock of the work we have undertaken, the resources we have utilized and the challenges we have faced during the period under review.

The Human Rights situation in Uganda in 2007 remained unsatisfactory. Most worrying were the increasing poverty levels, the lack of a level playing field for political competition, increased land disputes, the threat to media freedom and judicial independence, the slow pace of the Juba Peace talks, the limited access to justice and the challenges of the ever increasing impunity among our leaders. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) therefore rigorously responded to these issues through a variety of pragmatic approaches; public education, legal aid, legislative advocacy, research, networking and campaigning for reform.

FHRI indeed endeavored to keep human rights high on the agenda within the public and private spheres. FHRI published two thematic human rights reports on freedom of Association and Assembly and Media freedom in 2007. A Judicial Roundtable on domestication of international human rights instruments was held in September 2007.

At the institutional level, we convened the 11th Annual General Meeting on 25th August 2007 that gave an opportunity to members of the organization to discuss issues which in their view are critical to the future sustainability of FHRI. The Donor Roundtable convened on the 29th August 2007 is good practice in CSO-Donor relations. The solidarity expressed by our development partners to the growth of FHRI was very re-assuring. We would like to thank each one of them for this show of commitment to our work.

In line with our constitutional mandate, the FHRI Board has invested substantially in policy formulation. Several policies including the Gender Policy, the HIV/AIDS at the workplace Policy and the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation policy are in place and with these 3 policies, the organization boasts of seven policies, which in our view is a big achievement of an organisation in this sector.

Like in the previous Annual Reports, we have highlighted several of the key activities that have been undertaken by the organisation during the year and where possible, insights of the impact of

our work on the human rights situation in Uganda. The report also points out a number of challenges which the organisation and the sector still have to contend with and in some instances proposes some strategies to overcome some of these.

I would like to thank in a very special way our Development Partners for supporting the FHRI program, both financially and the experience sharing. I would also like to thank all those countless individuals and companies who have supported our work through -out the year and have in one way or another contributed to our success.

I would like in a special way to dedicate this report to our members, friends, Trustees, FHRI Board of Directors, staff, partners and human rights defenders around the world for their priceless struggle for justice.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BARBRA KATENDE (Ms.)
CHAIRPERSON, FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director, FHRI

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is honored to present this 16th Annual Report for the period 1st January – 31st December 2007.

Having witnessed FHRI growth from a newly born organization in 1991 to a 16 year old and considerably influential organization in 2007, we whole heartedly thank the Almighty God for his blessings, our staff, members, development partners and friends equally for their tireless dedication and support that has made this tremendous growth possible.

On the 31st of December 2007, FHRI marked 16 years in pursuit of its Organizational Vision: *'To build a strong and democratic human rights culture as foundation for peace, stability, democracy, social justice and sustainable development in Uganda.'* Further, at the end of year, FHRI successfully concluded the second year of its current 5th Strategic Plan (2006 -2008).

2007 was a year of great opportunity for the human rights sector in Uganda; a year when human rights organizations in the run up to the Common Wealth Heads of Government Meeting would denounce human rights violations that continue to shatter the aspirations of many around the world.

The much hyped Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) came and went but the Common Wealth Human Rights Forum that FHRI co-hosted will be recalled for having put human rights on the agenda of world leaders.

The Government of Uganda should by all means be applauded for sustaining the Peace talks in Northern Uganda, an indication of Governments' willingness to end the 20 year old conflict. Similarly, the launch of the Peace, Recovery, Development Plan for Northern Uganda: (2007-2010) during the year and the steps taken to decongest the IDP camps and support the return of hundreds of displaced persons in Northern Uganda back to their homes, is a welcome step towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Northern Uganda.

The Justice Law and Order sector recorded important developments as well. The enactment of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2007 and the Magistrates Court (Amendment) Act 2007 that increased the jurisdiction of Magistrates to try defilement cases who comprise 32% of the remand population in prisons was worthy of praise. This development could be attributed to the sustained advocacy by human rights groups who have made a case against the huge case backlog in the courts and the over crowding in Uganda prisons. Further, the operationalisation of the Advocates (Legal Aid to Indigent Persons) Regulations, 2007 was indeed another positive development within

the sector towards enhancing quality legal aid services to the majority of Ugandans, unable to access justice.

Judicial activism displayed by the Judiciary to safe-guard its independence during the year is commendable, when in the face of heightened attack, the institution stood to safeguard its Constitutional mandate. The efforts undertaken to un-clog the system by the Judiciary and the sector as a whole including: conducting special sessions for Northern Uganda, supporting chain-linking, intense lobbying for the appointment of more judicial officers, use of Alternative Dispute Resolution, holding mini-sessions, diversion of cases and increase in the grant of bail and community service all combined, contributed to, though still at a minimum, to a reduction in the congestion in prisons by 11% during the year. The keen interest taken by the judiciary to engage in hearing cases of public interest brought by a number of human rights and political activists including among others: *Constitutional Petition No. 20* by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) on the rights of pre-trial detainees, *Constitutional Petition No. 9/2005* by Muwanga Kivumbi challenging section 32 of the Police Act in as far as it impinges on the freedom of Association and Assembly, *Constitutional Petition No. 8/2007*, by Law and Advocacy for women in Uganda challenging Female Genital Mutilation as unconstitutional and *Constitutional Petition No. 9/2007* by Advocates Coalition, Green watch, TEAN and Environmental Alert on the right to a clean and healthy environment was unprecedented.

The Uganda Prisons Services is also saluted in the same way for the efforts it has made in improving prisoner welfare, improving living conditions of staff, fostering a human rights culture within prisons through the establishment of human rights committees to strengthen internal accountability for human rights abuse among staff, among others. A lot however still needs to be done to uphold accepted minimum standards.

The Country visit of the UN Special Rapportuer on the Right to Health, Prof. Paul Hunt to assess health standards provides additional impetus to the search for better living conditions for the majority poor. The opportunity afforded to civil society to engage with the UN Special Rapportuer on the state of health in Uganda on areas for improvement in this respect is a step in the right direction.

The positive developments notwithstanding, a number of civil liberties and fundamental freedoms remained seriously under threat and dissenting voices are still subject to harassment.

The Freedom of expression, association and assembly remains restricted. Although guaranteed under article 29 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda (as amended), the open support by President Museveni of the use of tear gas to disperse political rallies and activists, renders his will to respect and to genuinely open up the political space questionable. Peaceful political rallies were dispersed during the year and in one case three people were killed in the fracas. The political space shrunk even further when the Minister of Internal Affairs issued *Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2007*, 'The Police (Declaration of Gazetted Areas)' which declares particular areas in Uganda as 'no go zones' for any person to convene an assembly. The instrument which was vehemently opposed by human rights groups and political activists raises concerns over the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association in Uganda. Not only does it show the excessive powers the Inspector General of Police has but also brings to the fore the bigger question whether the Police Act Cap 303 under which the police always justifies its actions and also under which the Statutory

instrument was issued, restricts the exercise of the right to assembly and association as stipulated in Article 29 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

Regrettably in March 2007, judicial independence came under serious attack yet again. Like in 2005, the High Court came under siege by police and security operatives dubbed 'Black Mambas' who re-arrested nine PRA suspects for the second time they had been granted bail. This desperate fragrant abuse of Court sanctity was sharply criticized by a number of human rights organizations like the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), DENIVA, HURINET, the legal fraternity, like the East Africa Law Society, the Uganda Law Society and Members of Parliament. This abusive conduct attracted condemnation when the East African Court of Justice, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and Britain's House of Commons expressed disgust about this contemptuous behavior of the Ugandan State apparatus.

Land rights issues took centre stage with fear of a break out of serious ethnic conflicts in various parts of the country. Land disputes between ethnic groups and between landlords and tenants escalated. Allegations of criminal trespass were made against pastoralists commonly referred to as the 'Balalo' who with the support of government were accused of grabbing land. The 'Balalo' sought legal defence from FHRI, when they feared reprisals against them. A Parliamentary Committee was set up to probe the matter with a report of the same yet to be released.

Government introduced the Land Amendment Bill (2007), allegedly to address the rampant evictions. The object of the Bill is circumspect, as it contradicts the spirit of Article 26 of the Constitution. The Bill creates parallel claims and contrasts sharply the spirit of willing buyer- willing seller. FHRI discussed the bill on grounds that there is sufficient existing legislation to penalize illegal evictions thus rendering the proposed Bill an unnecessary burden. The lack of a National Land Policy creates a policy vacuum that would provide an enabling environment for this proposed Bill. Lastly, to FHRI the existing Land Act 1998 is comprehensive and government failure to have it implemented, creates doubts as to the relevance of the proposed Bill. The contentious land rights debate spilled over to 2008.

Government policy on the sale of markets came under fire during the year. Various sections of the public including market vendors and Members of Parliament vehemently opposed the unfair sell of markets to external buyers without giving priority to the current market vendors. The dissatisfaction by the public and the market vendors was expressed in demonstrations that turned violent and resulted into harm to unsuspecting members of the public. No clear government policy on the matter to restore harmony is yet in sight.

Media freedom remained under serious attack. During the year, the Uganda Police Force set up a 'Media and Political Squad' to monitor media broadcasts in respect of what was referred to as 'irresponsible and criminal utterances against the Government and the person of the President.' In a related development, the State Minister for Information, Communication and Technology threatened the closure of popular FM radio stations over what he referred to as persistent negative criticism of the NRM government and the President.

Human Rights reports released during the year by *Human Rights Watch*, *Foundation for Human Rights Initiative*, the *Uganda Human Rights Commission*, recorded in several instances, a fragile political situation in North Eastern Uganda. Reports of human rights abuses by the UPDF, poor prison conditions, denial of access to justice, torture, harassment of journalists and abuse of media

freedom, police mis-conduct, electoral violence during bi-elections, incidences of domestic violence, declining education standards took unprecedented proportions.

Income disparities widened. Social unrest was common. Civil servants including medical workers and teachers went on strike due to poor pay and poor working conditions. The crime rate though reportedly on the decrease in 2007 was recorded to be: for every 100,000 people, 532 were affected by crime. [Uganda Police: Annual Crime Report- 2007].

Amidst these growing challenges, FHRI's human rights advocacy program therefore was centered on legislative reform and policy advocacy, the campaign to uphold judicial independence, respect for the right to a free and fair trial including the right to bail, the right to property, promotion of the rights of women and children especially in northern Uganda, widening of political space and political space rights, respect of media freedom, the campaign against torture, respect for the right to life, liberty and security of person, advocacy for a national peace policy and the search for sustainable development in Uganda.

FHRI is proud to have achieved at least 99% of its set annual target. Key achievements recorded during the year include; the release of 3 human rights reports including; the Uganda *Country Human Rights Status Report*, 2006, the 1st thematic human rights report titled; '*The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly: Inside Multi-party politics*' and the 2nd thematic human rights report titled; '*Freedom of Expression: In Defence of Media Freedom in Uganda; 2007*'; a Judicial Roundtable on '*Domestication of Human Rights Instruments*', a training workshop on '*Sentencing in Capital Cases*' for lawyers, a workshop on the Access to Information Act 2005, with the Government's Department for Information, five (5) Capacity Building Sessions for five community human rights groups and two paralegal training workshops were also conducted for Kalangala district paralegals jointly organized with the Church of Uganda, Planning, Development And Rehabilitation Department.

As part of the Local Governance Program, FHRI convened a Pre- Project Consultative meeting on Enhancing Decentralized Governance in Uganda with special reference to; *Kampala, Mukono, Jinja, Mbarara and Luwero...*

Under the Schools Outreach Program, FHRI conducted one day human rights awareness sessions for Ndejje University, Makerere University, Kibuli Teachers' Training College and the Department of Social Work and Counseling at Bugema University. FHRI's weekly Radio talk show; '*Manya Eddembe Lyo*', 'Know your Rights' on CBS, 89.2 FM was on air throughout the year.

FHRI's Public Interest Law program gained momentum with the hearing of Constitutional Petition No. 20 on pre-trial detention cited as *Foundation for Human Rights Initiative Vs The Attorney General*. The Death penalty appeal cited as; *Suzan Kigula, Fred Tindiwhura, Ben Ogwang and 414 others Vs. Attorney General* to the Supreme Court was still pending due to the lack of Quorum in the Supreme Court. FHRI submitted a Memorandum to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Uganda on the Penal Code Amendment Bill 2006 challenging the proposed use of the death penalty as sentencing option.

FHRI offered pro-bono legal aid services to 307 deserving cases including support to victims of torture. The Paralegal Advisory Services program was cited by the Justice Law and Order Sector

as one of the initiatives in the Uganda Prisons Service that had contributed to decongestion in prisons through extension services to a total of 1,523 inmates in Gulu, Fort-portal, Kampala, Mbarara, Arua and Mbale magisterial areas.

While in 2006, the Northern Uganda program focused more on monitoring the human rights situation and provision of legal aid in prisons, in 2007 the program was widened to include legal rights awareness in Gulu and Amuru districts, child rights training in situations of conflict in Pader, Kitgum and Lira and radio programs on Mega FM in Gulu and Unity radio in Lira.

The first Donor Roundtable was held on the 29th August 2007 at the Human Rights House with representation of six Development Partners; SIDA, DANIDA, EU, HIVOS, CIDA and UNOHCHR.

At the international level, FHRI participated in the 41st Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Accra, Ghana, up scaled its advocacy on the establishment of an effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and co-hosted the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum, a pre- CHOGM activity in November 2007, Kampala Uganda with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Amnesty International and HURINET.

At the institutional level, FHRI continued to invest in its staff and to improve the work environment through staff training programs and a sound policy framework. 3 new policies were discussed: *the HIV and AIDS at the Workplace Policy*, *the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Policy* and *the Gender Policy*. The PAS National Steering Committee was inaugurated with a mandate to provide strategic guidance to the program for the next three years.

This record achievement is by no means a product of our own endeavor! It is attributed to a united effort of our Members and Friends, Trustees, Board of Directors, Development Partners, implementing partners, staff, volunteers and interns. We could have never made it without your support!

'TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

**LIVINGSTONE SEWANYANA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND

In his end of Year State of the Nation Address delivered on 31st December 2006, President Yoweri Museveni outlined the key achievements of 2006 to include the General elections held under a multi party system, the Universal Primary Education, the Juba Peace talks and the discovery of large deposits of oil in the Albertine region. He outlined the key priorities for 2007 to include increased power generation to overcome the energy crisis, improved primary school enrolment, introduction of universal secondary education and improvements in the road network.

The events of 2006 spilled over in 2007. The multiparty political system in 2006 gave birth to the opposition side in Parliament as well as new political parties being formed. Although many political parties exist competitive politics is yet to be fully realized. Political space for parties to hold rallies, spread their ideology remains restricted and challenges of building internal democracy, financing, broadening membership are key constraints to effective functioning.

The Juba Peace talks registered a set back when LRA rebels massacred civilians and ambushed several vehicles in South Sudan at the beginning of the year. The LRA rebels were given a deadline to assemble at the two designated assembly points of Owiny-Kibul and Rwi-kwamba by end of February 2007 although they hardly complied. The LRA cited Juba Mediator as hostile and impartial and expressed unwillingness to return to the talks.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) that had prior to the talks issued indictments against Joseph Kony and his commanders demanded for the arrest of those indicted although the government of Uganda continued to reassure the ICC about the prospects for success of the peace talks. During this period, the ICC received a total of 49 applicants willing to testify against Joseph Kony and his rebel group before the Hague based court. The rebel group however returned to the negotiating table amidst allegations that Vincent Otti, Kony's second in command had been executed by Kony himself.

Despite these negative developments, Agenda Item No. 3 on Accountability and Reconciliation was discussed and a hybrid justice system that combines both the traditional justice method (mato-oput) and the formal justice system to deal with accountability and prosecution agreed upon. The decision to set up the Special Crimes Court within the judiciary was welcomed despite reservations about the capacity of the Ugandan Courts to handle. Human Rights groups expressed the need for perpetrators of heinous crimes to be duly punished and argued that the ICC was still a viable and better option.

Notwithstanding these positive developments a research study undertaken by the Human Rights and Peace Centre during the year concluded that 90% of IDPs in Acholi and Lango prioritised health, education, water and cared less about justice. Their main concern was peace. On the proposed Justice mechanism, 29% were in favour of prosecution by the ICC, 28% prefer national courts, 20% vouched for the Amnesty Commission and 23% argued in favor of traditional justice mechanisms. For the first time in the history of the 21 year conflict, the LRA negotiating team undertook consultations among different communities in Uganda on the way forward for the talks.

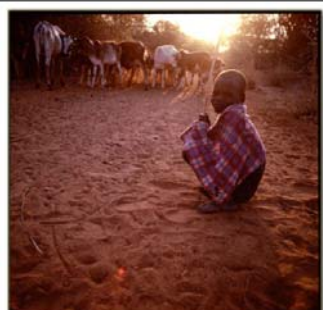
The UN Special Envoy for Northern Uganda, Joaquim Chissano visited Uganda to exchange ideas on the security situation in Northern Uganda and to assess the progress of the peace process. The LRA and government negotiating teams welcomed the inclusion of the UN Special Envoy to the peace process. Unfortunately, no peace deal had been signed at the end of the year attributed mainly to the reluctance of Joseph Kony who reportedly wanted assurances about the ICC warrants against him.



H. E. Joaquim
Chissano

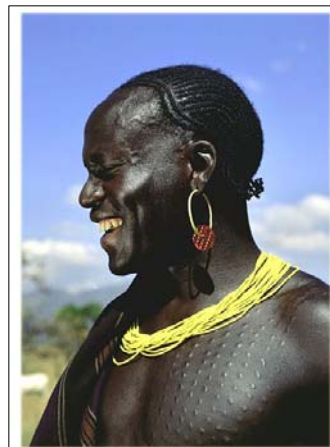
Even amidst fresh reports from Civil Society Organizations on sexual abuse of girls in IDP camps, the IDP camps decongestion plan by Government gained momentum. Viewed as a progressive step from policy to implementation, the Disaster Preparedness Minister issued fresh Resettlement guidelines for Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Uganda, empowering district security committees to ensure the safety of the villages before IDPs left the camps. It was estimated that 2% of the IDPs had returned to their homes in Gulu and Amuru districts while in Pader district, at least 174,074 IDPs had left the camps and settled in the newly created community homesteads closer to their home villages. The return and resettlement process however came along with its own challenges mainly allegations of land grabbing and serious land conflicts amongst returning communities posing a potential threat to the relative peace in the area. Reports of possible allocation of this customarily owned and un-registered land to investors by Government was condemned by Members of Parliament from the North who called for collective efforts to resist any land grabbing.

Whereas parts of Northern Uganda experienced relative peace, the



A Karamojong shepherd boy
(picture by David Pluth)

situation in North Eastern Uganda was less peaceful. The proliferation of small arms in the region threatened the disarmament process. Although the process registered some success during the year, the inter-tribal clashes and cattle rustling in Karamoja and Katakwi also continued to escalate which resulted in the deployment of a police unit code named Anti-Stock



A Karamojong warrior
(picture by David Pluth)

Theft Unit to deal with cattle rustlers. It is estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 guns were still in possession of the Karimajong. Reports of human rights violations by UPDF soldiers during the process of disarmament however continued to discredit the process. To show commitment to punishing errant officers, the UPDF reported that over 30 soldiers had been punished for gross human rights violations and indiscipline since 2006 and therefore did not in any way condone any form of human rights violations.

Reports of Land conflicts took centre stage during the year with impending fears of a break out of serious ethnic conflicts in several parts of the country as a result. Despite the on-going consultations by Government on a draft National Land Policy, the conflicts between ethnic groups

and between landlords and group of pastoralists with the support of different districts and grabbing Balalo, sought support from Courts of Law. A



One of the victims of the Buliisa-Balaalo land wrangles

to probe the matter which year's end.

tenants escalated. Allegations that a commonly referred to as the 'Balalo' government were moving into land were common. On their part, the FHRI, the Parliament of Uganda and Parliamentary Committee was set up

had not released its findings at

The 'land bonanza' a term that refers to the arbitrary give away of land to investors by Government was on the increase; a number of schools and customary tenants were evicted often with little or no compensation. On the other hand, the Land (Amendment) Bill 2007 met with considerable resistance from among others the Buganda Kingdom which opposed the proposed amendments to the Land Act (1998) a step perceived to create landlessness in Buganda.

Given the rampant land evictions and considering that land tribunals set up by the 1998 Land Act to adjudicate cases on Land had been suspended, the Chief Justice issued a circular and administrative guidelines on land cases urging judicial officers to cautiously adjudicate these cases and ensure that there were no violations of rights of either parties. The Judiciary had earlier come under criticism from Government on its handling of land cases; judicial officers being accused of being corrupt, a practice that aids arbitrary eviction of ordinary citizens from their land.



Opposition supporters holding a demonstration

The freedom to associate and assemble was still restricted. The Uganda Police violently dispersed four peaceful assemblies using tear gas canisters organized by the Democratic Party (DP) and Forum for Democratic Change (FDC). The police fired gunshots to disperse party sympathizers who had gathered to launch FDC party membership cards and launch of a report of the Scotland Yard on the murder of a DP Party stalwart, Dr. Andrew Kayiira

in 1987. In protest to the continued harassment of the opposition, key political parties boycotted the

two-day conference organized by Parliament in conjunction with the European Union which was meant to provide a platform for the party leaders to brainstorm on pertinent institutional and regulatory reforms that would improve the multi-party political dispensation and generate a roadmap to initiate electoral reforms.

The Government reacted angrily to demands by environmentalists and sections of the public to stop forest give-aways to investors who would destroy thousands of acres of virgin rain forest purportedly for investment. Environmentalists warned that destroying Uganda's surviving forests could have grave ecological consequences that could threaten hundreds of rare species, cause soil erosion and remove a crucial buffer against pollution of Lake Victoria. Following this stand off, on 12th April 2007, the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) organized a

demonstration against the proposed give away in Kampala. sought and granted. However, turned violent and resulted into people. The organizers of the included several Members of the opposition were arrested participating in a riot and three Rights organizations including Environmental Alert condemned police and urged the consideration alternative views of the people when making decisions.



Mr. Simon Kaggwa, a Radio One journalist who was injured during the fatal Mabira demonstrations

Mabira Forest Police permission was the demonstration the death of three demo who also Parliament mainly from and charged with with murder. Human FHRI and the oppressive action by Government to take into

Concerned with Police conduct in dispersing peaceful rallies, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) hosted a forum to develop guidelines on 'Managing public rallies and demonstrations'. The prospects of this forum were dashed when during the year, Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2007, The Police (Declaration of Gazetted Areas) which declares particular areas in Uganda as 'no go zones' for any person to convene an assembly was issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs. The instrument which was vehemently opposed by human rights groups and political activists raises concerns over the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association in Uganda. Not only does it grant excessive powers to the Inspector General of Police but also brings to the fore the bigger question whether the Police Act Cap 303 under which the police always justifies its actions and also under which the Statutory instrument was issued restricts the exercise of the right to assembly and association as stipulated in Article 29 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. The Constitutional Court was petitioned to declare as unconstitutional several repressive provisions of the Police Act. The Constitutional Court had not given its ruling on the matter by the end of year.

The independence of the judiciary came under attack when on 1st March 2007, a re-play of the High Court invasion ensued with the siege of the High Court by police and security operatives who blocked the release on bail of nine PRA suspects. In a rare show of judicial activism, the judiciary staged a one week sit down strike condemning the siege and demanded an apology and assurance from Government that this act would not re-occur. The Uganda Law Society went on strike as well, condemned the act of government and called upon Government to respect and uphold Judicial Independence. Members of Parliament in the opposition in solidarity, walked out of Parliament for two weeks protesting the continued detention of the suspects and the breach of the Court order. President Yoweri Museveni met the Judiciary as well as the lawyers and promised that there would not be a repeat. The Courts returned to business thereafter.

The mistreatment, torture and re-arrest of the PRA suspects took a regional and international dimension when the lawyers representing the suspects, in their quest for justice, took the case to the East African Court of Justice. The East African Court of Justice ruled in their favor. Britain's House of Commons took interest in the matter as well when the House, aware of the events in Uganda opted to discuss Uganda's Human rights situation and its possible implications on the queen's visit in November 2007 for the Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting. Government continued to face severe criticism over the illegal detention of the PRA suspects from

several sections of the public including the Judiciary, human rights groups and political parties. The PRA suspects were granted bail and released.

Parliament was commended for taking keen interest in the administration of justice in the country. For example, Parliament of Uganda approved the increase in the number of judges to ensure litigants access to speedy justice, measures to be adopted in order to clear the case backlog. Delays in administration of justice attributed to factors such as unnecessary adjournments, absenteeism of lawyers, loss of files by police and inadequate funding to the judiciary were indentified. A key amendment to the Penal Code Act was effected by Parliament to provide for an increase in the jurisdiction of Magistrates to try defilement cases that constitute approximately 46% of the remand population. Efforts to review Sentencing and the Criminal Trial Procedures were also underway spearheaded by the Uganda Law Reform Commission.

Notwithstanding the job well done, the public was disheartened by the persistent demand and quest by parliamentarians for increased facilitation amidst the high poverty levels in the country. President Museveni joined the growing chorus of public outcry against MPs demands for expensive cars at a time when government was purportedly operating on a tight budget. Parliamentarians were later advanced a much lower sum of money than previously demanded.

There was a demonstrated interest by the Justice Law and order sector to decisively deal with the case backlog problem. The Justice Law and Order Sector prioritized interventions in conflict affected areas when 10 Judges were deployed to deal with the case backlog. 11 special high court sessions were held in Gulu, Lira, Soroti and Kumi and at least 69% of those cases scheduled in conflict affected areas were disposed of.

Despite increased efforts to reduce the case backlog, the criminal justice system still remained clogged. By the end of February 2007, a total of 4,751 people charged with capital offences awaited trial by the High Court. Suspects charged with defilement constituted the highest number at 2,201 followed by murder at 1,555. Reports of over 4,000 suspects arrested by the VCCU (now Rapid Response Unit) detained in a number of police cells without trial showed that some of these detainees could only be released after paying a bribe of Uganda Shillings 2.5 million (approx. \$1,500).

The right to bail was subject to serious contention and scrutiny. Debates on its meaning and enforcement were common. The Chief Justice and Chief Registrar of Courts of Judicature decried common practice of granting cash bail and the requirement to pay after banking hours, an act that could be misinterpreted by the public as persecution by the judiciary. The subject of bail was further interrogated during the 2007 FHRI Judicial Roundtable at which several justices clarified positions and enhanced understanding of the practice.

Although the Judicial conduct of cases involving corruption was criticized in a research conducted by Transparency International, the Judicial Service Commission registered some success at enhancing ethics and accountability within the Judiciary. In 2007, the Commission registered 294 complaints from 40 centres country wide involving concerns over administration of justice. Of these, 72 were completed with the disposal rate of complaints now standing at 25%. Efforts to enhance access to justice through the establishment of a special court to try corruption cases were very much applauded.

Prison conditions continued to improve however, reports of torture in detention centres and cases of child abuse continued to filter in. Victims sought redress and legal support from the Uganda Human Rights Commission and human rights organizations like FHRI. The Police were especially criticized for acts of torture, an allegation that was strongly denied by the Uganda Police Force. The failure by Government to honor the UHRC awards in time was a subject of concern. Organizations like FHRI and UHRC argued that this was a violation of the right to reparations for victims. It was established that 44 cases of torture compensation awarded by the UHRC to the tune of 260 million shillings had not been honored by the Government of Uganda.

In prisons far from the centre, the welfare of inmates and their treatment was far below accepted standards. Although congestion in prisons had reduced by 11%, it remained a major challenge. By March 2007, Uganda's prisons held a population of 18,558 prisoners, a problem attributed mainly on the time spent between committal and the trial stages. Efforts towards increasing the capacities of prisons in Nakasongola, Namalu, Tororo and Jinja Main Prison were recorded at 6%.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative contested the issue of Pre-trial detention in Constitutional petition No. 20 of 2006: *Foundation for Human Rights Initiative Vs. Attorney General*. The Constitutional Court heard the petition that challenged and sought the nullification of a number of sections in the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces Act, the Police Act, Magistrates' Courts Act and the Trial on Indictment Act. The Court ruling was still pending.

The Uganda Police Force was sharply criticized for engaging a militant group codenamed "*Kiboko Squad*" or "*Stick Brigade*" to assault demonstrators during the Save Mabira demonstrations. Although the Police Force denied any links to this irregular group, President Museveni, regrettably, saluted such Ugandans who opposed the demonstrators whom he described as criminals. None the less, the Police was commended for its efforts to improve community policing, their increased presence in Northern Uganda and for the steps taken so far to improve the welfare of police officers.

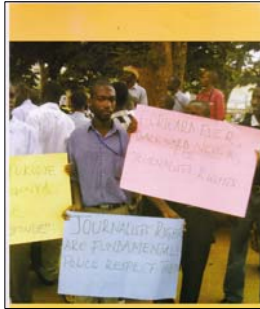
Due to the nullification of election results in some of the constituencies, Bye-elections were conducted for some constituencies. Common in these bye elections was the direct participation of different political Party Presidents who campaigned for their respective party candidates. Although the Democracy Monitoring Group observed that the elections were peaceful, there were some anomalies in some of the districts, including, non gazetted polling stations, electoral violence and intimidation, among others. A large section of the public queried the trend of presidential involvement in minor elections while others blamed the flaws on the Presidential security personnel.

As a counter terrorism measure, the Government of Uganda proposed to legalize phone tapping by security agencies through a law that seeks to allow the lawful interception and monitoring of communication in Uganda, a step which was widely seen as an unnecessary restriction on the right to privacy. FHRI and political activists criticized this proposed draconian legislation and urged caution among its proponents.

Perceived widely as a clamp down on media freedoms, the Uganda Police Force set up a 'Media and Political Squad' met to monitor media broadcasts in respect of what was referred to as irresponsible and criminal utterances against the government and the person of the President. In a

related move, the State Minister for Information, Communication and Technology threatened the closure of popular FM radio stations over what he referred to as persistent negative criticism of the NRM government and the President. It was therefore not surprising that, a program on Voice of Toro, a Fort Portal based FM radio station called “Twerwaneho” (self-help) was allegedly discontinued due to its persistent criticism of the government. Similarly, during the year, three journalists working with The Monitor Newspaper were charged and interrogated over a “seditious” story titled “Soldiers training to take police jobs” at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in Kibuli.

The 2007 Global Press Freedom indicated an improvement in the up by 11 places and was ranked in This however sharply contradicted International Human Rights Day, period of 1st June – 30th November *Freedom of Expression (In Uganda 2007)*” which indicated a freedoms through legal economic and political conditions for media



Journalist demonstrating against limitation in media freedom

Index by Reporters without Frontiers, state of media freedoms in Uganda the 97th position out of 169 countries. the FHRI report launched on the of 10th December 2007, for the 2007 under the theme “*Uganda: defence of Media Freedom in sharp decline and threat to media restrictions, underlying pressures; and poor working practitioners.*”

The debate on the controversial Non Governmental Organizations Registration Act 2007 continued. The Chairperson of the NGO Board during a submission to Parliament on the implementation of the law, argued that the amended Act was very important and key in promoting transparency and accountability of NGOs who received donor funds and claimed that they were serving in public interest. The NGO Act in its current form however is a threat to civil society space.

The campaign against the death penalty was boosted when Rwanda scrapped the death sentence. Human Rights activists called upon Uganda and the entire East African Community to standardize sentencing in the region in the spirit of harmonization and current penal reform trends.

In the Constitutional Court, women activists scored highly when the Court repealed Section 154 of the Penal Code Act that criminalized adultery on discriminatory grounds against women. By the end of the year, there was effectively no law on adultery, a situation religious leaders and faith based groups condemned, describing the court ruling as one that had only served to legalize adultery. Government promised to reform the law. This be as it may, wife beating and violence against women was reported to be on the increase with more than two in five women reported to ever having experienced violence.

On corruption, Uganda was ranked 117th out of 158 countries in corruption according to the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2007. To counter this, the Inspectorate of Government, revealed plans to set up an anti corruption court at the level of a High Court as part of a broader campaign to check runaway corruption.

On a lighter note, given the improved vaccination coverage, the child mortality rate in Uganda was reported on the down ward trend from 156 deaths per 1000 children to 137 deaths during the year. However chronic under-nutrition amongst children was still significant with 38% of children reported

stunted. Child trafficking was reported to be on the increase prompting the tabling of a Private Member's Bill by the Chairperson of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association to criminalize this trade. The Bill is yet to be enacted into law.

Government also took keen interest in human rights education in schools and urged the Uganda Human Rights Commission to extend its programs to primary and secondary schools and other higher institutions of learning. Prospects of adding human rights education to the school curriculum were promising.

In the 2007 State of the World Population report, Uganda's population growth rate was reported to be the 2nd highest in the world; urban population reported to have risen from 1.7 million in 1991 to 3.7 million in 2007. The report warned of negative consequences in respect of development if the population growth went unchecked. Relatedly, the same report shockingly revealed that despite the introduction of Universal Primary and Secondary education, Uganda's literacy rates had dropped to 69 % in 2007 from 70% in 2004.

Although awareness and general knowledge on HIV/AIDS had increased, the HIV/AIDS infection rate was reported to be shifting from the elderly to the younger generation, a Makerere University and JCRC report noted that 1 in 7 HIV patients dropped treatment due to high cost of drugs which raised the question of ability of patients to access treatment.

The long awaited Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was finally hosted in Uganda from the 22nd – 23rd November 2007. The presence of the Head of the Common Wealth Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II excited Ugandans who lined the streets to see her during this historical visit. Over 4 billion shillings is reported to have been spent on this event by Government.

FHRI also played a key role in the pre- CHOGM activities. Towards the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Uganda, FHRI together with HURINET, Amnesty International and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in India from the 19th-20th November 2007 co-hosted the third Commonwealth Human Rights Forum (CHRF) under the theme; *"Transforming societies– realizing people's potential: Living up to Human Rights Commitments"*.

According to the UN Human Development report released on the 29th November 2007, the number of Ugandans living in poverty had fallen from 38% to 31%, with 42% of the poor people living in rural areas and only 12% in urban areas. In-equality was on the increase with poverty reported least in the central region, followed by the western region. The eastern region came third and the north most afflicted. The Joint Assistance Strategy for the Republic of Uganda: 2005-2009 notes that Poverty in Uganda remains transitory for those with incomes outside of crop agriculture but chronic for those who rely primarily on crop agriculture for their livelihood. The conflict affected north remained the poorest region with 63% of the population living in poverty. Poverty increased most drastically in the east from 35% to 46% while rapid population in urban areas contributed to a rise in urban poverty.

Access to safe water was reported to be on the increase with at least 68% of Ugandans now have safe water up from 63% in 2003 and despite the conflict in Northern Uganda, the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund have sunk boreholes there which have improved access to safe water.

Although the average distance to a water point is one kilometer in northern Uganda, the average time taken queuing for water was estimated at 54 minutes, double the national average.

On a very encouraging note, FHRI's influence within the civil society and human rights sector continued to grow in 2007. In a survey conducted by the Daily Monitor published on the 13th October 2007, on the 100 most influential Ugandans, the Executive Director of FHRI, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana was voted No. 51 for steadfastly championing human rights in Uganda. He represented the only civil society organization voted in this respect.

Given the above challenges and progress reported, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) intensified its human rights advocacy in order to effectively address them in 2007.

1. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

16 years down the road, 2007 marked the 2nd year of FHRI's fifth Strategic Plan code-named: *'From theory to Practice: Advancing the Human Rights Agenda in Uganda; (2006– 2008)* which seeks to promote respect for civil and political freedoms including; the right to life, liberty and security of person, freedom of expression, association and assembly; judicial independence and integrity; access to justice, humane treatment of detainees and the right to participate in local governance.

Coincidentally, 2007 also marks one year into a nascent multi-party political system in Uganda and one year to the end of the FHRI' s fifth Strategic Plan 2006-2008. Therefore, for FHRI as a key player in the democratization process in Uganda, 2007 was another captivating and eventful period which called for proactive engagement of the state apparatus; through examining policy and human rights practice and advocacy for the respect of media freedoms, judicial independence, freedom of association and assembly, right to life, liberty and security of person, a humane criminal justice policy and improved access to justice.

Institutionally, FHRI invested into strengthening its capacity to effectively execute the planned agenda through staff training and development, policy formulation and nurturing and sustaining strategic partnerships both at national and international levels.

The FHRI program agenda has the following strategic objectives:

- Promotion of human rights standards, norms and principles;
- Promotion of best practices in the administration of justice;
- Campaign for freedom of expression, association and assembly including the media;
- Improve criminal justice policy and respect for the rule of law and democratic governance;
- Strengthen grass-root groups to enhance political and public accountability and;
- Strengthen institutional capacity and sustainability.

These strategic objectives are implemented under six core programmatic areas namely;

1. Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy.
2. Access to Justice.
3. Education and Training.
4. Paralegal Advisory Services.
5. Focus on Northern Uganda.
6. Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
7. Institutional Strengthening and Development.

I. RIGHTS MONITORING AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Objective

The Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy project aims at documenting human rights practices in order to promote dialogue and respect for human rights and democratic development in Uganda. The project works towards improving criminal justice policy and ensures zero tolerance for practices of torture and impunity in Uganda's penal institutions.

The project has three key elements including;

- i. Research
- ii. Treaty Reporting
- iii. Legislative Analysis and Policy Advocacy

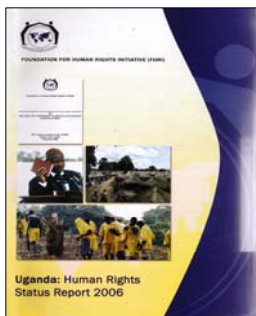
Implementation

The areas of focus include: freedom of expression, association and assembly, including the media; right to life and security of person; administration of justice; police and prison reform including the campaign against torture, conditions in internally displaced persons camps and those of returning IDPs, the democratic reform/electoral reform process, rights of women, children and the human rights situation in Northern Uganda. The project annually releases the Country Status Human Rights Report and periodically publishes thematic human rights reports.

Planned Activities

Four (4) activities were planned in 2007 including; the release of the Annual Country Human Rights Status Report, 2006; the release of three (3) quarterly human rights thematic reports on; '*Inside Political Parties in Uganda*', '*Media freedom*' and '*Judicial Independence*', participate in the 50th and 51st sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and convene a Roundtable on Post- conflict Northern Uganda and the National IDP Policy.

Output



On 31st May 2007, FHRI formally released '*The Uganda: Human Rights Status Report 2006*' and the 1st thematic human rights report titled; '*The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly: (Inside Multi-Party Politics in Uganda)*' for the period January- May 2007. One hundred and twenty five (125) delegates (86 men and 39 female) witnessed this launch including; public officials, representatives of Political Parties notably NRM-O, FDC, UPC, CP, MDC and NPP, security agencies, Development partners, civil society organizations, academia, media regulatory bodies

and journalists.

While the Annual Country Human Rights status report 2006 documented the overall situation of human rights and civil liberties in Uganda in 2006, the 1st thematic report

examined the right to freedom of assembly and association, the operation of political parties in Uganda and their readiness governance. The report also documented the situation of human rights during the five months period, focusing primarily on freedom from Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading treatment, media hearing and the right to a fair liberty and security of person. FHRI took advantage of this launch to critique Government's plan to introduce a Bill regularizing phone-



Cross-section of the guests at the launch of the Report on the Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly (*Inside Multi-party Politics in Uganda*) at Hotel Africana, Kampala, on 31st May 2007.

and capacity to participate in documented the situation of months period, focusing Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and freedom, the right to a fair liberty and security of advantage of this launch to in the offing to introduce a tapping by security

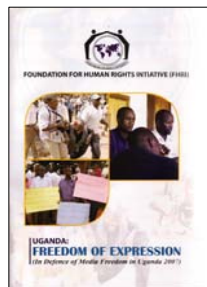
organizations arguing unjustifiable restriction on Through undertaking missions, both reports Soroti, Kumi, Gulu,

that this amounted to an the right to privacy. human rights field covered the districts of Kampala, Kayunga,

Mbarara, Kasese, Kabarole, Jinja, Masaka and Lyatonde as well as the findings from the 11 places of detention inspected including; Mubuku prison farm in Kasese district, Butuntumula prison in Luwero, Nakifuma prison in Mukono, Luzira prison, (Condemned section, Luzira remand prison and Women Prison), Arua Main Prisons, Paidha prison, Myanzi prison in Mubende, Maluku Prison in Mbale District, Ntenjeru Prison in Kayunga district, Iganga Police Station, Nebbi Central Police Station and Mbale Central police Station.

With a print run of four hundred fifty copies (200 of the Status report and 250 of the thematic report), 100 copies were distributed to Justice Law and Order Sector agencies, 60 copies to Civil Society Organizations, 60 copies to Development Partners and transnational organizations, 40 copies to political parties, 70 copies to the media, 20 copies to the academia and 80 copies to members and subscribers.

To commemorate the UN the 10th December 2007 formally report titled; *Freedom of Freedom in Uganda 2007*) at Hotel the Government of Uganda to regulatory bodies as well as repeal which criminalize critical reporting



Report on Freedom of Expression (*In Defence of Media Freedom in Uganda 2007*)

International Human Rights Day, FHRI on released the 2nd thematic human rights *Expression (In Defence of Media Africana*. The organization called upon streamline the mandate of various media sections of the Penal Code Act, CAP 120 by the media with the offence of Sedition.

The launch of the 108 - page hundred and two (102) including the Media Centre, Council, representatives from

report was witnessed by one participants (73 male and 29 female) the Uganda Police, the Broadcasting the Uganda Prisons Service,

representatives from the Uganda Journalists Association, Uganda Parliamentary Press Association, media houses, development partners, security agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and the general public. Out of the 250 copies printed, the reports were widely disseminated to a number of stakeholders including: Development Partners, the academia, the Justice Law and Order sector agencies, civil society, the media, political parties, FHRI members and subscribers.

Under the Treaty reporting component, FHRI participated in the 41st session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights from the 16th – 30th May 2007 during which the organisation submitted a statement on the Human Rights situation in Uganda particularly in respect to freedom of association, assembly including the media, the situation in Northern Uganda, the use of the death penalty as a sentence and conditions of prisons. As a member of the Coalition for an Effective Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, FHRI during this session continued to advocate for the establishment of an effective African Court that would ensure access to justice for all. On the UN front, as a follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee on Uganda's adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), FHRI made substantive progress in ascertaining the progress and level of implementation of these recommendations. The findings would be documented in 2008 in the 2nd shadow report to Uganda Government's 2nd state party report on the implementation of the ICCPR.

In light of the then Northern Uganda Peace process and the subsequent return and resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), FHRI planned to, under the Legislative analysis and Policy Advocacy component, facilitate a national dialogue on the need for a National Peace Policy and to create awareness of the National IDP policy. This Roundtable on '*Post-war Northern Uganda and the National IDP Policy*' was however postponed to 2008 in light of the progress of the then Northern Uganda Peace Talks. None the less, in 2007, FHRI continued to monitor the situation of human rights in Northern Uganda focusing on the IDPs and made regular commentary on the Peace process in its human rights reports.

On the other hand, FHRI bolstered its Access to Information Campaign under the legislative analysis and policy advocacy supporting a one-day to Information Act 2005, on the Statistics House, Kampala. which was convened by the Information in the Office of the sensitizing designated Officers from among others, Information, Ministry of ICT, the Uganda Law Reform as stipulated in the Access to meeting attracted seventy (70) 20 women). The workshop



Mr. Vincent Babalanda (left) consults his Mr. Venkatesh Nayak during the Access to Information workshop, at Statistics House on 23rd February 2007.

component by workshop on the Access 23rd February 2007 at The one day workshop Directorate of Prime Minister, aimed at Government Information the Department of Department of Ethics, Commission on their role Information Act, 2005. The participants (50 men and which was officially

opened by the Head of Public Service & Secretary to Cabinet, Mr. John Mitala attracted a number of eminent resource persons drawn from the Ministry of Public Service, the academia and civil society who ably facilitated the discussions in the workshop. A Plan of Action was adopted which would facilitate implementation of the law spearheaded by the Directorate of Information.

FHRI joined other human rights activists under the Coalition Against Torture to commemorate the UN Day Against Torture on the 26th June 2006 in Kumi district. Events to mark the day included public dialogues, petitions and public processions.

FHRI also played a key role in pre- CHOGM activities. Towards the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Uganda, FHRI together with Amnesty International and the Rights Initiative in November 2007 co-hosted the third Commonwealth Human Rights Forum (CHRF) under the theme; *“Transforming people’s potential: Rights Commitments”*. The forum which attracted one hundred rights activists and institutions from within the Commonwealth was officially opened by the Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga and officially closed by Mrs. Florence Mugasha Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth. The outcome of the deliberations were documented into a Concluding statement and recommendations which called upon the Commonwealth Heads of Government to ensure the protection of rights, establish a mechanism for compliance within the Commonwealth, to revisit the Commonwealth’s role in Election Observation, establish an enabling rights framework with full civil society participation, fully recognize the rights of vulnerable and minority groups within the Commonwealth and to take a firm stand on States like Zimbabwe and Pakistan as members of the Commonwealth where there has been a serious decline in the human rights respect. The statement was presented to the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General during the closing session.



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana chairs a session at the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum held from 19th - 20th November 2007 at Hotel African. (L) Mr. Mohammed Ndifuna, National Coordinator, HURINET & (c) Ms. Florence Mugasha, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat.

The forum which fifty (150) human government the Commonwealth the Deputy Speaker

Impact

The Human Rights reports produced by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in 2007 have contributed significantly to the discussions on human rights, state obligations and entitlements thereby keeping the subject on top of the agenda both in public and national fora in Uganda. Clearly the reports have cut out a niche for FHRI increasingly becoming a re-known civil rights advocacy organization and key player in the democratization process of Uganda.

The reports stimulated discussions and debates on the Right to freedom of association and assembly, political space rights, political party funding, political party ideology, media freedoms, northern Uganda and the Juba peace talks, rights of pre-trial detainees, including UPDF soldiers in detention, right to privacy and phone-tapping among others.

Key dialogues and debates around the issues raised by the FHRI reports were recorded in the media, Parliament, within the Justice Law and Order Sector, the opposition, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Government institutions, Development Partners and international fora.

The media was probably the biggest consumer of the reports released during the year with both the electronic and print media discussing and documenting the findings therein. A total of 14

electronic broadcasts were recorded on 11 different FM radio stations and television channels as illustrated in table 1 below:

Radio/Program	Issue	Date
Radio One	Political space rights	31 st May 2007
WBS	Torture and the treatment of inmates	31 st May 2007
CBS	Freedom of Association and assembly	31 st May 2007
Radio Simba	The Human Rights situation in Uganda	1 st June 2007
Vatican radio interview	Human rights situation in Uganda	8 th June 2007
KFM	NGO Amend Act: implications	25 th June 2007
Super FM	Torture	27 th June 2007
Uganda Radio Network –interview	Human Rights situation	13 th July 2007
CBS FM	Juba peace talks	26 th July 2007
Radio one/two	Juba peace talks.	30 th Oct. 2007
Radio Uganda	Human Rights in Uganda	1 st Nov. 2007
Radio One Interview/spectrum	Guidelines on Demos	29 th Nov. 2007
Channel IV News , UK	Prisons Conditions in Uganda	4 th Dec. 2007
KFM	Media freedoms	10 th Dec. 2007

Similarly a total of twelve (12) print media articles were also recorded in 2007 detailing and discussing a number of human rights issues documented in the FHRI reports as follows:

No.	TITLE OF ARTICLE	SOURCE
1.	400 suspects languishing in jail without trial-report.	Daily Monitor May 31 2007
2.	Rights report insists on Kony arrest by ICC.	Daily Monitor June 2, 2007
3.	Obunafu bw'ebiina byobufuzi bwanikiddwa (<i>weakness of political parties exposed</i>)	Bukedde: Mmande June 4, 2007
4.	Bawakanyizza Gavumenti Ku kulumika amasimu (<i>phone tapping opssoed</i>)	Bukedde: Lwakubiri June 5, 2007
5.	MPs should block the phone-tapping bill-rights boss	Daily Monitor, June 6, 2007
6.	Asabye bayimbule abajaasi (<i>Release soldiers in detention</i>)	Bukedde: Mmande, July 9, 2007
7.	Press Freedom on decline, says FHRI - report	Daily Monitor, Tuesday December 11, 2007
8.	RDCs a big threat to media freedom- report	Red Pepper, Tuesday December 11, 2007
9.	Media Freedom under threat - report	The New Vision Tuesday December 11, 2007
10.	Its everyone's role to uphold human rights - report	The Monitor, Tuesday December 11 th 2007
11.	FHRI backs Mengo on Land - report	Red Pepper, Thursday, December 13, 2007
12.	Hard Times for the Press in Uganda- report	Daily Monitor, Thursday December 13 2007

In all the media outlets above, the findings of the reports were well disseminated as news items, commentaries and in some instance subject of long debates during live phone in radio talk shows and informal media debates.

Reports released during of dialogue and and key Government the human rights reports discussion in Parliament the FHRI delegation met Parliament, Hon Edward handed over the human The issues discussed include; the appointment deal with the case back political party funding, illegally detained in rampant land conflicts in the country and the delay of Parliament in debating the findings of human rights reports presented to them.



Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Edward Sekandi, poses with the team from FHRI after receiving copies of the Human Rights Reports on 5th July 2007 at Parliament.

the year were the subject discussions between FHRI institutions. The findings of were a subject of on the 5th July 2007, when with the Hon Speaker of K. Ssekandi and formally rights report to Parliament. with the Hon. Speaker of judicial officers to log in the judiciary, the UPDF soldiers Luzira prison and the

Following the meeting with the Hon Speaker, a Parliamentary Committee was set up to deliberate on issues of Party funding. The call for the appointment of Judicial officers was responded to when a motion to increase the number of judges was tabled in Parliament and unanimously passed on Thursday 13th September 2007 urging the President to appoint more judicial officers. The detention of UPDF soldiers was also debated in the Defence and Internal Affairs committee. The plight of the soldiers was later published as headline in the Daily Monitor of January 30th 2007, provoking the UPDF to respond to the reports. And although the UPDF through the then Spokesperson, Major Felix Kulayigye alleged that they were not aware of the situation of the soldiers, the spokesperson committed the Defence department to investigating the claims.

Land conflicts, evictions and the right to property was one of the contentious issues discussed with the Speaker of Parliament. Particularly the case of the alleged eviction claims by a group of Pastoralists, commonly known as *Balaalo* from their land in Buliisa, Masindi district. This land conflict and similar ones in Northern Uganda caused public out-cry and heightened debate on the right to property prompting FHRI to broker a meeting between the pastoralists and the Speaker of Parliament to address their concerns. Following this meeting, a Parliamentary Committee was put in place to investigate the issue not only in Masindi district but in other parts of Uganda where such land conflicts were becoming common.

FHRI met with the Leader of Prof Ogenga Latigo on the 3rd issues around political space repeal of redundant laws like political system, among why soon after the release of a number of political parties



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Ogenga Latigo receiving a copy of the Report on the Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly from Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana on 3rd July 2007, in his office at Parliament.

the Opposition in Parliament July 2007 and discussed rights, political party ideology, the UPDF Act in a multi-party others. This probably explains the FHRI human rights reports, including CP, FDC held

internal and public issues of political party reiterating the position of

discussions on ideology all FHRI reports on the

need for each party to develop an ideology that would attract support and provide focus and direction.



Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Benjamin Odoki admiring the reports after receiving them from Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana on 6th June 2007, in his office at the High Court, Kampala

Within the Justice Law and Order Sector, FHRI formally met with the Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Benjamin Odoki, on the 6th June 2007, the Principle Judge, Hon. Judge James Ogoola, on the 7th June 2007 and the Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Andrew Byabashaija on the 14th June 2007. The discussions with

these key JLOS institutions centered around access to justice, appointment of judicial



Principal Judge, Hon. Justice James Ogoola admiring a copy of the Report on the Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly on 7th June 2007, in his office at High Court, Kampala.

officers, case backlog, treatment of offenders and suspects, prison conditions, judicial independence among others. This prompted corrective action by the Uganda Prison Service when in Mubuku Farm prison in Kasese district, extremely



Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Byabashaija receiving a copy of the Report on the Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly from Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana on 14th June 2007, at the Prisons Headquarters.

sick prisoners were transferred to Fort Portal Hospital while over 10 inmates who had overstayed their mandatory remand period in Butuntumula prison in Luwero were released on bail. At Iganga Central Police Station, two suspects were released on police bond after overstaying the mandatory 48 hours in the police cell while sick inmates from Nakifuma prison were also transferred to Nakifuma hospital for urgent medical attention. Due to the appalling prison conditions in Myanzi prisons in Mubende district, plans were underway to close down the facility by the Uganda Prisons Service and the Officer in Charge transferred to another station. Relatedly, Human Rights committees have been revitalized and

operationalised in all prison units to strengthen internal accountability for human rights abuse among staff.

Advocacy for the improvement of the Criminal Justice system by FHRI registered some promising results when juvenile cells were constructed to prevent holding of juveniles with adults, improvements in living conditions of prison and police staff and prisoner welfare were registered by providing daily meals to inmates and access to health services and the expansion of some prisons and increasing capacity of the prisons by 6% in Nakasongola, Namalu, Tororo and Jinja Main prisons.

The consistency and objectivity of FHRI has raised the profile of the organization increasingly becoming a re-known civil rights advocacy organization and key player in the democratization process in Uganda and beyond. As a result, the organization has been consistently consulted in a number of national processes key to the democratization process in Uganda and the Eastern Africa region.

On the 2nd May 2007, FHRI was invited to the Uganda Human Rights Commission Consultative meeting on the state of human rights in Uganda and the launch of its 9th Annual report. FHRI views and findings shaped and contributed to UHRC report which contribution was acknowledged at the launch of the report by the UHRC Chairperson, Mrs. Margaret Sekagya on the 19th August 2007.

FHRI reports influenced Executive decisions as well. On the 7th November 2007, FHRI was invited by the Hon. Speaker of Parliament to make a presentation on, '*Multi-party democracy and Electoral reforms in Uganda.*' It was at this meeting that the campaign against torture was acknowledged when the Hon. Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to urgently kick-start the process of enacting a law Against Torture. This directive was reinforced when the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Mr. Matia Kasaija ordered the police to refrain from practices of torture and extortion of money from people seeking justice.

In a national effort to ensure the respect of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly, the Uganda Human Rights Commission invited FHRI to form part of the committee, to draft guidelines on 'Managing public rallies and demonstrations' in order to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is respected.

The campaign on freedom of expression, association and assembly continues to be a key focus of FHRI activities. Although there were over 10 political rallies disrupted during the year, the persistent disruption of these rallies was actively challenged by FHRI through reports, press releases and media interviews and articles. The disregard of Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2007, The Police (Declaration of Gazetted Areas) which declares particular areas in Uganda as 'no go zones' for any person to convene an assembly issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs is also one such example. The instrument which raises concerns over the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association in Uganda was consistently criticized by FHRI and other activists during the year, prompting Parliamentary inquiry into the matter and causing the Minister in Charge to comment on the same. By the end of the year, the Government had contrary to its promise been unable to review the said instrument.

Within the Justice Law and Order Sector, FHRI remains a prominent partner within the sector and sits on the JLOS Criminal Justice Working Group. FHRI also consistently participates in the Joint Government of Uganda/Donor review of the Justice Law and Order Sector.

Likewise, the initiative by the Frederich Ebert Stiftung to develop an Afro Media Barometer for Uganda benefited from FHRI's work on media freedoms given that the FHRI provided information on the state of media freedom in Uganda in 2007.



A number of human rights issues have received prominence and attention throughout the year as a result of the exposure through the human rights reports released by FHRI. Following the release of media report, the Government Media Centre on the



7th January 2008 vehemently denied the content of the report arguing that the NRM government was committed to principles of a free media. Following the exposure of the poor detention conditions in FHRI report expressing concern about the UPDF soldiers in Luzira Upper prison by FHRI, the Army issued a statement signed by the spokesperson, claiming that the condemned soldiers had not appealed their cases within the legally stipulated time.

The Donor Human Rights Working Group took keen interest in the state of media freedom in Uganda and requested FHRI to present its report on media freedom before the group on 16th January 2008. The findings of the report informed the discussions between the development partners and the Government on its human rights record during the year.

Uganda's State party reporting function continued to improve with better government participation in treaty body sessions. Uganda was ably represented at the sessions of the African Commission and continuously provided information and updates on the situation of human rights as required in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Access to Information Campaign steadily gained currency. With the appointment of a Task Force mandated to develop Regulations to support implementation of the Access to Information Act, 2005, the implementation of the Act increasingly gained prominence. FHRI is a member of the task force.

Challenges

The space for independent action and alternative views continued to shrink in Uganda. The threat to political party development and independent civil society in Uganda may negatively affect the role of independent actors in the democratization process in Uganda, a phenomenon likely to create room for impunity to creep in. New strategies will be needed to broaden this independent space.

II. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Objective

The program seeks to enhance access to justice for the poor and vulnerable sections of society. It also seeks to promote best practices in the administration of justice and in so doing make effective use of the law to promote human rights.

The project has three key elements including;

- i. Capacity building for the judiciary;
- ii. Strategic Litigation and,
- iii. Legal Aid Services.

Implementation

The campaign to improve the administration of justice in Uganda involves research, strategic litigation, pro-bono legal services to the poor and vulnerable persons, legal support to victims of torture, advocacy and capacity building for the judiciary.

Planned activities

Three activities were planned in 2007 including; a Roundtable for Judicial Officers to examine the extent of domestication and application of human rights standards in Uganda, strategic litigation in respect of the right to a fair hearing, freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and the right to life (including the campaign on the abolition of the death penalty) and the provision of pro-bono legal assistance.

Output

As planned, FHRI in partnership with the Judicial Studies Institute and the Death Penalty Project (UK) convened the 10th Judicial Officers' Forum. This forum component seeks to support the judiciary in the delivery of justice by creating a platform for regular examination of its practices and constraints.

The three - day Roundtable under the theme: '*Domestication of International Human Rights Standards in Uganda*' was convened from the 2nd - 4th September 2007 at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe. The Roundtable which was officially opened by the Ag. Chief Justice of Uganda Her Lordship Justice Leaticia Kikonyogo and closed by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon Mwesigwa Rukutana (on behalf of the Hon. Speaker of Parliament) was attended by 92; (57 men and 35 women) delegates including: Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, Judges of the High Court, Magistrates, Registrars, state attorneys from the Directorate of Public Prosecution, advocates, academia, Members of Parliament, Government Officials, representatives from International NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the media.

The Roundtable Persons including; His Justice of Belize, Hon. Conteh, Hon. George the Supreme Court of African Court on Rights, Hon. Justice of the Court of Court of Uganda, Hon. of State, Ministry of Urban Development, including Edward Starmer QC. The (UK) was ably represented by Mr. Saul Lehrfreund and Mr. Parvais Jabbar while Ms. Seynabou Benga from the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights conducted a brief session on the ICC and the Legal Tools project.



Group Photograph of the Participants at the 10th Judicial Officer's Forum, 2nd – 4th September 2007 at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel. Entebbe.

attracted Resource Lordship, the Chief Justice Abdulai O. Kanyeihamba, Justice of Uganda and Judge of the Human and Peoples' Amos Twinomujuni, Appeal/Constitutional Atwoki Kasirivu Minister Lands, Housing and Barristers from the UK, Fitzgerald QC and Keir Death Penalty Project



Hon. Justice Conteh
Chief Justice of Belize



Hon. Justice Amos Twinomujuni
Justice of the Court of Appeal



Hon. Justice George Kanyeihamba
Justice of the Supreme Court

The distinguished resource team facilitated and led discussions on issues including: *the right to bail as a fundamental right* by Hon. Justice Amos Twinomujuni, *Sentencing in Capital Cases in the Commonwealth* by Hon. Justice Abdulai O. Conteh, *Legal tools under the International Criminal Court (ICC)* by Seynabou Benga, *The National Land Policy* by Hon. Kasirivu Atwooki, and the *Independence of the Judiciary in International law* by Hon. Justice George Kanyeihamba. The special session on sentencing in capital cases was an opportunity for the participants and especially the judicial officers to discuss the controversial death sentence with examples of abolitionist countries being cited from various jurisdictions.

A number of recommendations were adopted at the end of the Roundtable. Key among these was the call to the Judiciary to utilize International human rights standards and norms in the determination of capital cases. The Judiciary and civil society called upon the Government of Uganda to quickly appoint additional justices to the Supreme Court as well as to increase the number of judicial officers in the lower courts in order to enhance the right to a fair and speedy trial.

Under its strategic litigation component FHRI has undertaken litigation in respect of the following: the rights of pre-trial detainees, the right to life (campaign on the abolition of the death penalty) and the right to freedom from torture, cruel and degrading treatment/punishment.

On 18th July 2006, FHRI filed a Constitutional Petition cited as; *Constitutional Petition No. 20 of 2006; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative Vs. the Attorney General* challenging overstay of pre-trial detainees. After two adjournments during the year, the Constitutional petition was finally heard on the 1st October 2007 before the Constitutional Court. The Constitutionality of sections 14 (2), 15 (1-3) 16 of the Trial on Indictments Act in as far as they provided for the regulation of the grant of bail, the Constitutionality of Sections 75(2) and 76 of the Magistrates Court Act in as far as it excludes some offences from the grant of bail by the magistrates court and sets lengthy pre-trial detention periods, the constitutionality of Sections 219, 231 and 248 of the Uganda People's Defense Forces Act that subject accused persons to lengthy periods of detention without bail and lastly, the constitutionality of Sections 25(2) of the Police Act that allow detention of a suspect for seven days without being charged in court. The Court ruling would be delivered on notice.

In *Constitutional Petition No. 29 of 2006; Jurua Jackson Mc Peace and 19 others Vs. The Attorney General of Uganda*, ill -treatment of the then 35 alleged PRA suspects was challenged by Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) through Alaka & Co. Advocates,. The petition had however not been heard due to the failure of the Attorney General to make an appearance.

FHRI's 16 year old campaign against the death penalty in Uganda has metamorphosed over time. The campaign had a new lease of life in 2003, when a Constitutional Petition challenging the death penalty and its application was filed in 2003. Cited as *Suzan Kigula and 416 others Vs. the Attorney General*, the Petition was heard in 2005 in the Constitutional court. The court ruling was delivered six months later on 10th June 2005. In their ruling, the Court held the death penalty to be Constitutional while mandatory death sentences were declared unconstitutional. Secondly, the Judges held that a death sentence, irrespective of whether it was a result of a mandatory death penalty provision or not, becomes unconstitutional if not carried out within three years after confirmation of the sentence by the Supreme Court. In their declarations, the judges held that the petitioners who had not yet exhausted the right of appeal were entitled to appeal against the sentence and to raise any mitigating factors. The Government was given two years to exercise its discretion under the Prerogative of Mercy provisions. Those who would not get redress under that process were entitled to return to court at the expiration of that period.

In 2005, both parties cross appealed sections of the judgment to the Supreme Court and by the close of 2007, the appeal had not been heard due to the lack of quorum in the Supreme Court.

Notwithstanding the above, the campaign against the abolition of the death penalty spearheaded by FHRI under the Civil Society Coalition on the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda continued during the year. Debriefing sessions for petitioners in the Condemned section of Luzira Upper Prison on the status of the constitutional petition were undertaken, articles in the media on the death penalty were written and provision of legal support to inmates on Death row was unhindered. Identification of cases for possible mitigation was also a regular activity.

In partnership with the Death Uganda Law Society, FHRI workshop on "Sentencing in September 2007, at the Held as part of the under the Uganda Law



Cross-section of Participants at the Lawyers' Training, at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel on 5th September 2007

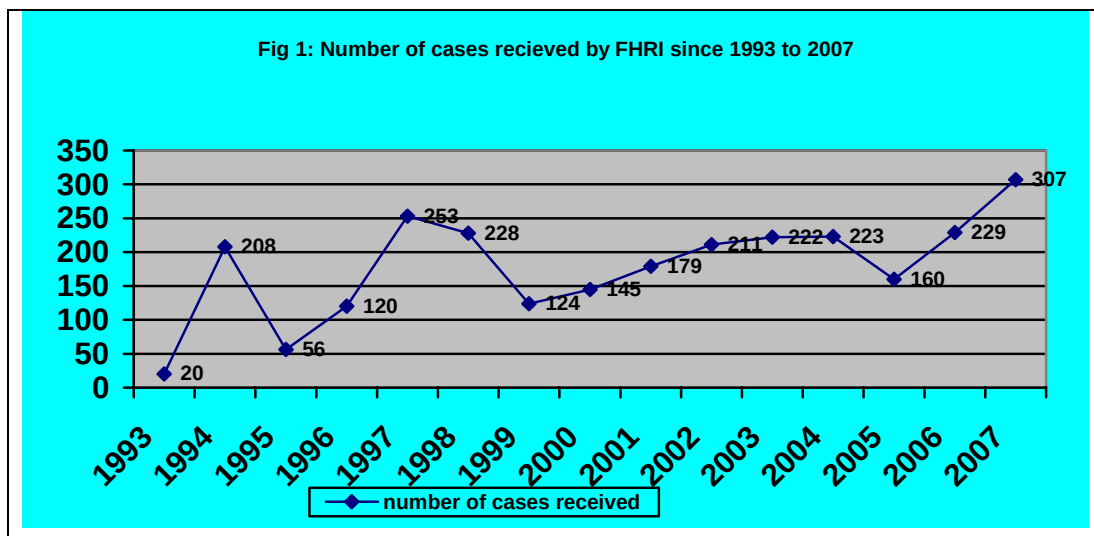
Penalty Project (UK) and the convened a training Capital Cases", on the 5th Sheraton Kampala Hotel. continuous legal education Society, the training was

facilitated by Mr. Keir Starmer QC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, (UK), on the topic, *'Background to the Recent Challenges to Mandatory Death Penalty'*. Hon Justice Abdulai O. Conteh, Chief Justice of Belize on the topic, *'The Capital Sentencing System in the Caribbean '* and Mr. Edward Fitzgerald QC, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, (UK), on the topic, *'General sentencing principles, the test that should be applied and relevant considerations'*. Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, FHRI's Executive Director and Mr. Fredrick Ssempebwa, a Senior Partner with Katende-Ssempebwa & Co Advocates, guided the training workshop that attracted a trainee population of 147 participants including 114 lawyers and 33 journalists. The Lawyers trained obtained 7(seven) credit points for their attendance.

FHRI being a member of the World Coalition on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, participated in the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty in France from the 1st to 3rd Feb 2007, addressed the Symposium organized by Prisoners on Death Row, Luzira Upper Prison on the 24th July 2007 in commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty in Uganda and submitted a position paper on the Penal Code Amendment Bill 2006 (in respect of death penalty provisions) to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Uganda on the 28th February 2007.

The FHRI strategy to enhance access to Justice entails provision of pro-bono legal aid services to poor victims of human rights abuse to obtain redress. Since 1993, FHRI Legal Aid Unit has provided legal support through a rapid response mechanism to victims of human rights violations providing some relief in cases of violations suffered.

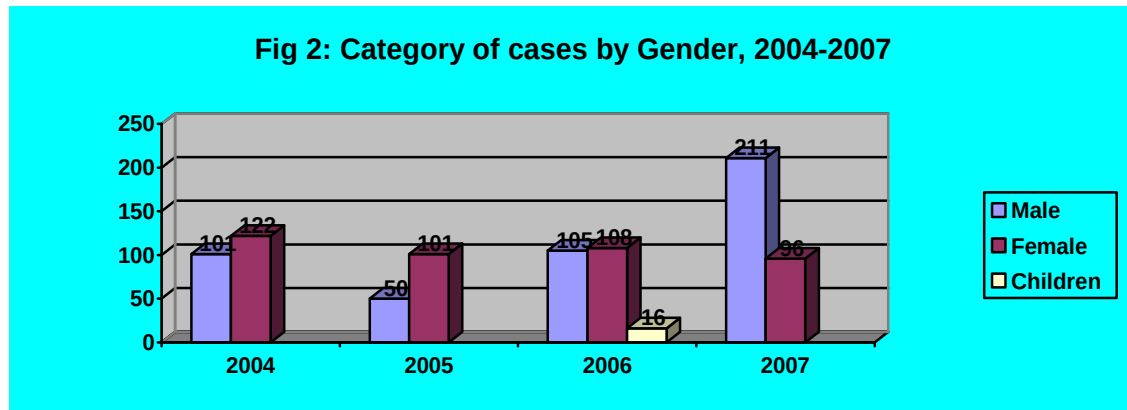
In 2007, FHRI's Legal Aid Unit received and handled three hundred seven (307) cases of human rights abuse, an increase from two hundred twenty nine (229) cases in 2006 as illustrated in figure 1 below:



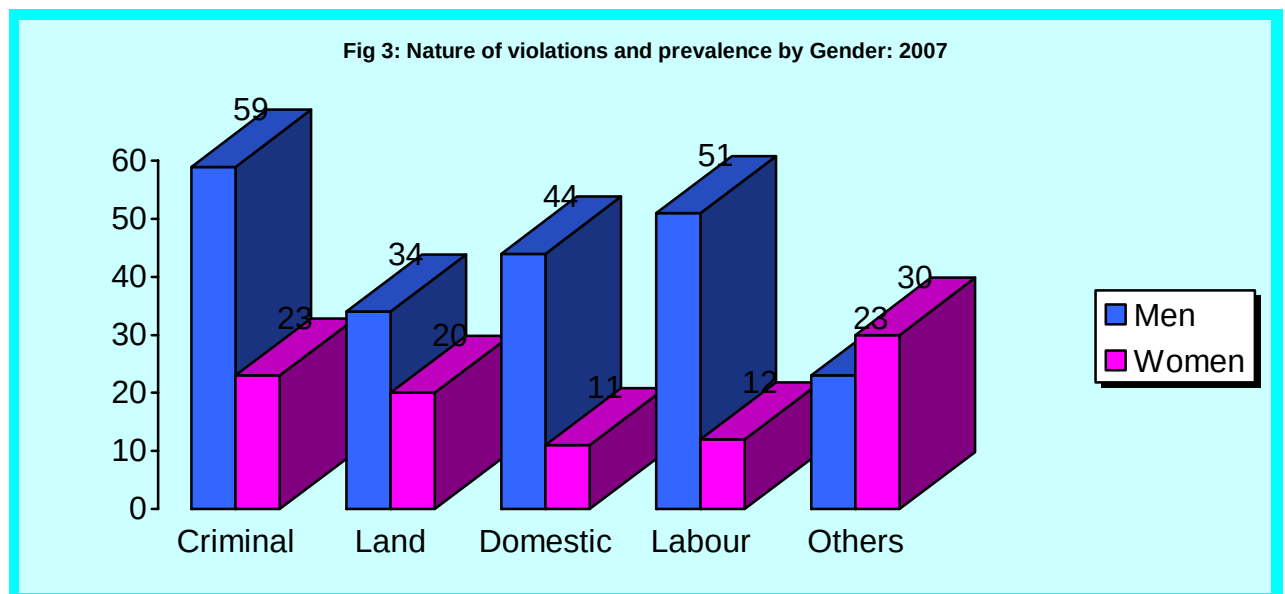
Since 2005, the number of cases received by FHRI has continued to steadily increase given the increasing costs of accessing JLOS institutions coupled with the increasing number of Ugandans in need of legal support. However, despite the increase in numbers, the 307 clients handled by FHRI

are just but a small proportion of the millions of Ugandans who are unable to access legal support country wide.

The case portfolio analyzed by gender, unlike in 2006, in 2007, male clients constituted the bulk of the cases handled by the legal aid bureau in 2007 numbering two hundred eleven (211) cases and ninety six (96) being women as illustrated in fig 2 below:



For the first time in the last three years, the majority of clients handled were male, an increase of 106 cases from 2006. This emerging trend may be attributed to increasing vulnerability of men as well as women due to harsh economic realities. Complaints are categorized as illustrated in fig 3 below:



The highest number of cases handled in 2007 were criminal cases including: theft, murder, treason, threatening violence, assault, obtaining money under false pretence, defilement, torture, issuing a false cheque, fraudulent conveyance, unlawful detention, malicious damage to property, false imprisonment, embezzlement, deportation and attempted murder. The nature of interventions included; applications for bond, bail, tracking files, legal representation and legal advice. Where

cases of torture were registered, they were provided with the necessary legal support and referred to the African Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims for appropriate action. Men constituted the majority of clients herein.

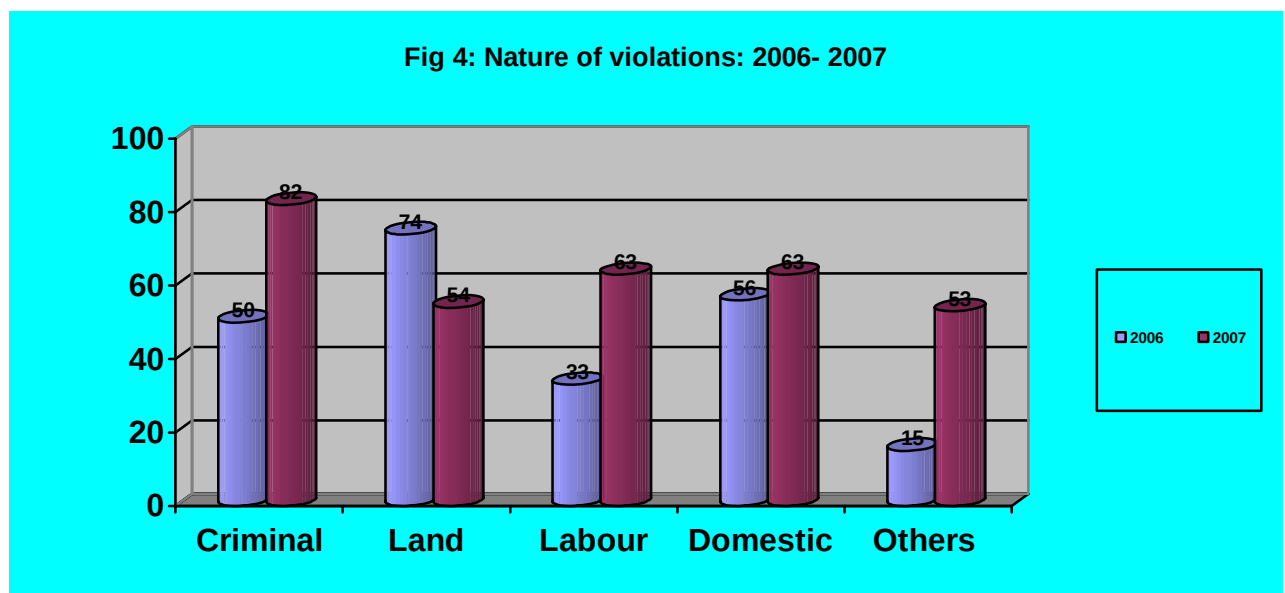
Domestic relations cases comprised the second largest number of cases handled in 2007. The nature of cases reported include: child custody and property rights within marriage, child maintenance and inheritance.

Cases related to labour rights were also common in 2007 mainly; unfair and wrongful dismissal, non-payment of salaries, workman's compensation in cases of accidents, pension claims, among others. Men comprised majority of complainants for obvious reasons.

Land remained a contentious issue during the year and similar to 2006, the land conflicts were between land owners and customary tenants, unlawful evictions by investors, Government acquisition of land with no or inadequate compensation and land grabbing and fraudulent sale by relatives and family members. Men too constituted the majority of complainants.

The nature of complaints categorized under 'others' which were also a significant number during the year comprised of issues relating to: contracts, accidents, tort, among others.

In all the four categories, the number of violations reported were on the increase in comparison to 2006 as illustrated in figure 4 below:



In contrast to 2006, criminal cases comprised the highest number of cases handled in 2007 attributed mainly to FHRI's prison outreach program. In both years, domestic relations cases comprised the second largest number of cases handled.

Although the number of land complaints received in 2007 fell by 20 in comparison to those received in 2006, the Annual Police Crime Report 2007 noted that in 2007 there were a lot of complaints on land matters and as a result a special division had been established at CID

headquarters to handle these complaints. Most complaints reported are recorded as, illegal evictions, criminal trespass, forgery, uttering false documents and impersonation which often result in the commission of other crimes like murder and aggravated assault.

FHRI in partnership with REDRESS Trust (UK) initiated a Reparations project to provide legal support to victims and survivors of torture in Uganda. The project whose major objective is to seek reparations for victims of torture will file a petition challenging non-enforcement of UHRC awards as well as provide legal assistance to torture victims before the UHRC tribunal and the High Court. In 2007, the nascent program handled at least 4 cases of torture and undertook research on the status of awards.

FHRI continued to advocate for the establishment of a National Legal Aid scheme in 2007. FHRI participated in the 2nd National Justice, Law and Order Sector Forum held from the 18th -19th February 2007 and in this forum, the organization made a case for a National legal aid scheme to be put in place.

Impact

'We have been engaged in judicial training in the area of human rights in partnership with FHRI for nearly ten years. FHRI's efforts have been compatible with the judicial policy. Therefore on behalf of the Judicial Training Committee (JTC) and the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), I would like to thank FHRI for not only being able to contribute to the continued human rights training but also for maintaining a respectable relationship with the judiciary. I encourage the relationship to continue '[Extract from Hon. Justice J. W Tsekooko's Speech at the Judicial Roundtable; 2007, Entebbe.]

Indeed, this decade long engagement between FHRI and the Judiciary in the area of human rights and access to justice has been enriching and fruitful. Over the years, the Judiciary has emerged as a fairly strong and independent institution always speaking out when under attack. Individual judges even under threat have often delivered very candid judgments even where the cases are very sensitive.

The grant of the right to bail by the Judiciary was probably one instance where judicial independence and candidness was put to the test in 2007. Even when the Government of Uganda was vehemently opposed to the grant of Bail to the 14 PRA suspects, the Judiciary granted bail to them and ordered their release as provided for by Article 23 of the Constitution of Uganda. The Right to Bail was reaffirmed by the Constitutional Court in 2007 when the Court declared that the charges preferred against the suspects and their trial and detention by the General Court Martial were illegal and the bail granted by the High Court was lawful.

The week - long sit down strike by the Judiciary due to Government's attack on the court premises, and re-arresting suspects granted bail was commendable and a demonstration by the institution of its resolve to protect its independence and integrity. The Judiciary demanded an apology from Government and an assurance that a similar invasion would not happen again. It took President

Yoweri Museveni to meet the judiciary and issue a letter regretting the incidence for the judiciary to return to work.

The manner in which justice agencies discharge their responsibilities impacts on public perception and on the independence of the Judicial system. Therefore as a result of this judicial activism demonstrated, public confidence in the judiciary continued to improve now increasingly seen as a trusted arbiter. In 2007, according to a Survey undertaken by the Steadman Group, the public confidence in the justice system had increased from 34% in 2002 to 67% in 2007.

The FHRI annual judicial Roundtables have consistently provided an opportunity and platform to the Judiciary to examine its constraints and to mobilize collective advocacy for change. In 2007 Judicial officers' Roundtable, Judges and Members of Parliament urged the President to appoint more judges to enable Courts undertake their Constitutional mandate. Thereafter, Parliament passed a Motion on Thursday 13th September 2007 urging the President to appoint more Justices and Judges to avert the crisis. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs by Statutory Instrument No.45. 2007 also created 11 Magisterial areas bringing the total number to thirty eight (38) Magisterial Areas in Uganda in order to enhance physical access to justice.

In the 2007 judicial Roundtable, the death penalty as a sentencing option was discussed. The sharing of good practices from other jurisdictions in relation to the abolition of the death sentence kick started the debate and stimulated discussions among the Ugandan Judiciary and lawyers on the subject and the search for alternative sentencing. The Manual on Sentencing in Capital cases provided a useful tool for judicial officers and lawyers in this respect. The Constitutional Court ruling in Suzan Kigula & 417 others Vs. The Attorney General has widened the jurisprudence on the death penalty now referred to by lawyers and judges when dealing with capital cases.

One of the issues that FHRI has consistently discussed with the judiciary is case back log. In an effort to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, the Judiciary adopted additional case backlog measures including; chain linking and the conduct of special sessions in conflict areas. As a result, by mid 2007, 37% of the case backlog had been disposed of, congestion in prisons reduced by 11% by June 2007, reduction in number of petty offenders not tried within 60 days reduced from 32% in 2006 to 16% in 2007 and the remand population reduced by 3% in 2007. In 2007, the monthly growth rate of prisoners was reduced from 10% in 2006 to 4% in 2007 following the increased use of bail. With the amendment of the Penal Code Act to increase the jurisdiction of Chief Magistrates to try defilement cases in 2007 the system is expected to expeditiously address the 32% of the remand population who are on defilement charges.

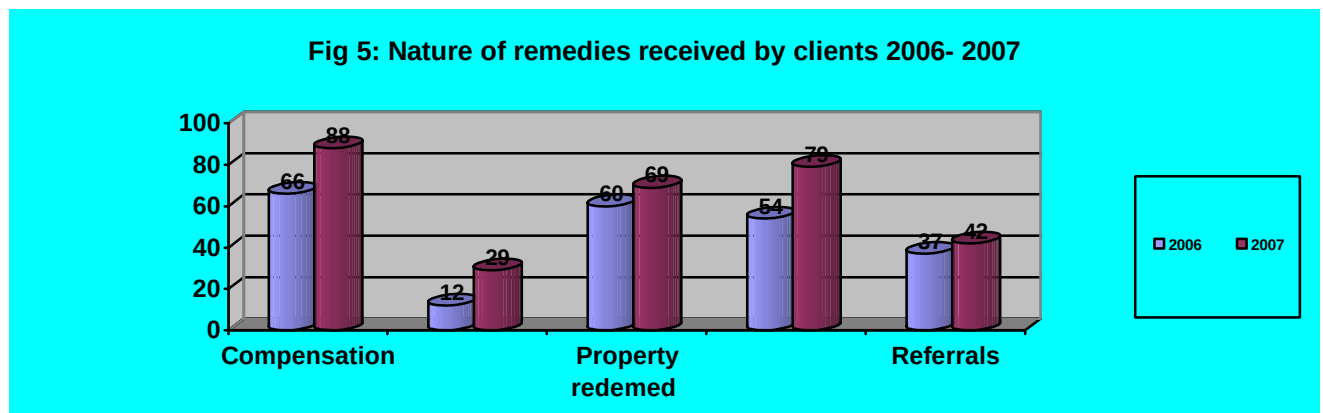
The sector also prioritized interventions in conflict affected areas by deploying 10 Judges to deal with the case back log. By mid 2007, 11 special high court sessions had been held in Gulu, Lira, Soroti and Kumi, at least 69% of those cases scheduled in conflict areas were disposed of.

The other challenge that FHRI has consistently raised for Judiciary is the issue of judicial integrity and corruption. In 2007, the Judicial Service Commission began developing a JLOS specific anti-corruption strategy. In the mean time, the Judiciary published a number of anti corruption literature to empower the public and users to challenge corrupt practices while the Inspectorate of Courts also carried out periodic inspections of magisterial courts to ensure quality service. These initiatives have according to the JLOS secretariat resulted into a significant decrease in the

percentage of the public who claim to have paid a bribe for a service within the sector. According to the Steadman Survey 2007, there has been reduction in incidences of bribery from 15.7% in 2002 to 4% in 2007 at the Magistrates Court level.

The judiciary took keen interest as well in other petitions that have a bearing on human rights and public interest including: *Constitutional Petition No. 9/2005; Muwanga Kivumbi Vs. Attorney General* that challenges Section 32 of the Police Act in as far as it impinges on the freedom of Association and Assembly, *Constitutional Petition No. 8/2007, Law and Advocacy for women in Uganda Vs. Attorney General* challenging Female Genital Mutilation as unconstitutional and *Constitutional Petition No. 9/2007: Advocates Coalition, Green watch, TEAN, Environmental Alert Vs. Attorney General and NFA* on the right to a clean and healthy environment.

By 31st December 2007, FHRI had since 1993, received and successfully concluded a total of two thousand nine hundred eighty five (2,985) complaints of human rights violations. Out of the 307 received in 2007, eighty eight (88) were compensated for loss and damage, twenty nine (29) accessed bond and bail, sixty nine (69) clients had their property redeemed, seventy nine (79) clients with domestic related cases received child support or custody while forty two (42) were appropriately referred. In all instances, the number of clients receiving appropriate relief and remedy increased from last year as illustrated in figure 5 below:



From Figure 5 above, the number of clients receiving remedies increased in all aspects. Those who were compensated for damages and loss increased from 66 in 2006 to 88 in 2007, those who accessed bail and bond from 12 to 29, those whose property was redeemed from 60 to 69, those who received child support from 54 to 79 while those referred from 37 to 42. Referrals were made to the African Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims (ACTV) for treatment; Refugee Law Project and Jesuit Refugee Services for refugee protection, the Administrator General to handle family property in cases where family members have died intestate and the Police for investigation of their cases.

To ensure access to quality legal aid service, the Law Council which is mandated to regulate and supervise the provision of legal services in Uganda adopted in 2007, the Advocates (Legal Aid to Indigent Persons) Regulations, 2007 with the objective among others, to regulate and monitor the quality of legal aid service delivery, to ensure that legal aid and advice is provided in a most effective and efficient manner and to encourage the provision of legal aid throughout the country.

The Advocates (Professional Services to Indigent Persons) Regulations 2007 which mandates advocates to provide pro-bono legal aid were also adopted in 2007.

The adoption of a National Legal Framework remained a priority for the Government under the Justice Law and Order Sector. During the Second National Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Forum held from the 18th – 19th February; 2007, Entebbe, a substantial amount of time was devoted to discussing support to victims of crimes and witnesses as well as legal aid and legal empowerment within the sector. Among the key recommendations that the JLOS sector committed to following up were the need for Government to pay attention to Legal aid provision as well as the adoption of a National Legal Aid Framework, to develop minimum standards for the treatment of victims of crime and victims of human rights abuses within the JLOS institutions.

Lastly, the Reparations project presents yet another opportunity for victims of torture to access justice. The proposal to challenge Government on non-compensation of UHRC awards will set a precedent for all other cases not compensated for by Government and hopefully push Government into honoring its obligations.

Challenges

The demand for legal support by victims of human rights violations is over-whelming. It is increasingly difficult to respond to these demands meaningfully without substantial resources.

Although there has been a slight reduction in the case back log, there is a cumulative growth of backlog within the criminal justice system because the case disposal rate does not match the growth rate of new cases in the system. Multiple strategies will therefore have to be employed to register multiple gains in responding to the existing backlog. Relatedly reducing the length of pre-trial detention and length of trial is a challenge that has to be quickly addressed.

III. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Objective

The Education and Training component of the FHRI program seeks to promote citizen's awareness of human rights values and obligations enshrined in Uganda's Constitution and International human rights instruments. The project also builds the capacity of grass root associations to provide the necessary linkages with state organs and ensure systematic exposure of human rights abuses.

The project has seven key elements including;

- i. Legal Rights Awareness
- ii. Support to Community Based Human Rights Groups.
- iii. Schools Outreach Program.
- iv. Support to Local Governments.
- v. Radio talk show.
- vi. Democracy and Human Rights Resource Centre.
- vii. Publications.

Implementation

Under the Education and Training Unit, FHRI conducts capacity building sessions for community based human rights associations, undertakes human rights training sessions for schools and higher institutions of learning, supports Local Government through capacity building programs, supports a weekly radio talk show and maintains a Democracy Resource Centre and Publications service.

Planned Activities

The planned activities in 2007 were; to conduct two (2) Training of Trainers' workshops in Gulu and Amuru districts, to support five legal rights awareness sessions in the same districts, to conduct five (5) 2-day capacity building sessions for grassroots human rights associations, to jointly convene five 1-day human rights sessions for academic institutions, run fifty-two (52) weekly one hour radio talk shows broadcast live on CBS 89.2 FM and ensure a functional Resource Centre and Publications service.

Output

(i) Legal Rights Awareness

Under the program: *'Enhancing democratic governance in a multi-party political system through Human Rights Education in Uganda'*, FHRI in 2007, conducted 2 Training of Trainers workshops for Community Based Human Rights groups in Gulu and Amuru districts from the 28th – 30th January 2007 and from the 27th February – 1st March 2007, respectively.



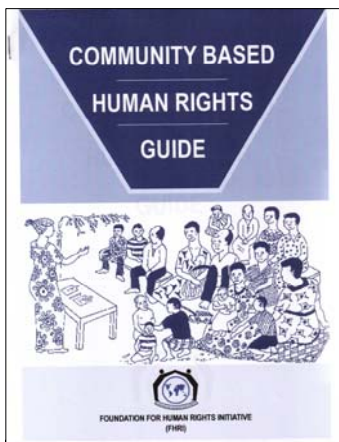
Participants at the Gulu Training of Trainers, 29th – 30th January 2007 at Sunset Hotel, Gulu district.

Conducted together with the Peoples' Voice for Peace, the Training of Trainers workshops were attended by a total of fifty two (52) trainees including 26 men and 26 women comprising of local grass root associations, women leaders, teachers, political, traditional and opinion leaders from the 15 sub-counties of Gulu and 2 sub-counties in Amuru. The participants who were intensively grounded as civic educators utilized the Community Based Human Rights Guide produced under the project to enhance their

knowledge and understanding of human rights and obligations in a multi-party political dispensation. The two (2) training sessions were graced by the presence of Mr. Ojara Martin, Gulu District Speaker; Lt. James Oyoo, Deputy Resident District Commissioner (Gulu) and Mr. Atube Omach Anthony, LC V Chairperson, Amuru district.

Following the Training of Trainers sessions, five (5) civic educators' workshops (3 in Gulu and 2 in Amuru) were conducted by the trained Community based groups. The objective of these sessions was to equip the civic educators with the necessary skills and knowledge on human rights and governance in order for them to facilitate community human rights legal rights sessions amongst their constituencies. The civic educators so trained included: community based groups, women leaders, religious leaders, political party activists, teachers and local councilors. Conducted from the 1st March – 20th April 2007, a total of 230 key community leaders were reached in this process targeting participants from the 3 counties of Gulu district including Aswa County, Gulu Municipality and Omoro County and the 2 counties of Amuru district including Kilak and Nwoya counties.

A Community based Human Rights Guide and Human Rights Pocket Guide translated in Luo and Acholi were developed under the program to support the promotional activities.



Community Based Human Rights Guide



Human Rights Pocket Guide

(ii) Support to Community Based Human Rights Groups.

Community Based associations seeking to promote respect for human rights are key to strengthening the human rights movement in Uganda.

In 2007, FHRI, under the program: '*Strengthening the Human Rights Movement in Uganda through Capacity Building of Grassroot Human Rights Associations*', conducted five (5) capacity building sessions for five community based human rights groups including; Pastoral Women Alliance to Break Cultural Chains (PWABC) in Kiboga from the 29th – 31st July 2007, Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness in Kayunga from the 16th – 18th August 2007, Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation in Kasese from the 9th – 11th September 2007, Women's Initiative for Development and Paralegal Activities Association (WIDPAA) in Kayunga from the 23rd – 25th September 2007 and finally the Uganda Paralegal Society in Kampala from the 2nd – 3rd October 2007.



Training of PWBAC CBO training in Kiboga district, 29th – 31st July 2007.



Participants at the AHURICA CBO training in Kayunga, 16th – 18th August 2007



Participants at the Uganda Paralegal Society CBO training in Kampala district, 2nd – 3rd October 2007

Attended by a total of 186 group members (96 men and 90 women) and officials from the Justice Law and Order Sector, the sessions aimed at enhancing the capacity of grass-root associations to effectively carry out human rights promotional activities in order to keep authorities under check. During the respective group sessions, the group members were refreshed on their understanding of human rights, state responsibility and individual obligations. Women and children's rights were a major focus of the sessions as most of the groups expressed interest in understanding these rights. Exciting debates on civil and political rights in the context of the current multi-party form of governance in Uganda during the sessions were common, with group members focusing more on the freedom of association and assembly, access to information, the right to participate in governance as well as the importance of human rights monitoring and documentation. Groups were introduced to the process of developing an organizational Strategic Plan, strategies of marketing and fundraising and partnership building.

At the end of the two day sessions, each group was able to develop a one year plan of action which documented key region-specific human rights issues and strategies to respond to the same. Institutional challenges were also underscored in the plans of action and a number of strategies to address these documented.

The capacity building sessions were preceded by a consultative meeting with the 10 community based human rights groups which was held on the 9th March 2007 at the Human Rights House with the objective of re-assessing the capacity needs of the targeted community associations to be addressed during the capacity building sessions. To appreciate the group needs, FHRI conducted field visits to each of the groups with the purpose of

meeting with other group members in order to facilitate collective identification of key organizational capacity needs that impede effective human rights advocacy by the groups. The visits were undertaken from the 17 May – 8th June 2007.



Participants at the CBO Consultative Meeting on 9th March 2007 at the Human Rights House



Ms. Haawah Birungi giving a talk on human rights for the Nateete Kwekemba Women's Group on 17th October 2007.

In addition to the 5 capacity building sessions conducted, FHRI conducted upon request, a one day human rights awareness session for Nateete Kwekemba Women's Group on the 17th October 2007 at Samson Kalibbala Memorial Hall, Church of Uganda, Nateete. The session which focused on women's rights including; domestic violence, women's land rights, inheritance, co-

habitation and child maintenance was attended by twenty three (23) women.



Mr. Daniel Bakayana conducting training in Kalangala district, 30th April – 4th May 2007.

FHRI also extended its paralegal training and legal rights awareness program to Kalangala district. Carried out in partnership with Church of Uganda – Program for Development and Rehabilitation (PDR), FHRI conducted two (2) Paralegal training



Participants at the 2nd Paralegal Training workshop in Kalangala district, 27th - 31st August 2007.

workshops in Kalangala District from the 30th April – 4th May 2007 and on 27th – 31st August 2007. The paralegal training sessions conducted for Kalangala district community leaders, fishermen,

religious leaders, community based groups in Kalangala district and Justice Law and Order officials, focused on the concept of human rights and the law, access to justice, marriage laws, the Land Act (1998), the Penal Code Act, Local Councils and their Judicial Powers, children's rights (child labour and defilement), the Court process and the criminal justice system as well as monitoring and documenting human rights abuses. The project was conducted under the Church of Uganda – PDR Social Justice Component of the Lake Victoria Livelihood program with a trainee population of 25 including 15 men and 10 women.

(iii) Schools Outreach Program.

The Schools outreach program enables University students to understand human rights and its correct application in their future professional life.

In 2007, four (4) human rights sessions were conducted for the students of Ndejje University on the 24th October 2007, Makerere University – Faculty of Arts on the 31st October 2007, Kibuli Teachers' Training College on the 31st October 2008 and for students in the Department of Social Work and Counseling at Bugema University on the 9th November 2007. A total number of five hundred thirteen (513) students including 244 male and 269 female students participated.



Bugema University Students,
9th November 2007 at
Bugema University Campus.



Ndejje University Students, 24th
October 2007 at Ndejje University
Campus.

For the first time in its history, FHRI in partnership with Kampala International University (KIU) organized the first Inter-University Annual Human Rights Competition under the theme: *The Human Rights Situation in Uganda: Theory and Practice* on 2nd March 2007 at KIU campus. The Annual competition whose objective is to encourage research and understand in Uganda, enlisted the hundred and fifty (350) law International University, Nkumba and Mbale Islamic University emerged the proud to host presiding



A student putting his point across during the
Inter-University Competition, 2nd March
2007 at KIU Campus.

judges during this
Worship Stella Amabilis,
Monica Twesiime Kiirya,

competition including: Her
Board Secretary, FHRI,
Board Member FHRI and

Lecturer, Faculty of Law Makerere University and Mrs. Sophie Mubiru, Advocacy and Policy, Action Aid, Uganda.



Students from Drake University, USA pose for a group photograph after listening to a talk on the human rights situation in Uganda, on 24th May 2007 at the Human Rights House.

For the second time in a row, FHRI hosted students from US based Drake University and Simons University, Boston, USA who were on a study tour to Uganda to learn



Students from Simons University, Boston, USA pose for a group photograph after listening to a talk on the human rights situation in Uganda, on 25th July 2007 at the Human Rights House.

about, among others, the human rights situation in

Uganda and FHRI's work. The students who rated their stint at FHRI as the best, visited the organization on the 24th May 2007 and were addressed by Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director.

(iv.) Support to Local Governments.

FHRI is currently implementing a local government program titled: *'Enhancing decentralized governance in Uganda with special reference to; Mukono, Wakiso, Tororo and Nakasongola districts* which aims at promoting good practices in local district administration and service delivery within the human rights based approach to governance.

As part of the design process, FHRI convened a pre- project consultative meeting together with key project implementers order to introduce the secure a buy –in, agree discuss the proposed November 2007. The convened at the Human chaired by the Executive Livingstone Sewanyana key project Hon. James



Local Government Consultative Meeting, 16th November 2007 at the Human Rights House.

and targeted districts in proposed strategy, on substance and time frame on the 16th meeting which was Rights House, was Director, FHRI, Mr. and attended by sixteen implementers including: Kubeketerya, the then

Chairperson, Social Member of Parliament-

Hon. William Okecho, the then Chairperson, Budget Committee and Member of Parliament- West Budama North, Tororo, Hon. Peter Nyombi, then Chairperson, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and Member of Parliament, Buruli Nakasongola, Hon. Ibrahim Norman Muwulize, Member, Equal Opportunities Committee, and Member of Parliament, Buikwe West, Mukono, Mr James Turyamureeba, Town Clerk, Mbarara Municipal Council, Mr. Grace Muhairwe, Speaker, Mbarara district, Mr. George Nakibinge Balwana, Speaker, Luwero district, Mrs. Joyce Nanyombi Kasule, Clerk to Council, Luwero district, Mr. James Kunobwa, Speaker, Mukono district and Mr

Services Committee and Bunya East, Mayuge,

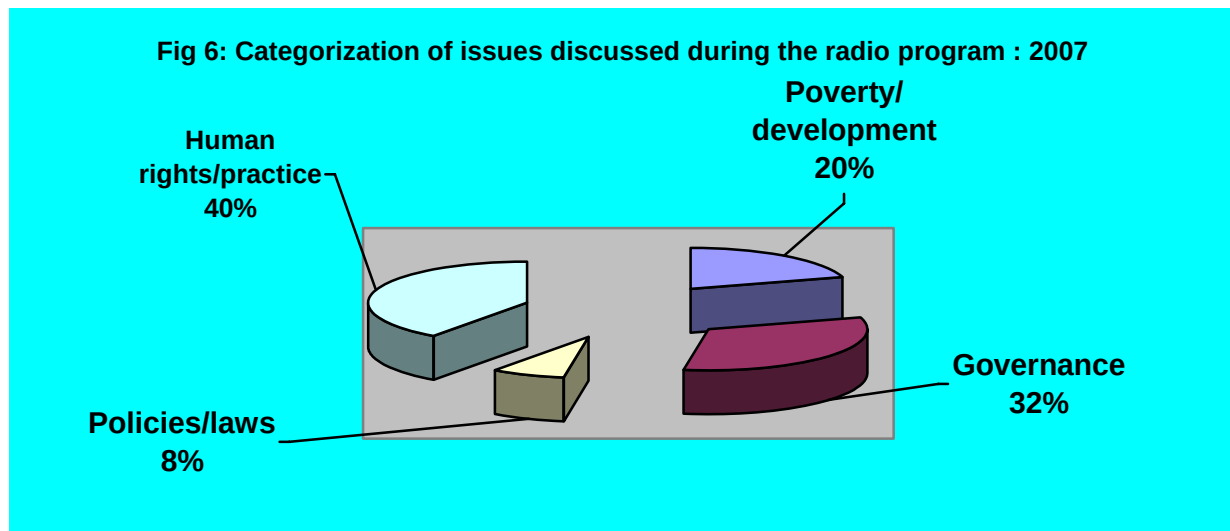
Moses Magemeso, Clerk to Council, Jinja district. The meeting benefited from the expertise of Dr. Yasin Olum, FHRI Board member and Head of Department, Political Science, Makerere University. The project implementation commenced in 2008.

(v) Radio Talk Show

The FHRI weekly Radio talk show enlightens Ugandans about rights and state obligations and widens political debate among the general public on issues of state responsibility, democratic governance and sustainable development in a multi-party political setting.

The radio program, '*Manye Eddembe Lyo*', (Know your rights) is a weekly live one hour phone in and is aired on Central Broadcasting Service, CBS 89.2 fm from 8pm – 9pm every Sunday.

In 2007, fifty two (52) weekly phone in radio talk shows were run on CBS 89.2 fm on Sundays from 8pm -9pm. Key guests on the program included; Minister of Local Government, Hon. Kahinda Otafire, former Director of NARO, Professor Joseph Mukiibi, President General of FDC, Dr. Kiiza Besigye, Police Spokesman for Kampala, Mr. Simeo Nsubuga, Member of Parliament (Kyamuswa constituency) Hon. Kabusu Moses, former local Government Minister and President of Peoples Progressive Party, Mr. Jaberu Bidandi Ssali, Hon Banyezaki John, MP Rubanda County, Dr Fred Kigozi, Director, Butabika Hospital, among others. Issues discussed on the talk show are categorized in figure 6 here below:



As illustrated in fig. 6 above, much of the discussions on the radio program centered around human rights and human rights practice of state institutions like the police, prisons, army, rights of people with mental disabilities, rights of prisoners, environmental rights, freedom of association and assembly, media freedoms, freedom from torture, among others. Discussions on governance focused on issues such as political parties, political party funding, internal management of political parties and ideologies, role of parliament in a multi-party political system, among others. The program devoted time to discussing issues of development and poverty particularly the sale of markets, Government programs on NAADS, Prosperity for All and performance of local

governments, CHOGM, among others. Government policies and laws were also discussed on the radio program focusing mainly on the Government's privatization and investment policy in light of the Mabira give away and sale of markets, the proposed Local Service Tax and social security reforms.

(vi) Democracy and Human Rights Resource Centre

FHRI's Democracy and Human Rights Resource Centre promotes information exchange, supports research capacity and disseminates information locally, nationally and internationally.

The Resource Centre is maintained as a reading and reference facility for both FHRI Staff and the external users. It maintains the FHRI Website; www.fhri.or.ug, provides internet support to facilitate research, provides communication services and supports information exchange and program implementation through provision of human rights related resources, both visual aids and materials. The Resource Centre hosts the staff capacity building sessions under the FHRI Staff Training and Development scheme.

In 2007, the Resource Centre was set to update and maintain the FHRI Website, provide internet support, manage and disseminate the FHRI E-Newsletter, acquire human rights materials, sustain the current awareness service, conduct book exhibitions and provide library and research services to internal and external users through on-line services and resident stock. The Centre proposed to host 4 staff capacity building sessions on key management and organizational issues during the year.

The FHRI Website: www.fhri.or.ug is up and running reflecting current programmatic and institutional developments as well as the human rights trends in Uganda.

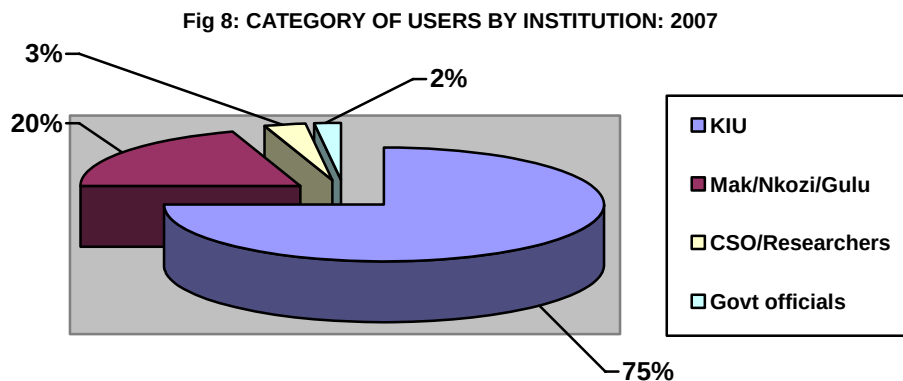
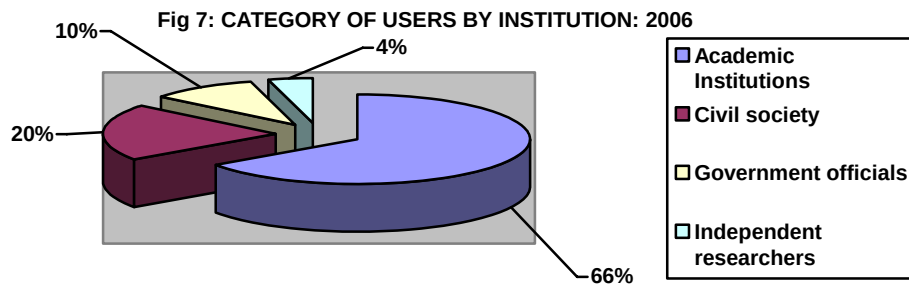
The internet and email facility are fully functional and continue to provide support to the communication, information sharing and research functions of the organization through email and Internet.

The diverse collection of materials in the Resource centre more than doubled during 2007 as the Resource Centre acquired new library materials on human rights, development, health, peace, conflict, law and children's rights among others. Resource Centre stock rose from 658 in 2006 to 786 in 2007. The Resource Centre received new text books, periodicals, training manuals and directories. To improve on its retrieval system a total of 2,534 materials were classified during the year and entered into the existing data base. As a practice, stock taking was undertaken in the middle and at the end of the year.

In 2007, the Resource Centre participated in four (4) book exhibitions organized by Human Rights Network- Uganda (HURINET), East African Law Society, National Book Trust of Uganda and Trust in Blue enlisting more than 2,900 members of the general public who visited the FHRI stall and 1,200 books were sold and distributed.

Resource Centre users increased substantially. From one thousand five hundred twenty two (1,522) in 2006, the number recorded rose to one thousand six hundred ninety (1,690) in 2007. As

in 2006, the students of Kampala International University were the leading users of the Resource centre as detailed in figure 7 and 8 here below:



As illustrated above, the students from Kampala International University (KIU) like in previous years ranked highest with a user-ship of 75% of the users while other universities including Nkozi University, Makerere University and Gulu University comprised 20 percent. Civil society organizations and independent researchers comprised 3% while Government officials comprised only 2%.



In order to update FHRI members and partners on the work of the organization, the Resource Centre published two (2) issues of FHRI E-Newsletter; *Volume 5 Issue No.3, January-September 2007* and *Volume 6 Issue No.4, October - December 2007*. Both editions highlighted the work of FHRI including external activities organized by FHRI partners in which FHRI participated.



The Resource Centre hosted four (4) in-house capacity building sessions on 'team building' on the 21st March 2007, 'meetings that produce results' on the 30th June 2007, 'improving employee performance' on the 31st September 2007 and 'achieving excellence' on the 31st October 2007, events which are integral to the staff capacity development program.

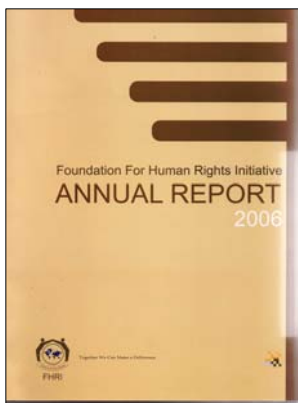
(vii) Publications

FHRI Publications seek to inform a wider public on the current thinking and any emerging issues in the social justice movement.

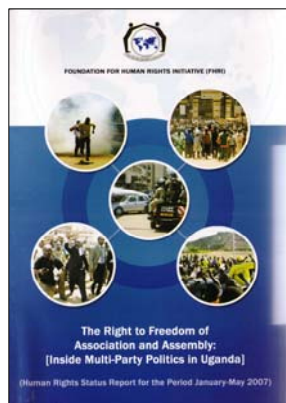
FHRI's core publications are; *The Human Rights Defender*, the *Thematic and Country Human Rights Status Reports*, the *Annual Report* and the *Brochure*.

In 2007, FHRI undertook to publish the Annual Report (2006), the Country Human Rights Report (2006), three thematic human rights reports and one (1) issue of the Human Rights Defender.

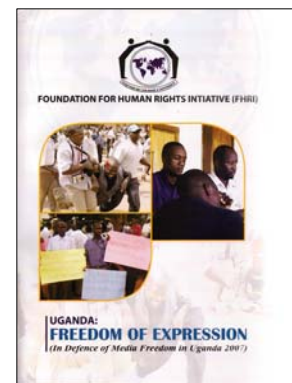
As planned, FHRI published seven hundred fifty (750) copies of the Annual Report 2006 in July 2007 detailing FHRI's interventions, achievements and challenges both at programmatic and institutional levels. Seven hundred ten (710) copies were disseminated to different stakeholders including; development partners, Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, the media, academic institutions, FHRI members and subscribers and the general public.



Annual Report 2006



The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly
(Inside Multi-Party Politics in Uganda)



Uganda: Freedom of Expression
(In Defence of Media Freedom in Uganda 2007)

The Country Human Rights Report, 2006 and two (2) thematic reports titled; '*The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly: (Inside Multi-Party Politics in Uganda)*' and '*Freedom of Expression (In Defence of Media Freedom in Uganda 2007)*' were published and disseminated as detailed under the Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy Unit.

The Human Rights Defender magazine remained pending by the close of the year.

Impact

One of the most important outcomes of the human rights promotional program in Northern Uganda has been its ability to create human rights awareness among the people of northern Uganda afflicted by conflict for over two decades. As they embark on a new future, understanding their rights has been critical. The human rights materials produced under the project; '*Simple*

Community Based Human Rights Guide in Acholi and the *'Human Rights Pocket Guides'*, are ground breaking and have tremendously supported and sustained the promotional activities of the civic educators under the project.

The project has surpassed the number of direct beneficiaries previously targeted by 2,280¹. All the human rights training and awareness sessions conducted under the project engaged both community based human rights groups, civic leaders, community leaders and ordinary Ugandans, who discussed human rights issues in a multi- party political setting. Values of tolerance, fair competition and social justice were discussed openly and freely. A critical mass of social activists able to demand accountability from leaders is taking root. Some of the civic educators continue to participate in fora and initiatives such as the program called, *'Community Parliament'* aired on MEGA FM in Gulu which continuously engages political and public leaders on their state obligations.

A depository of community training resources on human rights is slowly being created for northern Uganda. The civic educators in human rights and the human rights materials produced under the project continue to serve as a useful resource on human rights in Gulu and Amuru districts. For example, the district leadership of Gulu requested for a list of civic educators trained under the project with whom the district can work in district based human rights activities. Partnership with the newly recruited Police Community Liaison Officers and the civic educators has been strengthened with both parties working together to promote awareness of rights within their community. The creation of a Drama group (Aguma Companies) as a sustainable strategy in the promotion of human rights is commendable. Being a new district, some of the civic educators in Amuru district have proposed to form a community based human rights organisation called; *'Human Rights Advocates and Monitors'* (HURAMO), to further their aspirations and to monitor and document human rights abuses. These initiatives are now coordinated by the Peoples' Voice for PEACE (PVP).

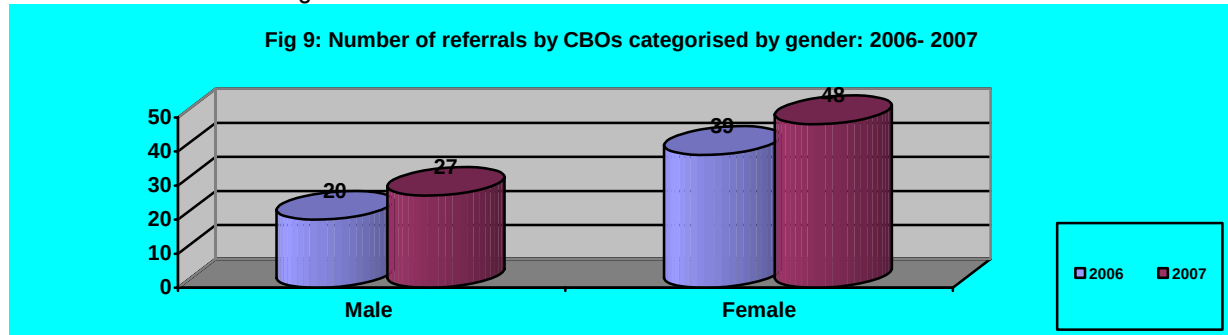
On the other hand, the capacity building initiative for the community based human rights groups has contributed immensely to strengthening the targeted grass root groups in their quest to improve the human rights situation in their regions. The linkages and collaboration with local authorities, Justice Law and Order institutions and the community human rights groups for a more coordinated and systematic exposure of human rights violations in the region has been greatly enhanced by these capacity building sessions. The sessions have enlisted the participation of these key stake holders and have provided fora for engagement and reform on key human rights issues in these regions mainly relating to access to justice, fair trial, freedom of expression association and assembly, service delivery, poverty reduction, human rights sensitive policies vis a vis state obligations and individual responsibilities.

As a result, groups like the Pastoral Women Alliance to Break Cultural Chains (PWABC) and the Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness in Kayunga have continued to engage the local authorities and JLOS institutions on issues of protection of rights of pastoral women on Gender Based Violence in Kiboga district and the rights of inmates, children's rights and freedom from torture in Kayunga district. PWABC has been acknowledged by the Uganda Police in Kiboga

¹ Previously 170,000 were estimated to be the direct beneficiaries. However, by the end of the project over 172,280 people have been reached.

district for carrying out sensitization sessions at the sub-county level on the rights of women and children in pastoral communities. On the other hand, organizations like Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation have continued to engage with the local authorities in various fora discussing the problem of ethnic violence and conflict in Kasese region while contributing to finding lasting solutions to the problem.

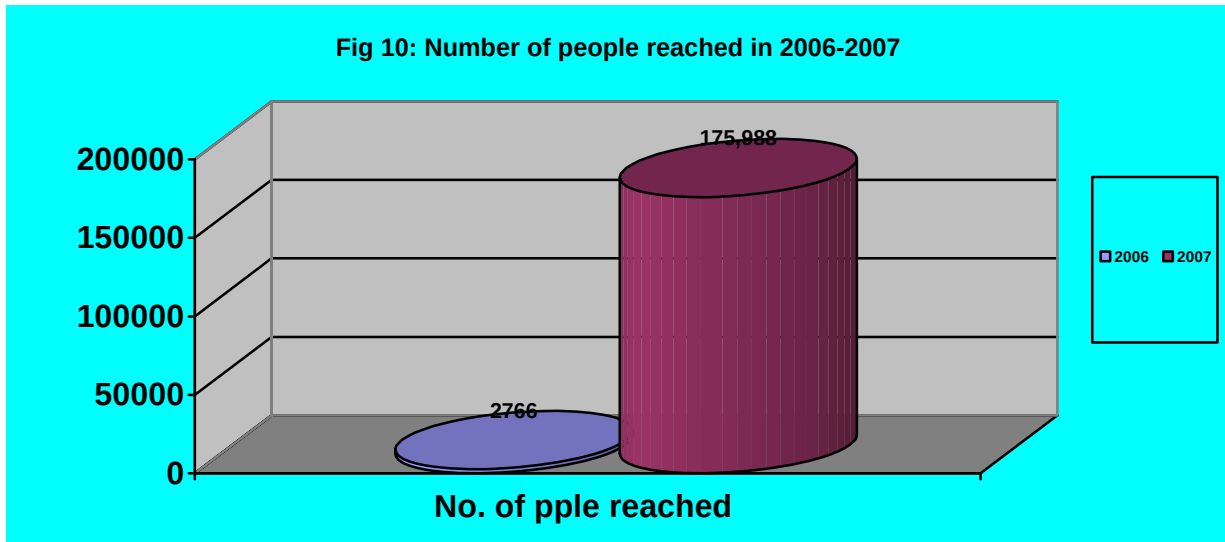
Referrals of victims of human rights abuse to FHRI and other legal aid service providers by each of these groups has continued during the period with a recorded number of seventy five (75) clients including 48 women and 27 men being referred to FHRI by the groups as compared to 59 referred in 2006 as illustrated in figure 9 below:



As illustrated in fig 9 above, the number of referrals of victims of human rights abuse continued to increase in 2007 with majority of cases around child maintenance and abuse, property rights including land disputes and domestic relations cases dominating the nature of complaints.

Since the beginning of the Schools Outreach Program in 2006, the initiative has registered some positive results. In addition to the Human Rights Club formed in KIU last year, 4 more vibrant human rights clubs including; Kampala University (Gaba), Nkumba University, Bugema University and Ndejje University have been established. The human rights competition amongst university students has encouraged students to take keen interest in the subject of human rights and the on-going national debates on the same. Requests from Universities to conduct more human rights sessions is overwhelming.

All together, in 2007, FHRI reached a total of one hundred and seventy three thousand, two hundred and twenty two (173,222) trainees under the legal rights awareness program. This brings the number of people trained by FHRI since 1993 to 175,988 up from 2,766 in 2006 as illustrated below in figure 10 below:



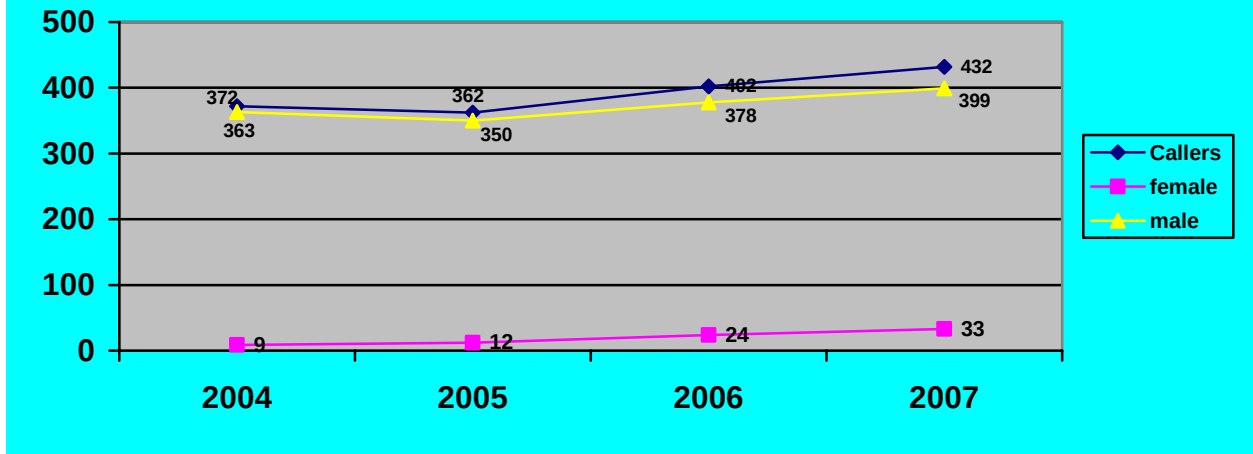
The phenomenal outreach in 2007 is attributed to the high demand by groups and organizations to FHRI to conduct human rights awareness sessions for them. Indeed, the human rights promotional program in Northern Uganda in 2007 where over 100,000 people were reached is proof of this demand.

In 2007, FHRI traversed a total of 10 districts of Uganda creating human rights awareness and ensuring that Ugandans are equipped with basic knowledge of the law and human rights in order to demand for political and public accountability. Clearly Northern Uganda was the one area where FHRI concentrated most.

The net result has been a human rights movement in Uganda that has continued to grow with a number of community human rights groups being started to systematically respond to the community specific human rights issues. In addition to the 20 groups, two more groups including *Kalangala Human Rights Defenders* and 'Human Rights Advocates and Monitors' (HURAMO) in Amuru district have been formed. These groups are judiciously run by a group of individuals who have the necessary motivation to undertake human rights work by engaging perpetrators, creating human rights awareness and assisting victims of human rights abuse especially women and children in their communities. They continue to serve as a useful network of contacts under the Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy program, reporting and documenting violations for national advocacy by FHRI.

Notwithstanding the hundreds of radio talk shows on hundreds of FM stations in Uganda, the ability of the FHRI radio program to sustain and increase its listenership is commendable. As a result of its consistency and objectivity, the FHRI Radio program has become an indispensable platform which facilitates dialogue on key governance and human rights issues, Government programs and policies. The centrality of issues discussed over the radio program in 2007 has encouraged the general public to increasingly participate in the dialogue and debate; a total of four hundred thirty two (432) callers were recorded in 2007 with women numbering 33 as illustrated in figure 11 below:

Fig 11: Listenership categorised by Gender in 2004-2007.



From fig. 11 above, it is clear that the general listenership increased from 402 in 2006 to 432 in 2007. Encouragingly too is the increase in female callers from a mere 9 in 2004 to 33 in 2007 that shows that women are increasingly taking interest in issues of governance and politics.

The Advocacy support provided by the radio program on key and current pressing human rights issues of the day can not be over emphasized. The discussions around issues like mismanagement of Kampala City Council, unfair sale of markets, rights of People Living With HIV/AIDS, CHOGM, the conduct of Special Police Constables, among others have provided the public with an objective fora to discuss and obtain information on key human rights and governance issues. The program has also provided FHRI with an opportunity to respond to issues of the day thus making the organization more relevant and responsive to day to day issues affecting the ordinary person.

The periodic assessment of the Democracy Resource Centre by its users has rated the Centre very highly, with the majority of users acknowledging the importance and relevance of the facility. The increased acquisition of new and contemporary human rights material including the on-line resources has transformed the facility into a more relevant and responsive information and documentation centre to the academic needs of students, researchers and government officials. The on-line resources provided by the Resource Centre including the internet facility, on-line data bases and audio and visual resources have positioned the Centre in the premier position within the sector probably explaining why the user-ship continues to grow.

' The FHRI Resource Centre is becoming a one stop centre for our human rights and democracy requirements. The acquisition of new human rights materials which are difficult to find in our school libraries makes it a worthwhile trip to the centre. The retrieval system is fairly efficient' [User: Student; 2007]

The Resource Centre has ensured that the implementation of the FHRI program is complemented and supported by on-line resources like the provision of Internet and email facility and an updated Website. As a result, the research capacities of FHRI staff continue to improve with staff able to readily and easily access on-line human rights resources and the organization able to disseminate its information and products in a more efficient and cost effective manner to its partners and critical

stakeholders. In 2007, FHRI received and sent out a total of over 10,000 emails in the form of emails, inquiries, compliments, reports, information and suggestions all supportive of the program.

The FHRI Website which the Resource Centre has updated regularly has contributed to enhancing FHRI's visibility and interventions both nationally and internationally.

Suffice to note that in 2007, FHRI received 15 requests from researchers at graduate, post graduate and doctorate level to understudy FHRI as a human rights organization in Uganda vis a vis its role in improving the human rights situation in Uganda. The requests were granted.

FHRI also received a total of 73 requests for internship and volunteer placements to facilitate learning and understudy FHRI strategies. The organization was able to extend the opportunity to a total of eighteen (18) interns from Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian University, (Mukono), Kampala International University, Nkozi University, DANIDA –HUGGO, Law Development Centre, FIDH (France), Kroc Institute (US), Centre for Capital Punishment (UK), OSI-European University, (Hungary), University of Pennsylvania, (US), Royal Road University,(US) and Hopkins University,(US). The interns contributed to program implementation through research, publications and advocacy.

The publication of the two E-Newsletters; *Volume 5 issue No.3, January- September 2007 and Volume 6 Issue No.4, October- December 2007* have been acknowledged as a worthwhile communication tool. This has kept the partners and members keenly update with the work of FHRI.

'Thank you for the E-newsletter, it was informative especially the article on prisons and the death penalty.' (Jamil Ddamulira Mujuzi, intern Civil Society Reform Initiative Community Law Center, University of Western Cape, South Africa)

The FHRI publications have been acknowledged as a useful resource within the sector, used as references during public debates and discussions on the state's human rights practice by development partners, Civil Society groups, the media, faith based groups and the public. Victims of human rights abuse have also used the publications to cite and define violations and have motivated reporting and recourse to redress.

One of the media personalities who has reviewed one of the FHRI publications comments:

'I am impressed by the campaign on the Death Penalty and the Death Penalty Book. It is a real useful resource in my research on the death penalty in Uganda. It will enrich my article'. Glean Osman-Monitor Publications.

Challenges

Given the high poverty levels and social pressure that the population faces, there is a growing demand for knowledge, skills and capacity to respond. FHRI notwithstanding its success so far will have to do more to reach out to millions of people to ensure a critical mass is in place for social change to be realized.

IV. PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (PM&E).

Objective

The PM&E unit seeks to develop a framework and system for the efficient planning, monitoring and evaluation of the FHRI Program.

Implementation

The PM&E unit ensures that monitoring and evaluation functions are institutionalized through policy instruments, M & E tools, opinion surveys and a Management Information System.

Planned activities

Three (3) activities were planned in 2007; an in-house Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Course for staff members, development of a PM&E Policy instrument and design of a Management Information System.

Output

From the 2nd – 5th April 2007, a five day Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Course was conducted for twenty five (25) staff members (19 female and 5 male) by the Centre for Management Excellence Consult.

The intensive and practical conducted by PME experts and administrative staff in importance of M & E to an management, development including the Logical a stake holder analysis, data methods of communicating development of PME Policy training, staff developed that would be appropriately rights.



Staff members who participated in the M & E Training, 2nd – 5th April 2007 at the Human Rights House

in-house training course grounded program teams PME concepts, the organization and its of different M&E tools Framework, the relevance of collection during M & E, M & E findings and instruments. During the project specific M & E tools used to measure human



Mr. Martin M. Lwanga, one of the M & E training facilitators



Mr. John Nakabagu, the second M & E training

In 2007, the PME unit was engaged in consultations on a PME policy instrument for the organization. By the end of the year, a draft policy document was in place awaiting approval and adoption by the FHRI staff and Board of Directors.

A number of M & E tools to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of specific FHRI activities were also developed. However, the Management Information System (MIS) remained pending by end of 2007.

Impact

Once adopted, the PME Policy instrument will streamline M & E processes in the organization bringing the number of policy instruments to 5 in FHRI which is by no means an excellent policy position for any organization.

Challenges

A Management Information System is one of the major components of PM&E. Once developed the reporting function will be greatly eased.

V. PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES (PAS)

Objective

The Paralegal Advisory Services project seeks to improve access to justice for the poor and indigent persons through the provision of legal aid services in Prisons and Police detention centers.

Implementation

Started as a Pilot in 2005, 2007 marked the 1st year of the operations of the Paralegal Advisory Services program which was extended to six magisterial areas from the original four including: Gulu, Fort Portal, Kampala, Mbale, Mbarara and Arua districts.

In Luzira prison (Kampala), the pilot is hosted by Uganda Prison Service (UPS) and the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity; in Gulu by Legal Aid Project (LAP); in Fort Portal by the Association of Human Rights Organizations (AHURICO); in Mbale by Foundation for Development of Needy Communities (FDNC); in Mbarara by Uganda Prison Service while in Arua it is hosted by the Uganda Prisons Service in Arua Main Prison.

The PAS program in its initial year provided legal advice and support in police stations in Uganda including; Kira Road Police station, Central Police Station, Katwe Police Station, Old Kampala, Wandegaya Police stations under the auspices of the Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity. In all the five project sites, the paralegals provide legal aid to the central police stations of Gulu, Fortportal, Mbale, Mbarara and Arua districts.

The Paralegals and social workers are the key agents of PAS; 8 social workers are placed in Luzira Upper prison while 6 paralegals are utilized in the other project sites to provide basic legal advice; follow up cases in the criminal justice institutions and link the suspects and remand prisoners to their families and community members for the requisite assistance.

Planned Activities

The planned activities under PAS in 2007 were; to provide paralegal aid services to inmates in prisons and police centres in the selected magisterial areas, train inmates in self representation, provide paralegal and refresher training for paralegals and social workers and undertake an exchange visit between different project sites. The PAS Steering Committee would also be inaugurated as well as officially launch the PAS program.

Output

In 2007, the paralegals tremendously contributed to the process of physical and case file decongestion within the targeted magisterial areas: In Luzira prison, the eight (8) social workers secured the release of a total of four hundred fifty two (452) inmates through various PAS interventions including: bail for 154 suspects, facilitated the release of sixty five (65) committals on community service orders, six (6) after fines and two hundred twenty seven (227) inmates were

released after dismissal of their cases. The paralegals also provided legal advice and counseling to 975 inmates.

In 2007, the Gulu site which has six (6) paralegals reduced the prison population by facilitating the release of three hundred seventy four (374) inmates. Out of the 374 releases, 372 suspects in Gulu Main prison were released on bail and police bond while 2 inmates were issued with community service orders. In addition, the paralegals traced 289 sureties and provided legal advice to 257 inmates.

On the other hand, the Arua site hosted by Uganda Prisons Service with six (6) paralegals, managed to secure 330 releases of which, 228 suspects were released on bail or bond, 17 committals were issued with community service orders and 85 inmates were released through fines and dismissal of cases.

The Fort Portal site is hosted by AHURICO with six (6) paralegals. The pilot was able to decongest the Fort Portal prison by 397 inmates with the majority 250 suspects released on bail or bond while 147 cases were discontinued or dismissed.

In the Mbale site, a total of 974 inmates and suspects were released through PAS initiatives. Unlike the previous year, the pilot recorded the best results. Hosted by the Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities (FDNC), the six paralegals facilitated the release of 649 inmates on bond or bail, 7 on Community Service orders and 357 through dismissal and discontinued cases.

Lastly in the Mbarara site, the paralegals decongested the Mbarara Main Prison by three hundred sixty one (361) inmates and suspects. The paralegals secured release of one hundred eighty seven (187) inmates on bail or bond, twenty five (25) on community service orders and one hundred forty nine (149) were dismissed or discontinued.

In order to regulate and Advocates (Legal Aid to Regulations, 2007 require should possess a recognized by the Law a result of this new to ensure that the program have the requirements, the PAS



Staff and Paralegals at the Law Development Centre on 30th November 2007.

tailor made Paralegal conducted by the Centre

Education of the Law Development Centre from the 12th November -14th December 2007. The course which was attended by 48 paralegals deepened and enhanced their understanding of the criminal justice system, court processes and procedure, the rights of inmates and the role of paralegals in this regard.

ensure quality, the new Indigent Persons) that every paralegal qualification in law Development Centre. As development and in order Paralegals under the necessary legal paralegals attended a

Course which was for Continuing Legal

At the institutional level, the PAS was inaugurated on the 22nd. The Steering Committee which is chaired by a Judge of the High Court, Hon. Lawrence Gidudu, is composed of the following representatives from the Justice Sector, His Worship Henry Adonyo, Assistant Director, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Ms. Damali Lwanga, Mr. Robert

Commissioner, Rehabilitation Uganda Prisons Service, Mr. Assistant Commissioner, Force, Mrs. Theo Webale,

Aid Service Providers Network, representatives from the Legal Aid Basket Fund and FHRI. This management structure is responsible for the management of PAS and providing strategic direction.



A PAS Steering Committee meeting in session at the Royal Impala Hotel, Munyonyo on 21st August 2007.

Steering Committee August 2007. is chaired by a Lawrence Gidudu, is officials namely; a Law and Order Adonyo, Assistant Prosecutions, Ms. Omita, Assistant

and Welfare in the Stephen Musoke, Uganda Police Chairperson, Legal



His Lordship Lawrence Gidudu handing over equipment to Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, Commissioner General of Prisons, on 12th December 2007 at the Human Rights House

During the year, the PAS program acquired the following equipment in order facilitate program implementation in the different sites

including: computers, printers, furniture, television sets, DVDs, and mobile phones.



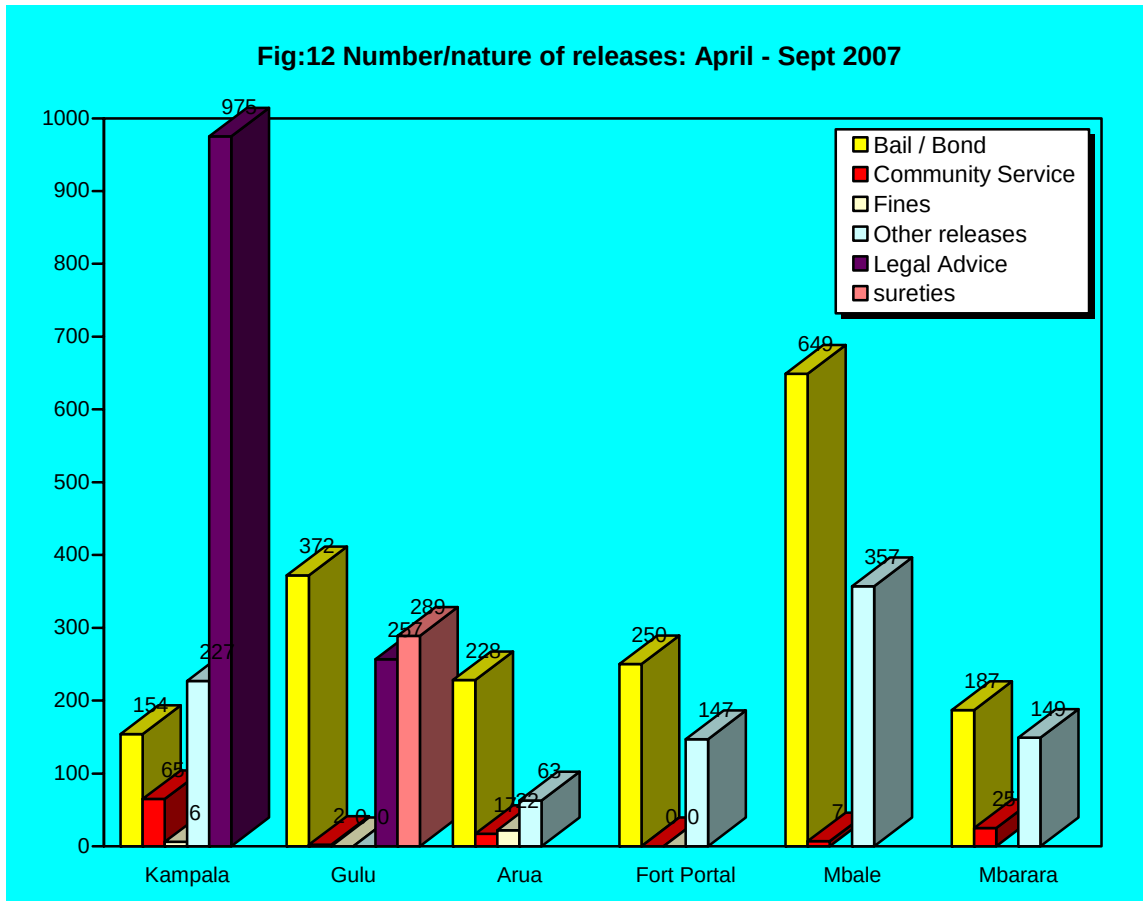
Mr. Sewanyana handing over equipment to some of the PAS Paralegals, on 12th December 2007 at the Human Rights House.

These were formally handed over by the Commissioner General of Prisons to the respective host agencies including; the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Legal Aid Project (LAP), Foundation for Development of Needy Communities (FDNC), Association of Human Rights Organisations (AHURICO) and Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity on the 12th December 2007 at the Human Rights House.

Impact

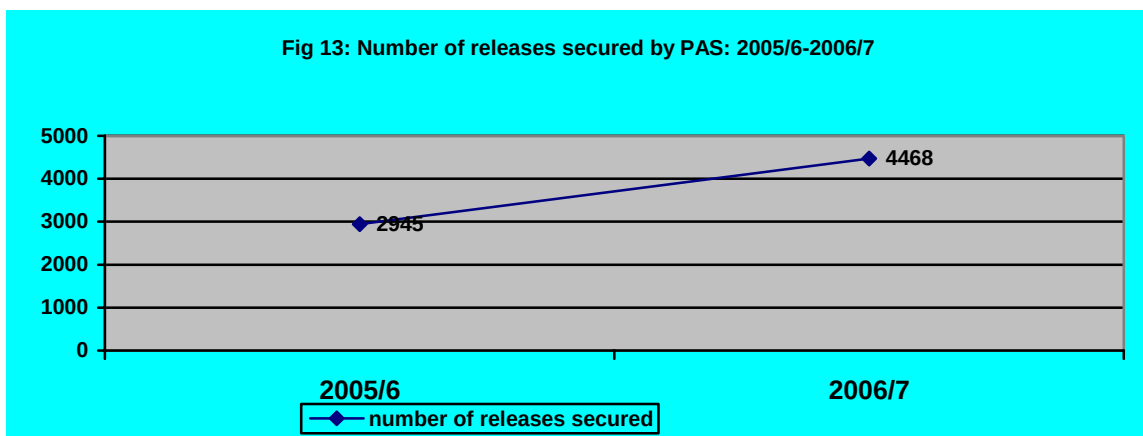
'PAS is the most innovative approach to decongestion in prisons. We are proud of the PAS program. We are proud of this partnership with FHRI because it has indeed added value to the Uganda Prisons Service as well as benefited the suspects in the prisons.' [Commissioner General of Prisons at the handover of PAS equipment on the 12th December 2007 at the Human Rights House]

The decongestion rate of the prisons and police by PAS in the respective project sites is commendable. Between April- September 2007, the number of suspects and inmates released through PAS interventions was 1,523 among them; 75 on mandatory bail, 86 on mediation/diversion, 465 on court bail, 346 on police bond, 28 on community service orders, 6 on release in respect of fines and 517 involved other releases including, dismissals, discontinuation of cases, among others as illustrated in figure 12 below;



Unlike in 2006, the Mbale project site performed extremely well on releases through Bail and Bond while Kampala provided legal advice to the majority. The Gulu site had the second highest number of inmates released on bond/bail and reported having traced a good number of sureties unlike other project sites.

In total, since its inception, the number of releases secured by PAS has increased from 2,045 in 2005/2006 to 4,469 inmates in 2007 as illustrated in figure 13 below:



The reduction in congestion of prisons by 11%, the reduction in the number of petty offenders not tried within 60 days from 32% to 16% and the reduction in the remand population by 3% have been partly attributed to the Paralegal Advisory Services Program as well as other collaborative efforts of the community service program, increases in bail, identification of suspects who benefited from automatic bail having stayed in prison beyond statutory periods as well improvements in case disposition.[JLOS progress report, June 2007, Pg.7]

The formal recognition of Paralegals by the Law Council is a positive step in the efforts to access justice to the very vulnerable and poor inmates. The professional qualification required will enhance their capacity as they provide the much needed quality legal aid services to the vulnerable inmates. The PAS paralegals who are the inaugural trainees passed out by the LDC will definitely add value to the PAS program as they undertake more roles in the new sites.

Lastly, the composition of the PAS Steering Committee is excellent. The Committee provides a management structure for PAS and indeed for FHRI an opportunity to bring to the attention of these key JLOS institutions, the existing gaps and challenges within the criminal justice system on the ground for immediate action.

Challenges

The case disposal rate within the criminal justice system remains very low and as such the releases secured by the Paralegals and the decongestion recorded may be short lived as the disposal rate does not match the influx of new cases into the system.

Accessing bail for majority of inmates remains a key challenge given that a large number are unable to raise bail fees. Late arrivals of inmates at respective courts has often resulted in some of the inmates being unable to appear before a judicial officer for bail and are unfortunately remanded.

2. FOCUS ON NORTHERN UGANDA

Objective

Under this program component, FHRI seeks to advocate for effective human rights protection of the people of Northern Uganda.

Implementation

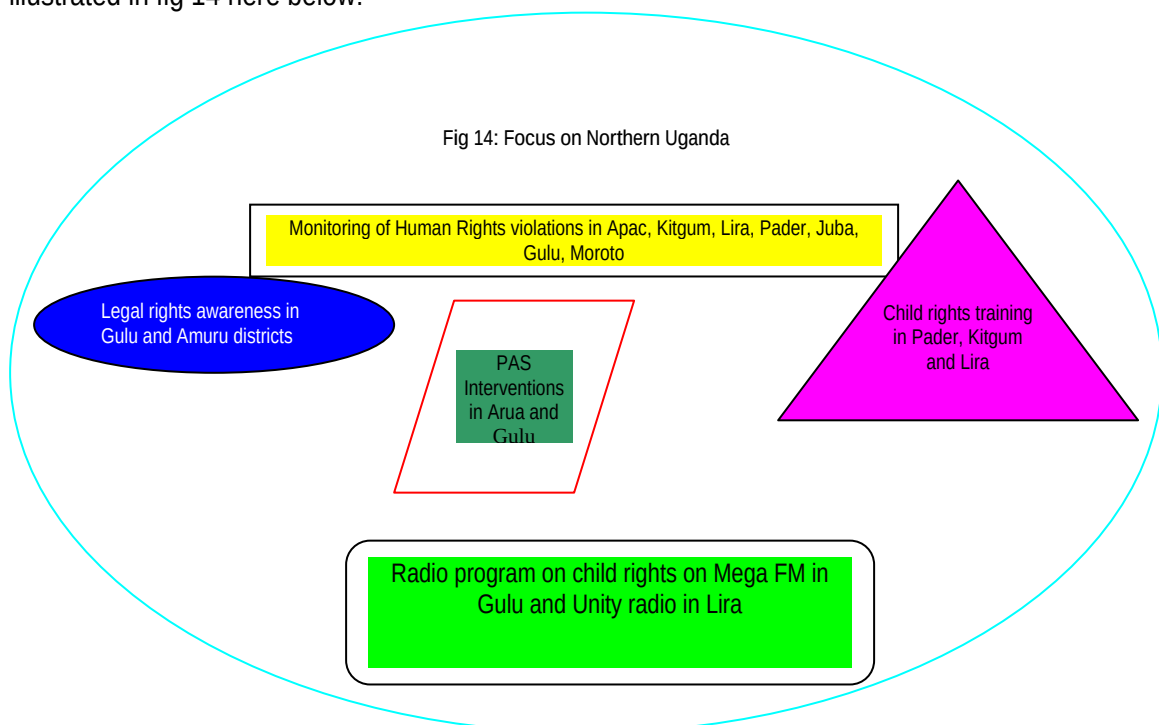
FHRI monitors and exposes human rights breaches especially torture and mistreatment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the resettlement process of the IDPs, focuses on conflict trends in Northern Uganda and approaches to conflict resolution, promotes human rights awareness and undertakes advocacy for the National IDP Policy and National Peace Policy.

Planned activities

Activities proposed in 2007 were: to monitor the human rights situation in Northern Uganda, convene a Roundtable on Post conflict Northern Uganda and the implementation of the National IDP Policy, advocate for a National Peace Policy, provide legal aid services for remand prisoners in Northern Uganda, conduct legal rights awareness sessions for the community leaders and community based groups in Gulu and Amuru districts and conduct Child rights training and awareness raising amongst JLOS officials and community based groups in the districts of Pader, Lira and Kitgum.

Output

In 2007, FHRI undertook a number of activities that primarily focused on Northern Uganda as illustrated in fig 14 here below:



The number of FHRI programs focusing on Northern Uganda in 2007 increased by far in comparison to 2006. While in 2006, the focus on Northern Uganda program component focused mainly on monitoring the human rights situation and provision of legal aid in prisons, in 2007 the focus included; human rights promotional work including legal rights awareness in Gulu and Amuru districts, child rights training with a primary focus on children affected by conflict in Pader, Kitgum and Lira and radio programs on the same on Mega FM in Gulu and Unity radio in Lira.

Under the Human Rights Monitoring component, FHRI continued to monitor the human rights situation in Northern Uganda in respect of the Juba Peace Talks, prison conditions, IDP resettlement and humanitarian conditions among others.

While encouraging the Peace talks as an important step towards ending the conflict in Northern Uganda, FHRI called upon the Government of Uganda to develop a comprehensive National Peace Policy, urging the Government and the negotiating team to ensure that perpetrators of war crimes and gross human rights abuses did not go unpunished. The Organization further called for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to interrogate the causes of conflict in Uganda and solutions to the same. The findings have been documented in FHRI's thematic human rights reports titled; '*The Right to Freedom of Association and Assembly: Inside Multi-Party Politics in Uganda*' and '*Freedom of Expression (In Defence of media Freedom in Uganda 2007)*'.

Under the Paralegal Advisory Services Project, FHRI extended legal aid services to inmates in Arua Main Prison bringing the project sites to 2 in Northern Uganda in addition to Gulu Main prison. In this respect, a total number of seven hundred and four (704) inmates in Gulu Main Prison and Arua prison were released in 2007 through bail, bond, Community Service orders, fines, Alternative Dispute Resolution and dismissal of cases.

In 2007, with support from War Child Canada, FHRI implemented a project titled; '*Northern Uganda: Legal Defence for War Affected Children*' with the objective of creating awareness of rights of children affected by conflict within the JLOS institutions, stake holders and civil society.

FHRI conducted a total of three (3) training workshops for the Justice, Law and Order Sector actors in the districts of Lira from the 5th -9th February 2007, Pader from the 19th – 21st February 2007 and Kitgum from the 5th -7th March 2007. The 4th workshop was conducted for JLOS actors in Kampala from the 20th -22nd March 2007. The training workshops which focused on child protection and legal defence attracted a total number of one hundred eighty one (181) trainees including; 141 men and 40 women drawn from Uganda Police, Uganda Prison Service, Courts of judicature, Probation and Social Welfare department, Community Development Officers, Local Council officials and representatives of Community Based Groups dealing with children in Northern Uganda.

To complement the child rights awareness program, a total of 24 radio programs were run on two radio stations in Northern Uganda; Radio Mega FM in Gulu district and Unity Radio in Lira district to stimulate discussions, debate and raise awareness of children's rights especially among those affected by conflict. Out of the 24 radio programs, six (6) were field recordings in Lira, Pader and Kitgum districts featuring children's voices on child protection issues within the community while, eighteen (18) radio programs were live phone in talk shows conducted and facilitated by selected resource persons from the Justice Law and Order sector within Gulu and Lira districts.

Lastly the human rights awareness program in Amuru and Gulu district which focused on creating awareness of human rights and state obligations in a multi-party political system was also implemented in 2007 with a total of 172,820 community members and groups reached. To support the training and awareness activities, a '*Community Based Human Rights Guide*' and '*Human Rights Pocket Guides*' were developed under the project and translated into Acholi for ease of reference.

The proposed Roundtable on Northern Uganda was not convened during the year due to the on-going Juba Peace Talks.

Impact

The deliberate focus by FHRI on Northern Uganda has provided an opportunity for the organisation to play an active role in reconstruction and capacity building of the communities in this part of Uganda. The Focus on Northern Uganda program component continues to take different dimensions as the situation demands. With the end of the conflict in sight, the program focus has been more on advocacy for sustainable peace and capacity building of the post conflict communities with the communities.

Challenges

With the peace process now in balance, the threat to the newly found freedom becomes imminent. More commitment to peace from both sides (Government and LRA) will be necessary to ensure total peace and recovery in this war torn region of Uganda.

3. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

Objective

FHRI closely works with different actors in order to build a sound, viable and credible human rights movement in Uganda.

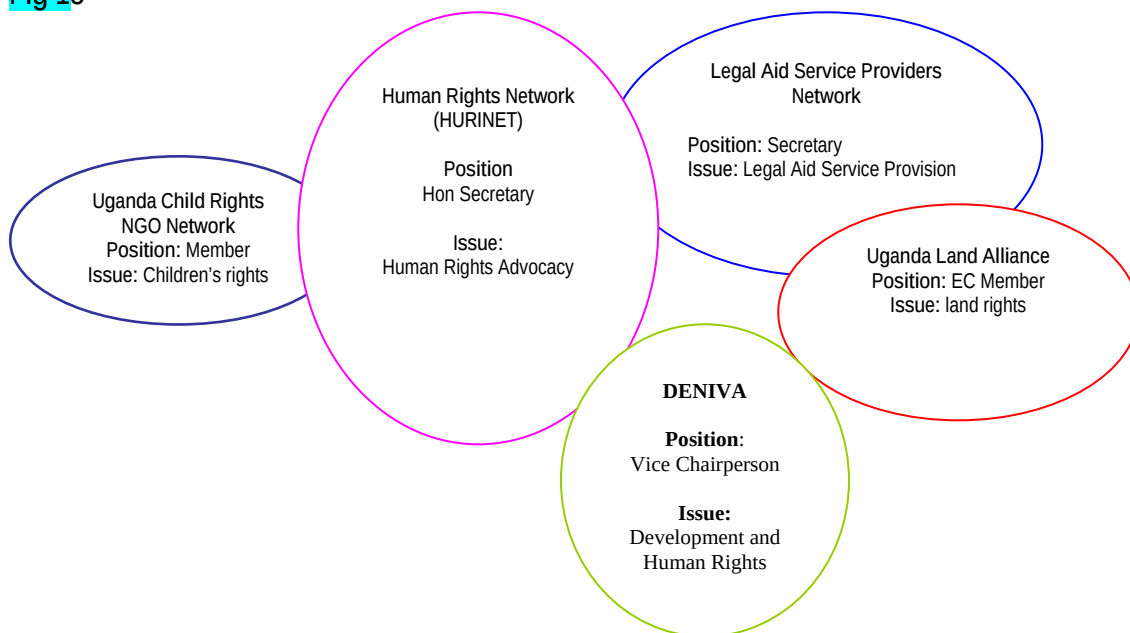
Implementation

FHRI collaborates with a diverse range of institutions and groups pursuing a similar or related agenda at the local, national and international levels through joint campaigns in coalitions and networks, internship and volunteer placements, participation and reports to regional and international treaty institutions like the African commission on human and people's rights, the African union and the UN committees.

Output

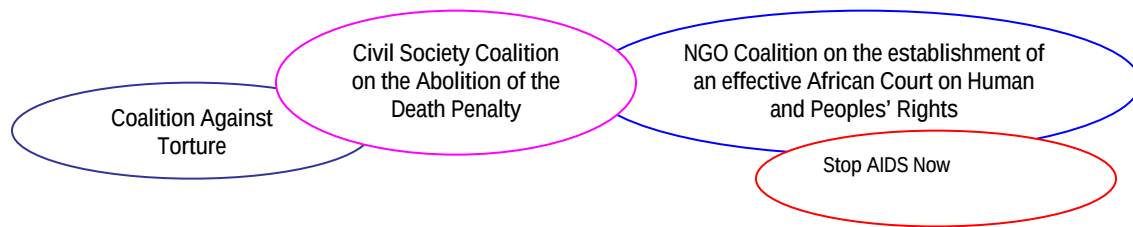
In 2007, FHRI reviewed its membership to a number of networks. Consequently FHRI membership was restricted to five local networks including the following:

Fig 15



In view of the above, FHRI actively participated in joint campaigns and coalitions on the following key issues in 2007 as illustrated in figure 16 here below:

Fig 16



The issues around which the organization advocated for jointly within these coalitions include: prohibition of torture, abolition of the death penalty, establishment of an effective African Court and the development of an HIV/AIDS at the workplace policy.

Working with partners beyond the national borders has added value to the work of FHRI as it has enhanced its visibility and role within the international human rights sector. In 2007, FHRI maintained partnerships and collaboration with key International Non-Governmental Organizations including: the Death Penalty Limited (UK), REDRESS Trust (UK), FIDH, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Common Wealth Human Rights Initiative, Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA), Geneva for Human Rights, Penal Reform International, International Commission of Jurists, International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, Centre for Capital Punishment Studies, East Africa Law Society, among others.

Similarly, FHRI participated in key global events in 2007 namely:

- Management Committee meeting of the Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights: 3rd -6th February 2007, Arusha, Tanzania.
- PRI Executive Board Meeting, on the 31st March 2007.
- Workshop on labor rights organized by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya) from the 27th -31st March 2007 in Arusha, Tanzania.
- The 41st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: Accra, Ghana, from the 16th -30th May 2007.
- Consultations on 'Defending Civil Society' organized by the World Movement for Democracy; 9th August 2007, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 5th CSO forum organized by the East Africa Law Society; 22nd -23rd November 2007, Arusha, Tanzania.
- 2nd Annual East African Civil Society forum organized by the East Africa Law Society; 21st - 22nd November 2007, Arusha, Tanzania
- Common Wealth Human Rights Forum: 19th -20th November 2007, Kampala, Uganda.

In 2007, FHRI presented several papers and attended various fora organized by different governmental, intergovernmental, religious and civil society organizations locally, highlighted below:

- Training Workshop organized by Uganda Law Society on the Role of Lawyers and the Media in enhancing the rule of law in Uganda ; 29th January 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- NURRU workshop on the selection of priority research areas for 2007 ; 30th January 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Roundtable on Human Rights in Uganda, organized by Fredrich Ebert Stiftung, 7th February 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- ICC National Dialogue, organized by the Uganda Law Society, 8th February 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Roundtable Dialogue on the Draft Protocol to operationalise the East African Court of Justice; 15th February 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- NGO Forum meeting on the NGO Amendment Act, 28th February 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- 1st Sensitization workshop on the implementation of the Access to Information Act with the Directorate of Information, Office of the Prime Minister; 23rd February 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Health organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; 9th February 2007.
- Seminar on decentralized governance and Human Rights in Uganda, HURIPEC, 2nd March 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- UCRNN consultative meeting; 13th March 2007, Kampala Uganda.
- Workshop on implementing the Rome Statute organized by the Ugandan Coalition for the International Criminal Court in conjunction with International Bar Association; 17th March 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- NURRU dissemination Workshop on 20th March 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Uganda Law Students Conference, HURIPEC, 16th April 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) Consultative workshop on the State of Human Rights during 2006; 2nd May 2007, Kampala, Uganda. .
- Workshop on Juba Peace Talks and Agenda Item No.3 organized by the Uganda Human Rights Commission, 14th May 2007, Kampala, Uganda.

- African Peer Review Mechanism workshop; 1st June 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Coalition Against Torture (CAT) dialogue on the State of torture in Uganda; 21st June 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- ANPPCAN thematic group meeting on child abuse; 21st June 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Symposium on the Death Penalty in Uganda organized by the prisoners in the condemned section, Luzira Upper Prison, 24th July 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Platform for Labour Action workshop on National Social Security Scheme; 27th June 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Annual General meeting of the Uganda Land Alliance on 28th June 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Citizen's Rights in the collection of taxes, workshop organized by the Uganda Local Authorities Association on the 31st August 2007, Jinja.
- Workshop organized by OHCHR Uganda on using indicators to monitor implementation of human rights on 17th October 2007, Kampala, Uganda. .
- Workshop on the Access to Information Act, organized by the Uganda Media Development Foundation on the 2nd November 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Report Dissemination Workshop of the UHRC,; 13th November 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Parliamentary workshop on Strengthening Multi-party democracy and Electoral Reforms; 7th November 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- LRA consultative meeting on 5th December 2007, Kampala, Uganda.
- Launch of the Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO) on the 7th December 2007.
- Conference on Gender and Empowerment of women organized by NAWOU on the 11th December 2007.

Impact

FHRI's networking strategy is guided by its Strategic Plan (2006-2008), focused on issue based networks and coalitions that have a bearing on FHRI's thematic and campaign areas. This highly selective strategy has added value to FHRI's overall program by amplifying the campaign on key human rights issues like; the right to life, freedom from torture, access to justice, electoral reform, the death penalty, penal reform, among others.

Further, the visibility and credibility of the organization through working with re-known international human rights groups in joint events has been greatly enhanced.

Lastly, FHRI's involvement in global events on democracy, the Commonwealth Peoples' Human Rights Forum, among others has enabled the organization to influence and contribute to the global human rights and governance agenda.

Challenge

The requests for partnerships with FHRI are overwhelming. The challenge for FHRI is to balance between working with value-added partnerships and the risk of being branded 'isolationist'.

4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective

The Institutional Strengthening and Development component has two aims namely;

- *To enhance FHRI's capacity to execute its programs efficiently and;*
- *To develop a sound policy framework for the efficient planning, monitoring and evaluation, training, management, investment and gender mainstreaming of FHRI's strategic plan and programs.*

Implementation

This Component focuses on;

- I. Staff Training and Development.
- II. Policy Development.
- III. Office Administration.
- IV. Investments.
- V. Staffing and Organization.
- VI. Governing Bodies.
- VII. Donor Roundtable.
- VIII. Public Relations.

Output

I. Staff Training and Development

The FHRI Staff Training and Development program seeks to improve staff competences for the successful execution of the FHRI program. For the last 16 years, the staff training and development component has taken the form of in-house training courses for staff, training, exposure, on-job training and study opportunities.

In 2007, FHRI proposed to conduct two in-house training courses for staff on: Policy Management and secondly a course on Planning Monitoring and Evaluation. Short in-house sessions on key management and organization sessions through Guest lectures and motivational talks were also lined up for the year.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation: 2nd – 10th April 2007, Human Rights House, Nsambya

From the 2nd – 5th April 2007, a five day Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Course was conducted for twenty five (25) FHRI staff including 19 female and 6 male by the Centre for Management Excellence Consult.(CME).

The intensive and practical in-conducted by PME experts who administrative staff on PME to an organization and its different M&E tools including the importance of undertaking a stake during M & E, methods of and developing PME Policy staff developed project specific appropriately used to measure

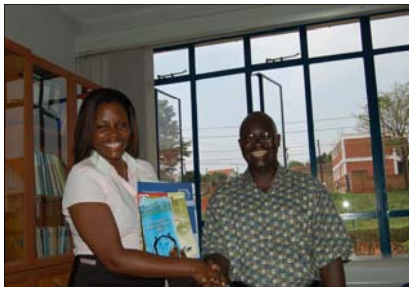


Staff members listening to the facilitators of the M and E Training at the Human Rights House.

house training course was grounded program teams and concepts, the importance of M & E management, development of Logical Framework, the holder analysis, data collection communicating M & E findings instruments. During the training, M & E tools that would be human rights.

Guest lectures.

In 2007, FHRI hosted 2 Guest speakers, Ms. Barbara Katende, FHRI Board Chairperson on the 11th June 2007 who made a presentation before FHRI staff on; *"How to keep more of the money you make"* and Ms. Anne Kyohaire Muhangi from the Capital Markets Authority who on the 11th February 2007 made a presentation on, *'How and where to invest'*.



Ms. Ann Kyohairwe Muhangi of the Capital Markets Authority, receiving publications from Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, after giving the staff a talk on Financial Investment on 11th February 2007.



Staff members listening to Ms. Barbara Katende, Board Chairperson as she conducts a talk on Personal Financial Management on 11th June 2007 in the FHRI Board Room

Short staff sessions.

In 2007, FHRI staff took time off to view three audio visual sessions on key management issues including: 'Improving employee performance', 'Achieving Excellence' and Team Building.

As an established practice, individual staff members were provided with the opportunity to attend a number of international and national training courses on human rights:

- **Training on the United Nations System and the Human Rights Council.**
The Executive Officer attended the training course from the 8th – 30th March 2007 organized by Geneva for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland.

- **The Conflict-Sensitive Development Training.**
The Legal Officer, Access to Justice Unit attended the training from the 14th -16th March 2007, which was organized by Safer world and Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE); Kampala, Uganda.
- **Training on Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation.**
The Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy Unit Manager attended the training course organized by Human Rights Network – Uganda (HURINET) from the 24th – 27th April 2007; Kampala, Uganda.
- **27th International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP)**
The Manager, Education and Training Unit attended the training program from the 11th – 30th June 2007 organized by the International Centre for Human Rights Education – Equitas in Montreal, Canada.



Ms. Alice Nassaka Lakwonyero, (seated in orange) the Manager, E&T with her classmates at the IH RTP, Montreal, Canada.

- **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Course: Learning from Human Rights Programs.**
The Executive Director attended the Course which was organized by Context International Cooperation, ICCO and HOM from the 15th - 19th October 2007, ZandVoort, Netherlands.

II. Policy Development.

A sound policy framework provides an enabling environment for institutional growth and development. In 2007, three new policies were developed including: *the HIV and AIDS at the Workplace Policy*, *the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Policy* and *the Gender Policy* bringing the number to seven policy instruments in the organisation.

III. Office Administration.

Like in previous years, FHRI regularly paid its utility bills and sufficiently addressed costs associated with routine consumables.

In tandem with good practice, FHRI commissioned an External Audit of the 2006 organizational Accounts. Both the Audit Report 2006 and the Annual Report 2006 were approved at the General Meeting held on 25th August 2007.

IV. Investments

Office acquisitions in 2007 include; 3 Computer sets, 3 Filing Cabinets, a vehicle attached to the Right to Life Project, 1 Television Set, 32 chairs and 8 tables for the cafeteria. The organization serviced and maintained its equipment including vehicles, computers, telephone system, photocopier, furniture and fittings.

V. Staffing and Organization

The FHRI team comprises of professional and support staff marching the human resource needs of the FHRI Strategic Plan: 2006 -2008. The staff team as at the end of 2007 stood as follows:

Executive Director	Livingstone Sewanyana
--------------------	-----------------------

Program Staff

Deputy Director (Programs)	Sheila Muwanga
Paralegal Advisory Services National Coordinator	Elinor Wanyama Chemonges
Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy Manager	Carol Adoch Kashanku
Education and Training Manager	Alice Nassaka Lakwonyero
Resource Centre Manager	Esther Nankya Bagoole
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager	Juliana Namatovu
Public Relations Officer/Publications Editor	Wendy Kasujja
Desk Officer, Right to Life Project	Doreen Namyalo Kyazze
Desk Officer, Reparation of Torture Survivors Project	Juliet Nakyanzi
Research Officer	Vincent Babalanda
Legal Officer	Barbara Nambi
Legal Officer	Rosette Arinaitwe Baroraho
Paralegal Advisory Services, Legal Officer	Sophie Dhatemwa
Education and Training Officer	Haawa Birungi Nyenje
Resource Centre Assistant	Shamim Ddembe
Project Assistant (Programs)	Bernadette Katongole

Administrative Staff

Deputy Director (Administration)	Elizabeth Nantamu
Finance Manager	Rose Kamuli Mwesigwa
Executive Officer	Emily Ikiriza Nuwagaba
Project Assistant (Administration)	Harriet Bwayiga
Accounts Officer	Patrick Lugunga
Administrative Assistant	Milly Nakakande
Senior Office Assistant	Stephen Sebaana
Receptionist	Elizabeth Nakato
Driver	Allan Semalulu
Driver	Moses Kyazze
Paralegal Advisory Services, Driver	Hannington Musisi
Logistics Assistant	Mathew Sekitto
Security Guard/Gardener	Richard Okeya

Volunteers

Daniel Ntambi	Resource Centre
Lydia Namazzi	Access to Justice Unit
Evelyn Namukasa	Reparation of Torture Survivors Project
Daniel Bakayana	Field Officer
Olivia Kigozi	Welfare Assistant
Ali Nsubuga	Gardner
Patricia Lumala	Administration

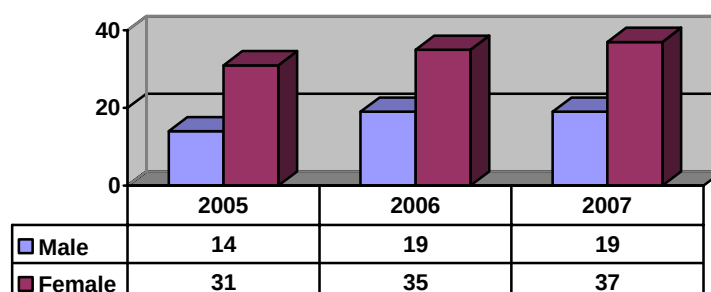
Interns

Aisulu Masykanova	Kroc Institute, Notre Dam University, USA
Lucy Freeman	Centre for Capital Punishment, UK
Marina Yung	FIDH-Geneva, Switzerland
Hilary Nzige	Law Development Centre, Kampala
Adrian Jjuuko	Human Rights and Peace Centre, MUK, Kla
Diala Anthony	Human Rights and Peace Centre, MUK, Kla
Gordon Tabaro	Danida - HUGGO

Jackie Namwanje Kintu	OSI, Central European University, Hungary
Robinah Sekiwunga	Nkozi University, Uganda.
Fred Muganga	Uganda Christian University, Mukono
Franklin Nyakoojo	Uganda Christian University, Mukono
Brandis Anderson	University of Pennsylvania, USA
Julia Fox	Royal Road University, Canada
Nyangoma Rosette	Kyambogo University, Uganda
Tonya Rawe	Hopkins University, USA
Tunu Abdi	Kampala International University
Carol Muchuma	Kampala International University
Nuruh Nakiwala	Makerere University, Kampala

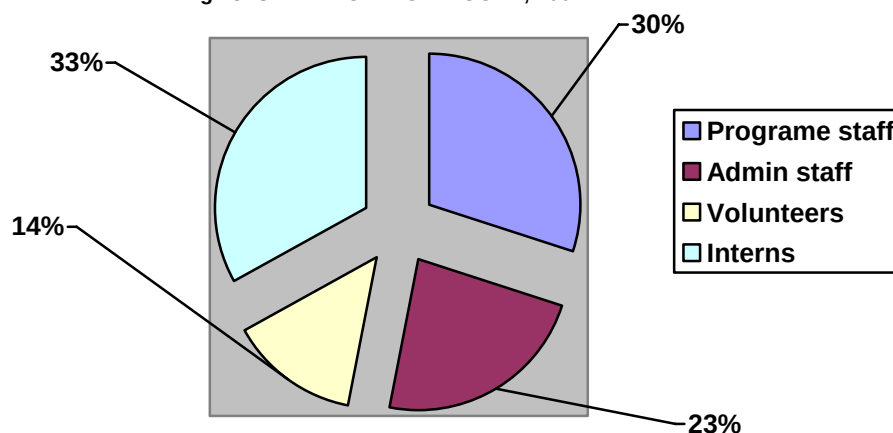
In 2007, FHRI staff number was at 56 including 17 Program staff, 13 Administrative staff, 8 Volunteers and 18 Interns bringing the gender ratio to 1: 2 (women to men) as illustrated in figure 17 below.

Fig 17: STAFFING BY GENDER IN 2005, 2006 and 2007



While the figure of men remained constant in 2007, the women increased by 2 in the same year. More women than men expressed interest in human rights work and were taken on as volunteers during the period. FHRI continued to attract interns and volunteers to assist in program implementation as illustrated in figure 18 below:

Fig 18: STAFFING BY CATEGORY, 2007



Volunteers and Interns complemented the staffing needs of the organization comprising 47% of the staff portfolio in 2007.

As part of its planning, monitoring and evaluation process, staff held several meetings to review program implementation, and evaluate the impact of program activities. A Staff - Board Retreat was held from the 16th – 21st December 2007 at the Ranch on the Lake, Lweza to review the Program agenda, results and related challenges. The process of developing the FHRI Strategic Plan (2009 – 2011) was kick started during this annual staff retreat.



Staff listening to a presentation during the Staff Retreat, 16th – 21st December 2007 at the Ranch on the Lake, Lweza.



Group Work



Group Work



Group Work

VI. Governing Bodies

FHRI's organizational structure comprises of a General Assembly, Trustees, a Board of Directors and the Secretariat. The General Assembly comprising of FHRI members is the supreme policy making organ of the Foundation and meets annually. The Trustees who are custodians of FHRI property and Constitution ensure sound management and continuity of the organization and meet whenever required. The FHRI Board of Trustees stood as follows:

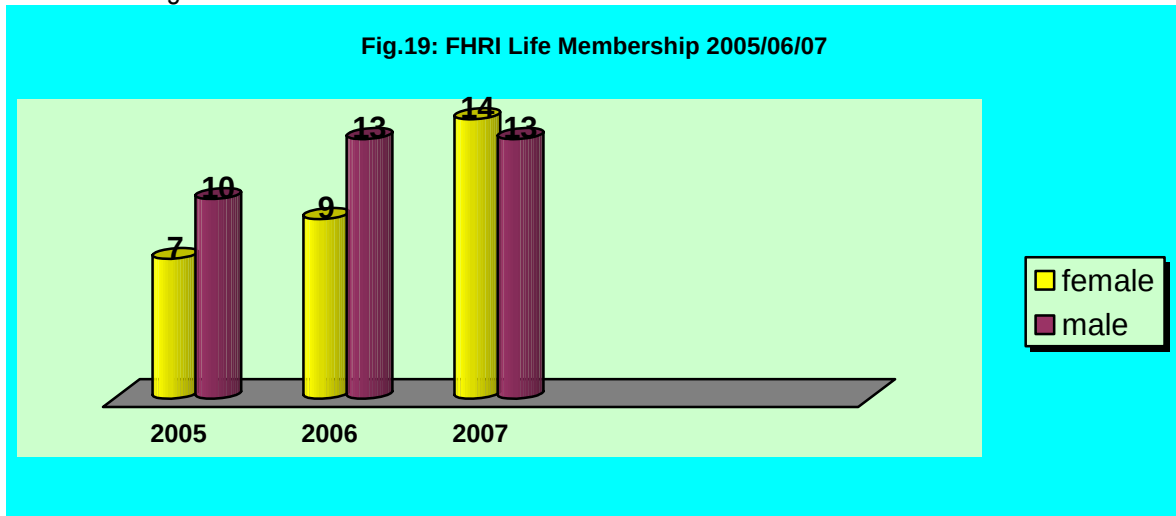
Name	Affiliation
Mrs. Mary Ssewamuwe	Minnesota Health International
Ms. Sarah Mukiibi S.	Libra Consultants Ltd
Mr. Albert Mukundane	Kampala City Council
Ms. Allen Nakiboneka	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Affairs
Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

The Board of Directors charged with providing strategic direction to the organization, formulation of policies and supervision of program implementation meet quarterly to discuss and approve activity quarterly reports, budgets and program work plans presented by the Secretariat. In 2007, the Board met four times and supported the organization with their professional skills both in policy development and program monitoring. The Board of Directors for the period 2006 – 2009 stands as follows:

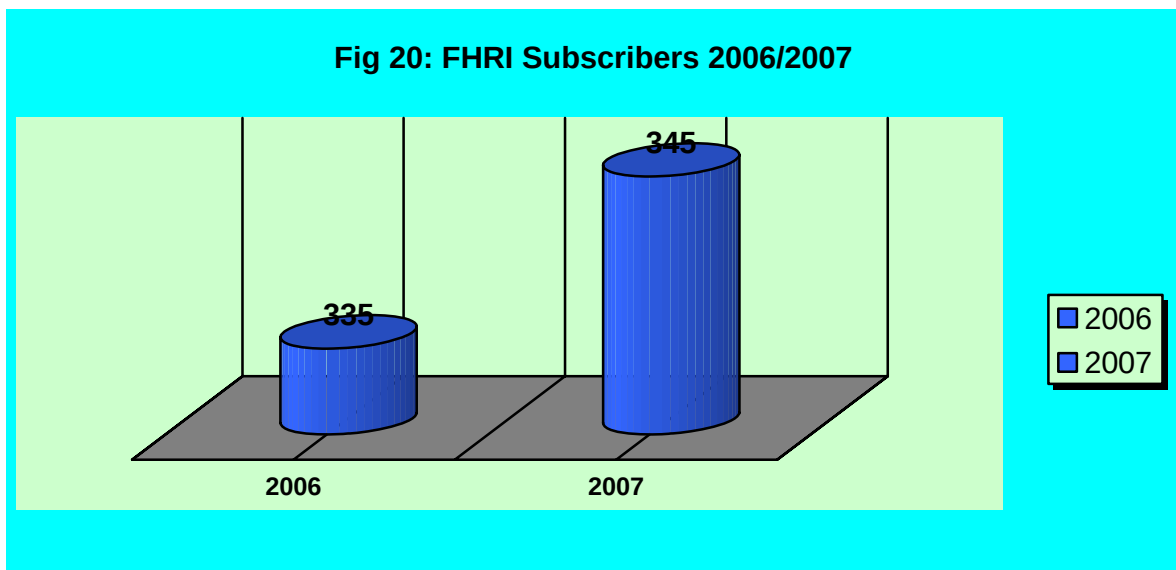
Name	Position	Occupation, Name of Employer or Primary Affiliation
Ms. Barbara Katende	Chairperson	Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Kampala.
Mr. Wycliffe Birungi	Vice Chairperson	Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. Birungi & Co. Advocates.
Her Worship Stella Maris Amabilis	Hon. Secretary	Magistrate Grade One, Mubende Magistrate's Court,.
Mr. James Mayanja Kizito	Hon. Treasurer	Marketing Analyst, Uganda Coffee Development Authority.
Mr. Patrick Semwogerere	Member	Consultant, Strategic Management Consultants Ltd.
Dr. Yasin Olum	Member	Head of Department, Political Science & Public Administration, Makerere University, Kampala.
Mrs. Monica Twesiime Kiirya	Member	Lecturer, Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Makerere University. (Away for further studies)
Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Executive Director	Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)- Ex- officio

In 2007, FHRI held its 11th General Meeting on 25th August 2007 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya. The Annual General Meeting considered the 2007 reports by the Chairperson, the Executive Director and the Treasurer and adopted the Annual and Audit Reports, 2006.

By the close of 2007, FHRI membership comprised 27 life members with more female members as illustrated in fig. 19 below:



FHRI enlisted 5 new life members in 2007 as well. The FHRI friends and subscribers on the other hand also registered an increase in 2007 from 335 in 2006 to 345 in 2007 as illustrated in figure 21 here below:



The number of people taking an interest in the work of FHRI steadily increased as evidenced in the increase of life members and subscribers. The involvement of members in planning, monitoring and support to FHRI activity implementation contributed immensely to the success of FHRI in 2007.



Some of the members who attended the AGM 2007 on 25th August 2007 at the Human Rights House.

VII. The Donor Round Table

FHRI together with SIDA co-hosted a donor Roundtable to take stock of the progress of FHRI work while underscoring its achievements, challenges and emerging issues.

This was the 1st Donor Annual with SIDA. The event was including six Development EU, HIVOS, CIDA and Directors and staff were also in



Cross-section of Development Partners present at the Donor Roundtable 2007 on 28th August 2007 at the Human Rights House.

Review of its kind co-convened attended by 28 delegates Partners from SIDA, DANIDA, UNOHCHR. FHRI Board of attendance.

The Roundtable reviewed the programmatic level in Plan 2006- 2008. FHRI's quality fundraising and private sector

progress made by FHRI at the implementing the Strategic of work, options for involvement were discussed.

The Development Partners present urged FHRI to sustain its good quality work in order to positively influence Uganda's human rights record .

VIII. Public Relations

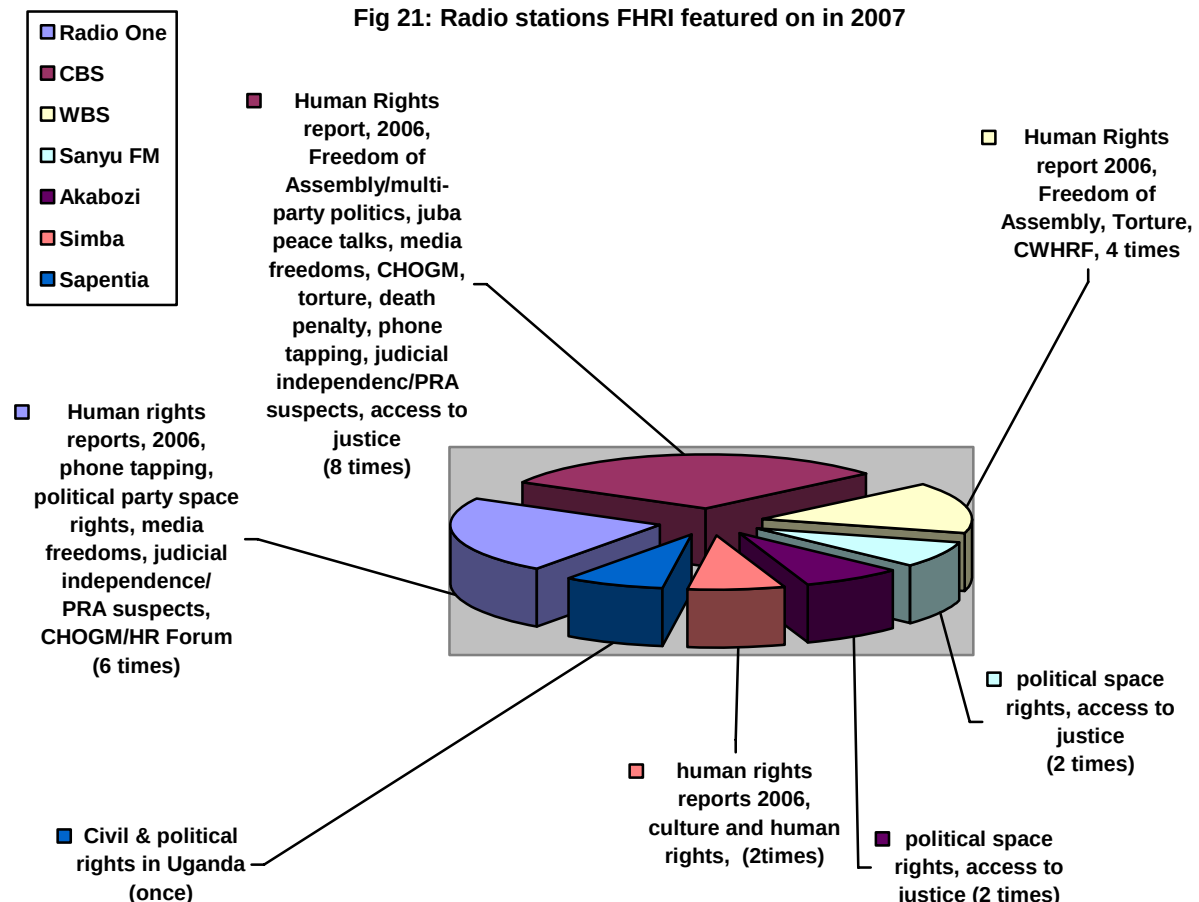
Public Relations (PR) is an integral part of the FHRI program (2006-2008). The Public Relations unit facilitates public understanding of FHRI strategies and promotes FHRI's corporate image.

FHRI's influence within the civil society and human rights sector continued to grow in 2007. In a survey conducted by the Daily Monitor published on the 13th October 2007, on the 100 most influential Ugandans, the Executive Director of FHRI, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana was voted No. 51 for steadfastly championing human rights in Uganda. He represented the only civil society organisation voted in this respect.

Described as the human rights watch dog in the media, a number of local and international journalists and media houses sought FHRI's opinion on key human rights issues among others, the right to life, campaign against the death penalty, phone tapping, social security, access to justice, the break out of Ebola and Government responsibility, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, 2007 and the outcome of the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum among others.

Upon request, FHRI featured 25 times in the electronic media in over 10 radio stations and registered a total of eighty (80) articles authored by journalists, academia and individuals from the public on FHRI interventions in the print media in 2007.

FHRI staff also authored two 2 articles that were published in the *Daily Monitor* newspaper on FHRI' work around the Death Penalty and the World Social Forum 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.



Other media houses where FHRI was hosted or interviewed were; NTV (on the rights of disabled persons), Uganda Radio Network (on human rights in Uganda) and Spirit FM (on human rights in Uganda.) The Executive Director was also interviewed by Uganda Joint Christian Council for a documentary on the challenges to democratic Governance in Uganda and the Women's Prisoners Support Organization on prison conditions and access to justice in Uganda.

The international media too sought opinion from FHRI including the Vatican Radio (Rome). An interview with a Swedish journalist on the human rights situation in Uganda in 2007 featured FHRI assessment.

In 2007, FHRI hosted a total of ninety three (93) visitors at the Human Rights House among them; Development Partners, representatives of transnational and multinational agencies, community-based associations, professional bodies, tertiary institutions and Government officials who

applauded FHRI for its work and expressed interest in collaborating with the organization. FHRI was also invited to take part in the selection process of the Investigative Journalism Award held on the 20th April 2007.



Mr. Sewanyana receiving publications from an official of the Platform for Labour Action, after giving a talk to FHRI Staff about their NSSF savings, on 26th June 2007 at the FHRI Board Room.



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana introducing the US Embassy Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Lisa M. Heilbronn, to different staff members on 1st August 2007.



H.E. the Danish Ambassador to Uganda being seen off by Mr. Sewanyana after a meeting at the Human Rights House on 25th June 2007.



Mr. John Hamilton, 2nd Secretary, British High Commission, signing a Guest Book after his visit to FHRI on 27th June 2007



Ms. Pernillah Tragardh (*front-row centre*), formerly Programme Officer at SIDA and FHRI staff members after a farewell lunch in her honour.

In 2007, FHRI issued 2 Press Statements on; the fatal Mabira Forest demonstrations released on the 13th April 2007 and in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10th December 2007. FHRI also held 2 press conferences to launch its Human Rights thematic reports in 2007.

In 2007, FHRI supported the Church in a number of ways, through fundraising and human rights education among others. Some of the churches include: Kanyanya Church of Uganda, Kiwunya Church of Uganda and Mukono Cathedral.

Finally, FHRI hosted a public lecture by Terry Waite on the rights of children in war affected areas on the 26th July 2007. It was organized by Uganda Society for Disabled Children, (USDC) at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.



Mr. Terry Waite responding to questions after delivering a talk at the Human Rights House on 26th July 2007.

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2007, FHRI realized 92% of the funds budgeted. The income expenditure ratio was 1:1. On average, FHRI was able to implement 96% of its set activities for 2007. Below is a summary of the Audit Accounts 2007 and the Auditor's report, 2007.

Audited Accounts

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.
Certified Public Accountants

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8 Kyaggwa Road
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Independent Auditors' Report
to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at 31 December 2007 and of the surplus and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards in as far as they are applicable and comply with the Companies Act, CAP 110.

Reporting on Other Legal and Statutory Requirements

The Companies Act requires that in carrying out our audit we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

(i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;

(ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and

(iii) The Financial Statements are in agreement with the books of account.

25 APR 2008
Kampala, Uganda

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.
Certified Public Accountants

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FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2007

	Note	2007 Ushs.	2006 Ushs.
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	3	241,964,334	252,687,963
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	-	30,742,026
Cash at Bank	5	483,625,972	186,206,899
Cash in hand		133,262	550,200
		483,759,234	217,499,125
TOTAL ASSETS		725,723,568	470,187,088
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
CAPITAL FUND	6	241,964,334	252,687,963
GENERAL FUND	7	431,744,541	197,742,590
		673,708,875	450,430,553
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals	8	52,014,693	19,609,309
Overdraft	9	-	147,235
		52,014,693	19,756,544
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		725,723,568	470,187,088

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 5th May 2008 and were signed on its behalf by:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HONORARY TREASURER

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FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Note	2007 Actual Ushs.	2007 Budget Ushs.	2006 Actual Ushs.
INCOME				
General Grants (US \$ 693,177.84)	9	1,765,251,615	1,946,736,559	1,419,280,589
Other Grants (US \$ 122,452.52)	10	208,545,932	214,287,111	214,287,111
War Child Canada		188,539,500	188,539,500	22,542,500
ICJ Kenya		3,296,630	7,200,000	3,360,230
Other income		13,262	-	-
POG		-	-	149,311,268
Open Society Initiative of East Africa		-	-	17,426,500
INTERRIGHTS		-	-	2,897,440
Bank interest		61,869	-	820,878
TOTAL INCOME		2,166,668,008	2,356,743,170	1,810,659,405
Less: Capital Expenditure		(53,644,140)	(87,815,000)	(106,541,035)
Balance available for recurrent expenditure		2,113,023,868	2,268,928,170	1,704,118,370
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
PROGRAMMES				
Education:				
Democracy Resource Centre		27,782,127	29,000,000	14,670,630
Human Rights Education and Training		156,185,549	185,222,526	46,185,137
Publications		41,410,000	43,500,000	37,278,050
Radio		21,300,000	27,347,500	13,601,000
Sub-total		246,677,676	285,070,026	111,635,817
Advocacy:				
Rights Monitoring and Policy Advocacy		135,991,225	201,240,000	115,452,945
Access to Justice		99,266,895	81,538,293	264,604,304
Paralel Reform		-	-	29,092,805
Sub-total		235,258,110	282,778,293	409,150,054
Staff Training and Development:				
Staff Training and Development		3,671,200	3,843,200	2,435,600
Partnership				
Networking		412,500	56,469,788	5,065,750
Volunteer and Internship Fund		12,617,860	14,800,000	2,609,175
Sub-total		13,030,360	70,869,788	7,574,925
Policy Development:				
Policy Development		3,500,000	4,500,000	1,500,000
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation				
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation		40,106,250	64,560,000	-

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FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2007 (Continued)

	2007 Actual Ushs.	2007 Budget Ushs.	2006 Actual Ushs.
EXPENDITURE-SPECIAL PROJECTS			
UNELAMP	-	-	123,380,239
Paralegal Advisory Services	490,240,869	670,387,183	271,846,541
War Child Canada	188,300,438	188,539,500	15,369,800
Recess Trust	14,583,467	33,951,630	-
EC - Death Penalty Project	91,189,856	89,686,500	-
Deleone	30,423,213	31,983,000	-
Result Oriented Practice for Learning	26,694,000	26,880,000	-
Sub-total	848,421,545	1,041,381,263	410,796,580
Total Programme Expenditure	1,390,547,441	1,733,062,470	943,132,876
ADMINISTRATION			
Staff salaries, benefits and taxes	504,012,488	433,506,000	345,391,511
Office administration	9,967,298	10,500,000	11,082,900
Communication and postage	5,738,817	6,380,000	3,597,743
Space and Utilities	13,974,883	15,900,000	10,713,896
Office supplies and stationery	2,357,200	3,840,000	2,281,730
Governing bodies	8,724,450	10,500,000	4,370,000
Transport and fuel	22,880,000	23,000,000	10,000,000
Audit	9,757,000	9,750,000	-
Furniture and equipment maintenance	13,370,637	14,100,000	12,519,514
Public relations	4,930,000	5,500,000	4,157,675
Insurance	15,232,709	23,000,000	19,687,699
Bank charges	4,312,081	-	4,499,630
Total Administration Expenditure	507,427,863	585,826,600	428,222,306
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	1,897,975,304	2,268,928,170	1,371,355,282
Surplus before exchange gain	214,048,304	-	137,763,028
Exchange gain / (loss)	19,152,587	-	(794,273)
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	234,001,591	-	136,968,815
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2007	197,742,590	-	60,773,775
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2007	431,744,541	-	197,742,590

6. CONCLUSION

2007 marked the successful completion of the Second year of FHRI 5th Strategic Plan (2006-2008). Two years into the plan, FHRI is proud that so far, 65% of the planned activities have been carried out successfully.

The 5th Strategic plan adopted in 2006 to advocate for improvements in human rights practice, has emerged as a relevant and timely instrument that has positioned FHRI appropriately to respond to the volatile human rights and political climate in Uganda. And with the unwavering support of our development partners, Members, Trustees, Board of Directors, and staff and friends, this has been a worthwhile journey so far.

However, despite the encouraging strides taken, the struggle for social justice still continues. That day when every human being will be treated equally, with dignity and respect, when torture and ill treatment will be history, when civil rights and liberties will be respected and economic social and cultural rights upheld is still far off. That is why, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative still has a lot of work on its platter as well as a number of sacrifices to make in order to contribute to making this world a better place.

As we work towards completion of the current three year plan we will need your support and cooperation to close one chapter and innovatively open yet another. **WE WILL COUNT ON YOU TO MARCH AHEAD!**

‘TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE’