



FHRI e-Newsletter

April – August 2016

Volume 14, Issue No. 2

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

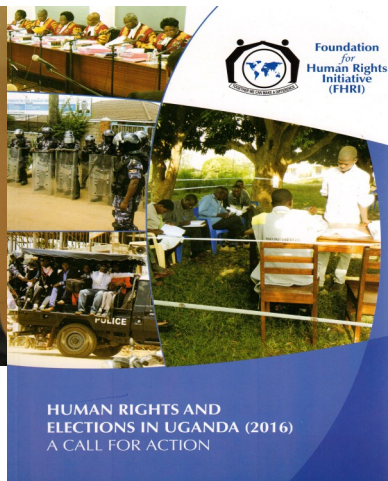
A “Call for Action” made to effect real progress towards realizing rights and democracy on the national agenda

On 27th June 2016, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) launched the human rights report, titled ‘*Human Rights and Elections in Uganda (2016): A Call for Action*’. The report presents the findings of an eight-month inquiry into the human rights situation during the 2016 election period. It focuses on the legal framework in place for protecting human rights in the context of an election, documents human rights violations throughout the election period, and engages in a comparative analysis of past elections in 2006 and 2011.

The event was held at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala *Continued to page 4*



Above - Dr. Uchenma Emelonye, Country Representative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), launched the human rights report (right) at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala on 27th June 2016



CEON-U launches final report, resound democracy concerns



A cross-section of delegates together with the Chief Guest, H.E. Mogens Pedersen (3rd left), the Danish Ambassador to Uganda at the launch of the final CEON-U report at Hotel Africana, Kampala on 30th June 2016

The Citizens Election Observers Network-Uganda (CEON-U) on 30th June 2016 launched its final report under the theme “*General Elections 2016: Revisiting the Democracy Construct*” at Hotel Africana, Kampala.

With support of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and USAID through National Democratic Institute, the 14-chapter report highlights pre-election, Election Day and post election concerns

Continued to page 16

The 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, Oslo, Norway



Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Right to Life Project Manager (left hand up) at the global march in Oslo, Norway during the 6th World Congress against the Death Penalty, June 2016.

The 6th World Congress against the death penalty which took place from 21st to 23rd June 2016 in Oslo-Norway recorded over 1,000 key actors in the fight against the death penalty, from more than 90 countries in all five continents ranging from international civil society actors, high-level political representatives and representatives of institutions, Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, experts, journalists, lawyers to ex-death row inmates among others.

Continued to page 12.

Inside this issue:

FHRI re-elected Vice President of FIDH Board	2
The World Press Freedom Day Commemorated	2
Report on the land question in Amuru District released	6
Makerere University Human Rights Club celebrate success	7
FHRI deepens her outreach services	10
Campaign against the death penalty records gains	13
FHRI member elected speaker of Kalangala district	14
CCEDU observes new district polls	17

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

FHRI re-elected onto the FIDH International Board as Vice President during its 39th Congress



Delegates at the FIDH 39th Congress held in Johannesburg, S. Africa between 23rd and 27th August 2016 from 178 member organizations. (inset) Ms. Sheila Muwanga, FHRI Deputy Executive Director re-elected as one of the 15 Vice Presidents to serve on the FIDH International Board for a three year term of office.

FIDH, together with its member organisations in Southern African under the high patronage of Desmond Tutu held its 39th Congress in Johannesburg from 23rd to 27th August 2016. The organising members included; Lawyers for Human Rights in South Africa, DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights in Botswana and Zimrights in Zimbabwe. The event was attended by the 178 FIDH member organisations which gathered more than 400 human rights defenders from 120 countries. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director and Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director represented FHRI at the Congress.

The 39th Congress was unique because, 2016 is the African Year of Human Rights and a year of important anniversaries for South Africa namely: the first democratic constitution 20 years ago, the Soweto

revolt 40 years ago, and the women's march against apartheid 60 years ago – but also for Botswana - 50th Independence Anniversary. FIDH also paid tribute to these struggles and victories for human rights.

The Congress began with a 2-day forum entitled: *Fighting back for human rights: Enabling a vision, implementing a strategy and ensuring the space for civil society as the cornerstone of human development.* The theme of the Forum was decided upon, after the following assessment: through their work and efforts, civil societies have contributed to increasing the respect for human rights throughout the world, but for the past few years, they have been attacked on all fronts: stigmatisation, judicial harassment, threats, assaults, assassinations. These attacks go beyond people, for they target the universality of human rights, a universality that is being called into question by states that allude to specific cultural mores, the fight against terrorism, or economic interests. The purpose of the forum was to provide an opportunity for civil society representatives from around the world to meet and discuss how they coped with these attacks. It brought out the extraordinary capacity of the world movement of human rights

defenders to resist and fight oppression. During the Congress, a new International Board was also elected in which Ms. Sheila Muwanga was re-elected as one of the 15 Vice Presidents. Mr. Dimitris Christopoulos was elected President of FIDH. He succeeds Iranian lawyer Mr. Karim Lahidji. The newly elected International Board is composed of 22 activists from 21 countries, representing five continents.

The fight against impunity will be at the centre of Mr. Christopoulos' mandate, as will be the mobilization for the respect of human rights in the framework of the economic globalization. As FIDH President, Mr. Christopoulos will also work towards the implementation of the priorities decided by FIDH's member organisations.

The Congress adopted 26 resolutions including three special motions concerning the situation in Syria, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and a call for the protection of human rights defenders worldwide.

FHRI joins the Media fraternity to commemorate the 2016 World Press Freedom Day

On 3rd May 2016, Dr. Sewanyana Livingstone, the Executive Director, FHRI joined the media fraternity to commemorate the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) at the Railway Grounds in Kampala. The WPF is celebrated because it reminds the public about the important role the media plays in promoting social, economic and political transformation said Dr. Sewanyana, As one of the keynote speakers, he stressed the importance of the media in society and more so in the fight against poverty, injustice and social deprivation. As a key player, the media uses its rightful role to investigate the sources of injustice; those who are corrupt, why government programmes fail and why sustainable development continues to elude us. He noted that despite its major role, the media faces an enormous task in society where state institutions are highly compromised, when journalists reveal the truth. The journalists become the soft targets. Dr. Sewanyana urged the journalists to always adhere to their professional standards and be ready to serve courageously even if they are targeted because justice can never be received on a silver platter. He commended them for the high price they pay in exposing fraud, advancing rights and speaking out for those who are less privileged.

The 2016 theme was: *Access to information and fundamental freedom; "this is your right".* The WPF commemorated every 3rd May is an opportunity to: celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; assess the state of press freedom throughout the world; defend the media from attacks on their independence; and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Drake University and Simmon's College visit FHRI

On 25th July 2016, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative hosted students from Simmon's College (USA) for yet another study visit. Similarly, students from Drake University (USA) together with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) also visited FHRI on 23rd May 2016.

During the two visits, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director addressed the students from the different universities on the current status of human rights in Uganda. He also shared with them the various interventions and tactics FHRI has used in its 25 years' experience in promoting the observance of human rights in Uganda and beyond. The students from Drake University further held a discussion on the theme, "*Sustainable Development in Sub Saharan Africa.*"



Standing: Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana giving a human rights lecture to students from Drake University and Makerere University Business School at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 23rd May 2016.



Students from Simmon's College at the Human Rights House with Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana (in the centre on the front row) and Dr. Hugo Kamya (Extreme right) on 25th July 2016.

Make it work: engage the media in the struggle for human rights

Speaking about issues of national importance has been FHRI's call at all times. FHRI led by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director has been instrumental in shaping the discussion around human rights and democracy in Uganda. FHRI has offered its in-depth opinions on various subjects especially issues of social justice using several approaches such as interviews, talk-shows, media supplements and articles among others. FHRI has not only engaged the media, but it has also provided a direct opportunity to educate the citizenry about many matters with potential to make a difference in society.

A wide range of national topics ranging from civil and political rights to economic, social and cultural rights that include: police brutality, electoral reforms; land evictions; governance; media freedom; corruption; the effectiveness of the ICC court towards African Leaders; access to justice; the campaign against the death penalty; the arrest of Presidential runner up, Dr. Kiiza Besigye on treason charges; the participation of the opposing political parties in NRM's 5th term; the question on human rights in NRM's 5th term; streamlining citizenships; separation of powers; the due process of retirement for soldiers; Uganda's bloated cabinet; killings in UPDF; discrimination of children with HIV/AIDS in schools; child sacrifice; application of professional standards by the police; compensation of torture victims; inequality in salaries and work conditions of public servants; rampant violent moves by the public over contentious issues of national importance; and the elections in the new districts. With both national and international focus, FHRI gave its candid views and recommendations using a legal and human rights perspective.

The opportunity for FHRI to analyze the pertinent issues was given by both local and international media houses that include: Kingdom TV, Prime Radio, Central Broadcasting Services, Capital FM, BBS Telefina, the Vision group of media companies, the Monitor, Voice of America, NBS, NTV, the Independent, KFM, Associated Press, BBC, Radio One, Dream TV, the Observer, Metro FM and Biliv TV among others.

The successful media campaigns through media efforts that have come to the righteous defense of victims of injustice and abuse around the world, improving and saving thousands of lives are a testimony of the measure of social power the media has which cannot be ignored.

FHRI holds her 7th Strategic Partnership meeting with the Democratic Governance Facility

As part of the on-going cooperation framework between FHRI and Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the 7th Strategic Partnership meeting was held on 11th April 2016, at the Human Rights House, Nsambya. The subject of this meeting was the draft report of the Joint DGF/FHRI Annual Review conducted in 2015. The review sought to assess progress registered towards the achievement of FHRI's strategic objectives as set out in its five year Strategic Plan (2012 – 2016). The exercise was conducted by Pro Initiatives Agency, an independent firm.

Although the draft report credited FHRI for making considerable progress towards achieving its Strategic Plan targets in 2015, the review challenged the institution to invest in rolling out long-term human rights campaigns in order to register more sustainable results.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Sophie Racine, Component Manager, Rights Justice and Peace (RJP), DGF, Ms. Anne Nyakato, Programme Officer, RJP, DGF, and Mr. Samson Asiimwe, Programme Assistant, RJP, DGF. Some of FHRI's Board of Directors and staff members were in attendance. The report was presented by Ms. Diana Katto and Ms Monica Twesiime Kiirya from Pro- Initiatives Agency.

THE RESEARCH DIVISION

Launch of the “Human Rights and Elections in Uganda (2016): A call for Action” report *continued from page 1*



Left: Hon. Miria Matembe making comments during the launch of the Human Rights and Elections in Uganda –2016 report while Hon. Erias Lukwago the Lord Mayor of Kampala looked on at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala on 27th June 2016



A cross section of delegates launching the Human Rights and Elections in Uganda-2016 report together with Dr. Uchenna Emelonye (3rd left), Country Representative of OHCHR at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala on 27th June 2016.

and attracted 171 delegates from a broad spectrum of society. Among the attendees were representatives from government, civil society, academia, the Uganda Police Force (UPF), the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Force (UPDF), and the Judiciary, among others.

The morning session began with opening remarks delivered by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI. Following these remarks, the report was presented by Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director - Programs at FHRI. Ms. Muwanga highlighted the report’s key findings regarding human rights and access to justice during the election, as well as the various recommendations to relevant sectors and stakeholders. After this presentation, additional remarks were made by Mr. Mads Mayerhofer Chair of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and 1st Secretary at the Royal Danish Embassy in Uganda, who commended the report for helping to clear the way for genuine dialogue.

The official launch of the report was then conducted by Dr. Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A panel discussion was then moderated by Dr. Sewanyana. The four panelists included: Mr. Erasmus Twaruhukwa, Director for the UPF, Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Services; Mr. Crispy Kaheru, Coordinator for the Citizens’ Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU); Ms. Patricia Nduru, Director Human Rights Monitoring and Inspection at the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC); and Ms. Sylvia Namubiru, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Services Providers’ Network (LASPNET).

The panel was followed by a plenary session which enlisted thoughtful responses and heated debate from some of those in attendance. First to speak was Dr. Tanga Odoi, Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement Electoral Commission, followed by comments from Hon. Miria Matembe and Hon. Erias Lukwago, the Lord Mayor of Kampala. Others were given the chance to speak as well, many of whom welcomed the report as a positive step. Some of the specific election-related issues raised during the plenary included responsibility for acts of torture, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and disproportionate use of force. Many participants argued vehemently that a “call to action” was the only way to effect real progress.

The event was concluded successfully by giving a chance to all the panellists to respond to the plenary and make final remarks.

FHRI and CIVICUS hold dialogue on space for civil society in Uganda

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) together with Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) organized a civil society solidarity mission between 18th and 20th July 2016. The objectives were to: get a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by the different civil society organisations in Uganda; show solidarity with national civil society representatives and understand the environment in which they operate; identify means of collaboration between national and international civil society groups with the aim of addressing restrictions on civic space; speak to representatives from government and identify ways in which the state can work with civil society on different issues affecting Ugandans; speak with members of the diplomatic community and identify ways in which they can work with civil society and the government to address human rights violations and provide up-to-date information to be fed into advocacy and lobbying efforts at the UN Human Rights Council ahead of and during Uganda’s 2nd UPR review in October 2016.

Consequently, on 19th July, CIVICUS in collaboration with FHRI held a public dialogue on the state of civil society in Uganda. In attendance were 32 participants (18 men: 14 women) from various entities. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director FHRI, opened the meeting with welcome remarks. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. David Kode, Policy and Research Officer, CIVICUS. He briefly discussed the work of CIVICUS and noted that in most countries in the world there is no absolute enabling environment for civil society. He also stated that there are multiple sources of these restrictions, including political leaders, governments, corporations and

Continued to page 5

THE RESEARCH DIVISION

FHRI and CIVICUS hold dialogue on civil society in Uganda *continued from page 4*



Civil Society Panel, L– R: Mr. Job Kijja, Coordinator Citizens Mobilisation UNNGOF; Mr. Robert Ssempera, National Coordinator HRNJ-U; Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI; and Mr. Edrine Wanyama, Project Officer HURINET-U

extremists; and that these restrictions are imposed through legislation, verbal attacks, arrests, and intimidation, among others.

The participating organisations were: FHRI; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Chapter Four Uganda; Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Twerwaneho Listeners Club; National Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in Uganda; National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders; Human Rights Centre Uganda; Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda; Uganda National NGO Forum; Uganda Law Society; Human Rights Network for Journalists Uganda; Human Rights Network - Uganda, Human Rights Centre and Uganda Land Alliance .

The civil society solidarity mission contributed to developing a nuanced understanding of the multitude of challenges faced by civil society actors in Uganda, most notably intimidation, office break-ins, funding, legislative restrictions, and many more. It also highlighted the need for strengthened collaboration and synergies between civil society actors, development partners and with the state to ensure concerted efforts towards creating an enabling environment for civil society. FHRI is grateful to CIVICUS for this display of solidarity and partnership that made it possible to initiate the dialogue towards a strengthened and united civil society sector in Uganda.



Plenary: Mr. Edmond Owor, Executive Director of Uganda Land Alliance discussing intimidation of civil society by the state.

Uganda joins the rest of the world to commemorate the Anti-Torture Day

Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment is guaranteed by Article 24 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and is also provided for as an absolute right under Article 44(a). Despite this, acts of torture in Uganda remain prevalent in the country more especially among the security agencies, and armed groups as well as with non-state actors.

The United Nations Day in support of victims of torture is internationally commemorated every 26th of June. It provides an opportunity to speak out against the crime of torture and to remember and support victims and survivors of torture throughout the world.

The day was selected by the UN for two reasons:

- On 26th of June 1945, the United Nations Charter was signed – the first international instrument obliging UN Member States to respect and promote human rights.
- It was on 26th of June 1987 when the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) came into effect. The first commemoration events of 26th of June were launched in 1998 and

since then, many organisations in many countries across the world have marked the day each year with events and campaigns against torture in honor of victims of the vice.

As a member of the Coalition against Torture in Uganda, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative together with Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) commemorated the day with a candle light service from Lugogo grounds under the theme *"Together in the fight against Torture"*.

The 2016 event was graced by Hon. Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as the Chief Guest. In attendance was Mr. Med Kaggwa the Chairperson of UHRC, Dr.

Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative UNOHCHR and other members from civil society, Uganda Prison Service, and many torture victims. During the commemoration, the Minister committed to signing the anti torture regulations.



L–R: Mr. Rashid Bunya, FHRI Research Assistant and Mr. Victor Ayoka from Uganda Prisons Service at the Lugogo grounds in commemoration of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26th June 2016.

FHRI conducts research on pre-trial detention conditions in Central, Northern and Eastern Uganda

Within the framework of the current project titled *“Between rhetoric and practice: bridging the democracy divide in Uganda”* whose overall objective is to promote civic values, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Uganda. Several activities are being carried out to achieve this outcome, FHRI is conducting routine monitoring of places of detention under its Rights monitoring and Policy Advocacy unit. The main objectives are to assess conditions and treatment of persons in the police, prison and remand homes; assess human rights violations in these facilities ; and identify and follow up cases that require urgent legal support.

To this end, between July and August 2016, the research division has undertaken 3 pre-trial detention missions in Central, Eastern and Northern Uganda. The team has visited 14 prisons, 16 police stations and 3 remand homes. They have also interacted with detainees and the relevant authorities in these places. The districts covered so far, include: Kampala, Wakiso, Iganga, Bugiri, Namutumba, Mbale, Koboko, Arua, Nebbi, Gulu and Lira. More visits are planned for Central and Western Uganda.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROJECT

‘Without Land there is no Living’: Baseline Report of the situation analysis of the land question in Amuru district



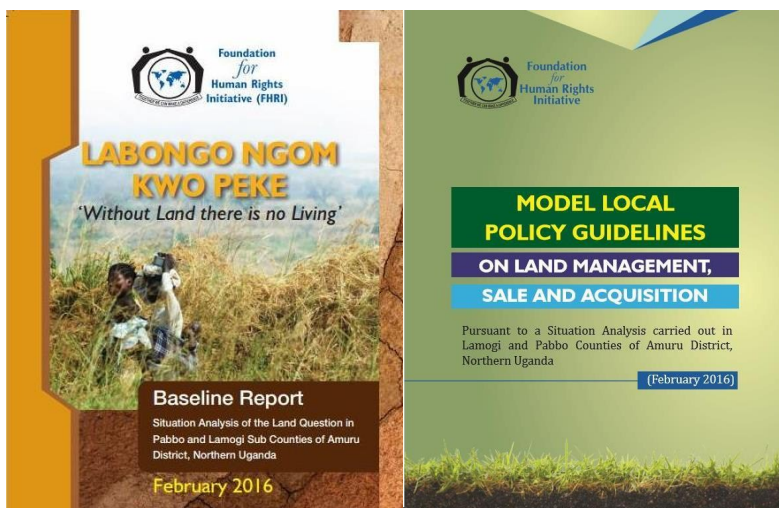
From Right: Ms. Penny Mbabazi Atuhaire, FHRI's Research Associate with Mr. Eric Okwera from CRESO, FHRI's local partner in Amuru discussing findings of the Baseline Report, 'Without Land there is no Living' and FHRI's interventions on land related matters during a radio talk show on Speak FM in Gulu town.

In April 2016, under the Transitional Justice project, FHRI published a Baseline Report titled, 'Labongo Ngom Kwo Peke'-*Without Land there is no Living*' and Model Local Policy Guidelines (LPGs) to provide local policy solutions regarding the land question in Amuru district.

This Great Lakes Civil Society Project is jointly implemented by FHRI and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with an aim of supporting national civil society organizations in documenting and analyzing specific displacement and conflict issues, and translating these analyses into practical advocacy goals at the local, national and regional levels. Since June 2015, FHRI has been implementing a country specific project focusing on promoting land rights of the formerly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through local policy development and advocacy in land matters in Lamogi and Pabbo counties in Amuru district.

The interventions were triggered by various media reports on the Apaa issue in April 2015 where a group of elderly women undressed before two government ministers as they protested against the demarcation of Apaa land bordering Amuru and Adjumani districts. These events and similar ones have created a need for FHRI to establish its presence in Amuru to collate and work with relevant stakeholders including; Local Government, Members of Parliament, district councilors, traditional leaders, Local Council Courts (LCC) and Community Based Organisations, to develop Model Local Policy Guidelines. The guidelines provide a procedural step-by-step guide in the process of land acquisition, management, conversion of land tenure system and conflict resolution within the local context of the people of Lamogi and Pabbo.

It is FHRI's hope that findings from the Baseline Report together with Model Local Policy Guidelines will go a long way in providing guidance to ensure that people and their representatives perform their roles objectively and serve their respective communities better.



Cover pages of the publications released under the Transitional Justice Project. **Left:** *Without Land there is no Living*: Baseline Report of the Situation Analysis of the land question in Amuru district, Northern Uganda. **Right:** Model Local Policy Guidelines (LPGs)



THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Celebrating winners of the 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition



Standing: H.E. Donal Cronin, Ambassador of Ireland to Uganda addressing the students and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana at his residence during the reception that took place on 14th April 2016.



Makerere University Human Rights Club members, with the Irish Ambassador at his residence on 14th April 2016.

Makerere University's Human Rights Club, emerged the best in the 9th Inter-University human rights competition held place on 4th and 5th March 2016 at Ndejje University. At the event, H.E. Donal Cronin, Ambassador of Ireland to Uganda promised to interface with the winners. The best human rights club was represented by 25 students who were joined by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the FHRI Executive Director. Also in attendance were staff members from the Capacity Development Division at FHRI.

In his speech, Ambassador Cronin expressed his appreciation to FHRI for organizing the Students Leadership Programme which he recognized as an avenue that will transform society. He noted that this programme has the potential to change the mindset of the youths to appreciate the value of human rights and to deepen their understanding of democracy. He noted that investing in young people is worthwhile and pledged his support to the growth of this movement.

Speaking at the same event, Dr. Sewanyana thanked Ambassador Cronin for engaging the young human rights defenders in an inspirational discussion that equipped them with new ideas and insights in good leadership and human rights. He urged the students to seize the opportunity and enhance their knowledge of human rights in Uganda. He thanked the FHRI team for nurturing the student human rights movement and encouraged students to always strive to be winners in everything they do.

Handing over the reigns of power in Human Rights Clubs

Towards the end of every academic year, students are encouraged to handover their offices to new leaders of the human rights clubs. This practice helps students to appreciate transition of power and to nurture them into democratic and responsible leaders.

In 2016, FHRI witnessed the handover of leadership in most of the university clubs. In every human rights club the new leaders were taken through an electoral process and were elected to positions of responsibility through a secret ballot.

During this period seven members of the University Students Human Rights Network conducted their handover ceremonies and these included; Kabale University on 6th June 2016, Uganda Technical College- Elgon on 3rd June 2016, Uganda College of Commerce- Tororo on 1st June 2016, Nkumba University on 9th May 2016, Kyambogo University on 23rd April 2016, Islamic University in Uganda - Kabojja Female campus on 16th April 2016 and Busoga University on 8th April 2016.

“Remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

Harriet Tubman

Dr. Sewanyana speaks to University Students at their Annual Law Dinner

On 2nd April 2016, the Faculty of Law at the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) – Kabojja Female Campus, held their 2016 Annual Law Dinner at Kabojja University branch. In his remarks, the Chief Guest, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, FHRI Executive Director urged the upcoming lawyers to always strive for aim at being exemplary.

He urged them to uphold the values of a good lawyer and to be exemplary by serving people from all walks of life if they want to make a difference in society. Dr. Sewanyana emphasized the need for innovativeness in the legal profession and advised them to always stay informed and widen their knowledge base by reading extensively. Other speakers included Mr. Kasozi Idris, the Acting Dean of Faculty of Law; Mr. Ynka Agboola, Coordinator of the Faculty of Law and Mr. James Muhindo from the Public Interest Legal Aid Clinic, Makerere University.

Relatedly, Dr. Sewanyana was a Keynote Speaker at the Annual Law Dinner for Kampala International University which took place on 15th April 2016 at Cassia Lodge, Kampala. He urged the outgoing students to serve the people with respect and dignity as well as consider devising solutions to some of the most important issues facing the legal profession with utmost integrity.

Kabale University organizes a grand debate on the role of the media in the democratization process in Uganda

On 6th June 2016, the Human Rights Club at Kabale University organized a debate under the theme: *"The role of the media in the democratization process in Uganda"*. The university students used the debate to audit the performance of the media in Kigezi Region as their case study in the just concluded 2016 national elections.

Students presented their research papers which were enriched by senior lecturers at the university and some key political figures in the region. The debate focused on the independence of the media industry in Uganda's democratization process using the 2016 electoral process as a case study. Several cases of intimidation towards journalists were highlighted in the debate.

The panel of judges comprised Mr. Mugisha Abbas, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kabale University; Dr. Joseph Tindyebwa, a Public Administration Lecturer and Patron of the Human Rights club and Mr. Kasirye Elly Associate Trainer and University Human Rights Network Coordinator at the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative. The event was attended by 240 participants (60 female and 180 male).



The panel of Judges at Kabale University during the Human Rights Club debate on 6th June 2016. Left –right: Mr. Elly Kasirye, University Human Rights Network Coordinator at FHRI and Mr. Mugisha Abbas, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kabale University.

Using Hip-Hop Culture to promote Community Development

The Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Uganda organized a session on Civic Leadership Community Engagement, Organizational Management and Resource Mobilization on 21st June 2016. The focus of the session was to promote youth and community development through hip hop culture with support from Words Beats and Life - a Civil Society Organisation in USA. The session attracted youth from the alumni of the Young African Leaders Initiative, Members of Parliament, artists from urban poor population and members of civil society. FHRI was represented by Ms. Claire Nampala, Project Officer, Civic Education Unit.



A cross-section of students that participated in the human rights debate at Kabale University on the role of the media in the democratization process of Uganda on 6th June 2016.

THE LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

Bridging Rights & Values: Enhancing access to justice for the poor and vulnerable persons

One of FHRI's goal is to provide access to justice for the poor and vulnerable persons. 30th June 2016 marked the completion of a 4-year legal aid programme. The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) launched the programme on 17th December 2012. The programme benefited six districts namely Kampala, Wakiso, Kalangala, Kiboga, Bundibugyo and Kibaale. The initiative was conducted under the Legal Aid Programme (LEAP) with an objective of promoting and enhancing the rights of vulnerable persons through provision of pro-bono legal assistance and awareness and ultimately to improve on access to justice. The intervention was used to provide legal aid to the rural and urban poor through a combination of both traditional and non-traditional methods that include; holding mobile legal camps, attending to clients who walk into FHRI office seeking for legal assistance (walk in clients), empowering people through legal rights awareness sessions, trainings for local leaders on legal rights and radio talk shows and providing assistance to clients through a toll free line (**0800100016**).

FHRI assisted clients by empowering them with legal knowledge, providing legal advice, legal representation, drafting documents, mediations, referrals as well as follow ups to ensure that they obtain justice for human rights abuses. With support from USAID SAFE (Supporting Access to Justice Fostering Equity and Peace) a programme funded by USAID, the programme was later expanded to Masaka and Jinja districts for the period of 2014 - 2015. Both programmes targeted the rural and urban poor particularly women and children and focused on criminal matters, (gender based violence), land justice, family and civil matters; legal and human rights awareness; public interest litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

Several people benefitted from the activities carried out under the programme that included 31 legal aid camps conducted in the 8 districts, 34 rights awareness sessions reaching out to 9,415 participants, 18 radio talk shows, 8 capacity building trainings in land matters for local leaders, a toll free hotline to support rapid response to reports of human rights abuse, provision of simple flyers to support the legal and human rights education campaign and pro-bono legal aid services to 1,563 clients (868 males and 695 females) that came to FHRI with new and follow-up cases.

While the majority of the cases were concluded through on spot legal advice, self empowerment, drafting of legal documents, some did require Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and legal representation. FHRI offered legal representation to 243 court cases and 581 cases were handled using ADR methods during the 4-year period out of which the legal aid unit managed to secure 26 court rulings/judgments for its clients and 189 cases closed.

Legal aid camps in Kalangala and Wakiso Districts.

Two legal aid outreach programmes were held in the districts of Kalangala and Wakiso in the period under review. The two legal rights awareness sessions reached out to 544 people (178 females and 366 males) who were sensitized on various land laws.

In Kalangala district, the rights awareness sessions and legal aid camps were held from the 30th May to 2nd June 2016. A total of 188 participants (158 males and 30 females) were sensitized on various laws while 18 clients (13 males and 05 females) sought legal assistance. Land cases still form the bulk of cases registered standing at 56%, followed by domestic at 16.7%, criminal at 11%, civil and commercial at 5.6%.

The Wakiso district rights awareness sessions and camps held from 23rd to 26th May 2016 in the sub county of Namayumba covering 8 parishes marked the completion of the 4 year programme. A total of 356 participants (208 males and 148 females) attended the rights awareness sessions. A total of 46 clients received legal assistance with land cases forming 59% of the cases, followed by domestic at 26%, criminal at 7%, civil at 4.3% and commercial at 4%. In both districts, the number of females reporting cases was less as compared to males.



Ms Maria Kaddu, Senior Associate FHRI attends to a client in the legal aid camp held in Kalangala on 31st May 2016.



A resident of Kalangala posing a question to the FHRI Legal Aid team at a Legal Aid camp in Kalangala district on 31st May 2016..

FHRI deepens her outreach services in Kalangala and Wakiso Districts



A police officer addressing the community during the legal rights awareness session held in Kalangala district between 22nd to 25th August 2016.

In an effort to improve access to justice for the vulnerable and poor people, FHRI extended her legal aid services for another 18 months (July 2016—December 2017) in the districts of Kalangala and Wakiso through the Legal Services Division. As a step towards accessing the most vulnerable communities in need, FHRI field offices were also opened in Kalangala district at the Magistrate's Court and in Wakiso district at the Chief Magistrate's Court to deepen its outreach services. While the Kalangala office is focusing on cases of gender based violence, the Wakiso office will concentrate more on land related cases.

The 18 months programme provides for the legal aid camps which are conducted within the Legal Aid Program (LEAP) funded by the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF). The programme will mainly focus on gender based violence and land justice in addition to family and civil matters, criminal matters, legal and human rights awareness and will use more of alter-

native dispute resolution methods in the two districts of Kalangala and Wakiso.

The programme started with legal aid camps in Kalangala district in three different sub- counties including Mugoye, Bujumba and Bufumira from 22nd to 25th August 2016. Various activities including provision of legal assistance, legal rights awareness session and a radio talk show were held targeting the rural and urban poor particularly women and children. The legal aid camp received a total of 423 participants comprising adults and the youth (306 males and 118 females) who also attended the legal rights awareness sessions. Over 36 cases that were attended to by FHRI lawyers out of which 15 were closed on spot. Although the camps were successfully conducted, very many people still have limited legal knowledge.

RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

Strategic litigation review meeting held with University Students



Participants of the Strategic Litigation review meeting together with Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi at the Human Rights House on 2nd May 2016.

On 2nd May 2016, the Rights and Rule of Law programme convened a strategic litigation review meeting to provide a forum for Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi to brief law students from Uganda Christian University Mukono (UCU), on the origins, grounds of the petition, status and areas in need of research for Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 3 of 2015).

This followed an established partnership formed on 12th April 2016, between FHRI and UCU for purposes of conducting research for the above petition. Under the partnership five UCU law students are required to make an in-depth analysis of the petition and submit a well-researched legal opinion.

The meeting that was held at the Human Rights House also served as platform for students of Public Interest Law Clinic

(PILAC) from Makerere University to present their research findings in Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 53 of 2011). The PILAC students made a presentation of their research findings and made an in-depth resolution to the issues raised in the petition and cited an all-inclusive list of authorities and international legal instruments used to back up their arguments. Ms Dorothy Nanduga, counsel for the petitioner, made commentaries and recommendations and advised the students to make amendments to the legal opinion, while taking into consideration the principle of legality and its significance to the petition; the constitutional questions raised by the petition; specific actions stipulated in the affidavits and specific orders for prayers and declarations.

The strategic litigation review meeting was concluded with an evaluation to ascertain whether the established goals and objectives were reached and what follow up steps remain for the organizers of the event. In attendance were 31 participants: six law students from the PILAC and eighteen law students from UCU, Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi- Managing Partner Rwakafuzi & Co. Advocates, Ms. Dorothy Kabugo Nanduga- Senior Partner DN Kabugo & Co. Advocates, Dr. Josephine Ndagire -Director Legal Services (FHRI), Ms. Caroline Obbo- Legal Associate Rights and Rule of Law Programme (FHRI), Ms Editor Asimwe- Legal Associate Legal Aid Clinic (FHRI), Mr Isaac Kugonza- Legal Intern Legal Aid Clinic (FHRI) and Mr. Phillip Kasimbi- Legal Intern Legal Aid Clinic (FHRI).

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS PROJECT

Village Health Teams and Paralegals attend sexual and reproductive health rights training

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) with support from the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) is promoting the observance and understanding of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in Kalangala district using Kitobo and Kasekulo landing sites as the focus areas.

Basing on its past interventions that revealed the high prevalence of violations of SRHR and the findings from the rapid assessment mission conducted in March 2016, FHRI organized a training course for paralegals and Village Health Teams (VHTs) on human rights monitoring and documentation between 18th and 20th April 2016 at Upland Guest House in Kalangala district.

The 3-day knowledge and skills building course was conducted for 30 paralegals and VHTs (14 female and 16 male) by Ms. Sayson Rosette Meya, an Independent Consultant commissioned by FHRI. District leaders and FHRI staff supplemented the training with the findings from the rapid assessment mission, including but not limited to the concept of human rights, dignity and respect.

The objective of the course was to create awareness and understanding of the right to sexual and reproductive health. The participants were given a detailed and all-inclusive explanation on the concepts of sexual and reproductive health rights and gender concerns as well as approaches on how to deal with cases relating to these rights. It also doubled as a skills building session for monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, especially sexual and reproductive health rights.

A number of emerging issues and recommendations drawn from the participants and the baseline survey report were



Ms. Meya, the consultant delivering an insight on sexual and reproductive health rights to participants at Upland Guest House on 19th April 2016, Kalangala district.



Participants attentive during the training for paralegals and Village Health Teams at Upland Guest House on 18th April 2016, Kalangala district.

presented to Mr. Willy Lugolobi, the Chairman Local Council V as a representative of the district leadership. Among the issues highlighted were concerns like: lack of access to information for family planning, inadequate gender sensitive sanitation facilities, lack of a medical facility on Kitobo Island, lack of equipment for VHTs like *maama kits*, lack of sanitary towels for girls in school to mention but a few.

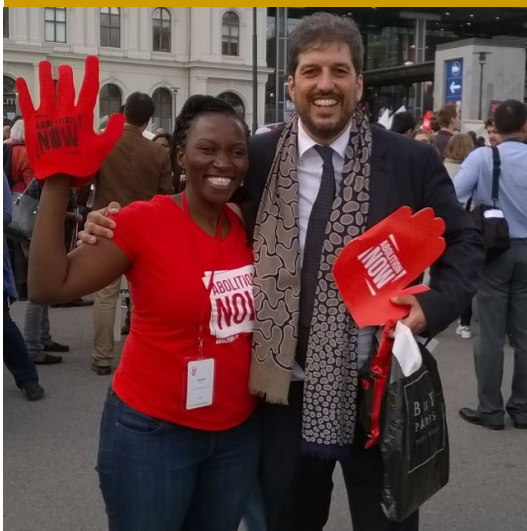
FHRI also conducted a research mission in Kitobo and Kasekulo landing sites between 29th May and 4th June 2016. The research focused on water, sanitation and health, with a special emphasis on access to information in regard to family planning and sexual reproduction and the coordination of the district leaders in charge of the health function. Several groups of people were interviewed and these included: district officials, health professionals, traditional birth attendants, members of the VHTs, police, paralegals, fishermen, NGOs, religious leaders, teachers, students and other community members.

The findings revealed a number of challenges faced by the community including lack of coordination between local and national leaders, the absence of a framework to manage and deliberate on community health issues including SRHR, lack of sensitization, lack of public toilets in key communal places such as schools, and poor hygiene.

On 26th July 2016, a validation meeting with the district leadership was conducted to further discuss the findings and to catalyze the communities' potential to bring out measurable improvements in the enjoyment of SRHR.

RIGHT TO LIFE PROJECT

The 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty *continued from Page 1*



Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Right to Life Project Manager with (right) Mr. Raphael Chnuil, Executive Director of ECPM; the organizers of the 6th World Congress, that took place in June 2016, Oslo, Norway.

FHRI's Right to Life Project Manager, Ms Lucy Peace Nantume, was among the participants as well as a speaker at a roundtable on the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa at which she presented a paper titled *"The death penalty in Uganda: Obstacles to the adoption of the draft protocol and strategies the civil society could undertake to mitigate them"* (available at <http://www.fhri.or.ug/index.php/2015-07-22-14-08-32/others/68-the-death-penalty-in-uganda-obstacles-to-the-adoption-of-the-draft-protocol-and-strategies-the-civil-society-could-undertake-to-mitigate-them/file>).

The World Congress is held every three years in different locales and is organized by the French abolition group, Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM) in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP). The event featured plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, workshops, side events, speed dating sessions, social gatherings and much more.

The opening ceremonies of the Congress were held on 21st June 2016 at the Opera House with various officials expressing and testifying on their international commitments and progresses in their countries regarding the abolition of the death penalty. These included; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, ministers of justice from various states as well as the organisers. A special live message in support of the Congress was also broadcast from Pope Francis.

As the most critical region, Asia was given a prominent place during the congress, by having the first plenary session dedicated to the progress and setbacks in the region to ensure a follow-up of the Regional Congress against the death penalty in Malaysia in 2015. The second plenary session was dedicated to increasing support for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI). Chairpersons of NHRIs from various nations, including Australia, Malawi, India and Morocco, shared the role played by their NHRIs to advance the abolition of the death penalty. The Oslo World Congress was a nexus of today's major issues: terrorism, migration, alternative forms of punishment, new allies, African Protocol, use of the media, and advocating for abolition with parliamentarians and the executive.

During the witness night on 22nd June 2016 under the theme *"Living with the death penalty"* organised at the University of Oslo, ex death row prisoners shared experiences on death row as well as their journeys following their release. Among these was Susan Kigula, the lead petitioner in the famous *"Kigula case"* – the death penalty petition in the Constitutional Court in Uganda filed by Katende Ssempebwa & Company advocates under instructions of FHRI, which led to the abolition of mandatory death sentence in Uganda. Susan was among the beneficiaries of the outcomes of this case by having her sentence mitigated, leading to her release in January 2016.

During the closing session, initiatives developed during the congress, future commitments and the participants' final declarations were shared. A place of honour was given to the speech of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates including; The Tunisia National Dialogue Quartet and Desmond Tutu whose message was broadcast. The 3 days of promoting abolition took a physical form with a global march through the streets of Oslo from the City Hall in support of the abolition and to take the debate out of the walls and engage the general public as part of the struggle.



Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Right to Life Project Manager (in red t-shirt) together with other participants from Africa at the 6th World Congress in Oslo, Norway that took place in June 2016.



A cross section of the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty at the 6th World Congress that took place in June 2016 in Oslo, Norway.

The progressive abolition of the death penalty campaign gains some steps



Members of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) of the 9th Parliament of Uganda receiving FHRI's submission on the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, 2015 on 8th April 2016.

On 6th April 2016, Hon. Fox Odoi, a member of the 9th Parliament of Uganda, a supporter of the progressive abolition of the death penalty campaign and its promotion to Parliament of Uganda, presented and discussed the 'Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, 2015' to the members of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) of the 9th Parliament of Uganda. This was in preparation for the public and stakeholders' submission of their views on the Bill to the LPAC. The members of the LPAC wanted to have a clear understanding of the Bill before receiving any submissions which would also inform their report to Parliament. Although the LPAC required more time and information to understand the bill, the presentation was welcomed by the committee members present which boosted FHRI's lobby campaign.

FHRI together with its stakeholders in the Campaign for the progressive abolition of the Death Penalty in Uganda appeared before the LPAC on 8th April 2016. Other stakeholders who appeared with FHRI and concurred with her submission included: Mr. Patrick Zizinga, a former condemned prisoner; Uganda Prisons Services; and Uganda Joint Christian Council. Other stakeholders invited to give their views on the Bill included the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force (UPDF), the Attorney General, the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and Parliamentarians for Global Action.



Hon. Fox Odoi, member of the 9th Parliament of Uganda was part of the advocacy team for the progressive abolition of the death penalty.

Following the submissions, the members of the LPAC and other Members of Parliament visited the condemned section in Luzira Prison to meet the convicts and get a deeper understanding of the campaign and the plight of death row convicts. The MPs further visited the House of Lords in the United Kingdom (UK) on 3rd May 2016, where they were hosted by Baroness Anelay to discuss the UK's experience following the abolition of the death penalty.

While waiting the LPAC report on the Bill, dialogue has continued. For instance on 10th May 2016, the Centre for Policy Analysis under the Parliament Watch Uganda initiative organized a public dialogue with the objective of sustaining debate on the campaign on social media platforms. Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, the Right to Life Project Manager at FHRI shared the panel with Col. Felix Kulayigye from UPDF, Hon. Medard Sseggoni representing Busiro East in the Parliament of Uganda, and Ms Harriet Ityang from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

The ruling made by Justice Owiny – Dollo at the High Court of Uganda for the 10th July 2010 Kampala bombers is yet another highlight made by the judiciary in the campaign towards progressive abolition of the death sentence in Uganda. On 26th May 2016, Justice Owiny while sentencing the convicted terrorists to sentences of life imprisonment instead of the anticipated death penalty held that: "Terrorism and murder, ruthlessly committed in Kyadondo Rugby Club and Ethiopian Village Restaurant must correspondingly attract severe punishment. I, however, do not believe that the death sentence would really assuage the victims and give closure to the indelible pain that the society has suffered on the account of terrorist and murderous acts..."

Steering Committee meeting held by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

FHRI is a steering committee member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP). FHRI's representative to the steering committee, Ms Lucy Peace Nantume, participated in various activities in this capacity. On 15th and 16th April 2016, she attended the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty meeting held in Dar es Salaam. The meeting hosted steering committee members to discuss, among other issues, the 6th World Congress that was to be held in Oslo in June 2016 and the tools developed for the 2016 World Day Against the Death Penalty.

This was followed by a meeting from 17th to 18th April 2016, with more than 30 participants coming from Botswana, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda representing World Coalition member organizations based in retentionist Sub Saharan Africa. They gathered to share ideas, strategies and tools to support the abolitionist campaign in Africa, particularly focusing on the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the death penalty. The meeting was a landmark moment for the Coalition as it was the first Steering Committee session held in Sub-Saharan Africa.



NEWS FROM FHRI'S MEMBERSHIP

Launching the community album on human rights advocacy and good leadership in Kalungu district

Uganda Ey'enkya Development Project Group launched its first Community Album on human rights advocacy and good leadership in Kalungu district on 31st May 2016. Uganda Ey'enkya Development Project Group is a community based organisation in Kyamulibwa Town Council, Kalungu district, coordinated by Mr. Henry Muyingo, a member of FHRI. Five video recordings on human rights in form of music and drama were screened to the community in Kalungu district with an objective of creating awareness and sensitizing them about their rights. Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, the Director, Capacity Development Division represented FHRI.



Left: A procession of members of the Uganda Ey'enkya Development Project Group before the launch of the Community Album on 31st May 2016. **Right:** Members of the Uganda Ey'enkya Development Project Group entertaining the guests at the launch of their community album.

FHRI Member elected Speaker of Kalangala district

Ms. Resty Nakawungu, a Life Member of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative was elected Speaker of Kalangala district during the 2016 national elections.

As a beneficiary of FHRI's paralegal training programme, Ms. Nakawungu has risen through the local government ranks of leadership in Kalangala district. The basic legal and human rights knowledge acquired from FHRI initiatives has been very instrumental in her leadership career in both civil society and local government platforms said Ms. Nakawungu.

Her calling to serve the communities in Kalangala district as a human rights activist has enabled her to reach out to the far islands in the district and gather information about the challenges they face due to inadequate service delivery. She has relentlessly used the information and the leadership platforms to advocate for improved service delivery.

As one of the key local leaders in the district, she pledges to use her office to continue supporting FHRI initiatives in Kalangala district and to deepen the understanding of human rights and its related subjects to other leaders of the district and the grass root people.

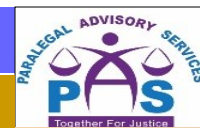


Ms. Resty Nakawungu during her swearing in ceremony as the Speaker of Kalangala district for the 2016–2021 term of office.



The newly elected speaker of Kalangala District for the 2016–2021 term of office, Ms. Resty Nakawungu

PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES PROJECT (PAS)



PAS steering committee discusses its progress

On 21st April 2016, the Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS) steering committee held its first meeting in 2016 at the Human Rights House to discuss the progress and closure of its 3 year project which ended on 30th June 2016 and the way forward.

The committee discussed the key issues raised from the progress reports and were forwarded to the respective offices for effective follow up. The committee was also informed about the renewal of funding from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) to PAS a one and a half years period which started in July 2016 and ends in December 2017.

The committee is constituted by senior members of major criminal justice institutions such as the Uganda Police, Force. Uganda Prison Service and Directory of Public Prosecution under the chair of a High Court judge, Justice Lawrence Gidudu.



A section of PAS Steering Committee members review a PAS report during the 21st Steering Committee Meeting at Sarah Ntiro Boardroom, Human Rights House on 21st April 2016.

PAS Monitoring Visits



Right: Ms. Faith Mutumba interacting with PAS stakeholders in Ntungamo district on 23rd June 2016.

The PAS secretariat team carried out periodic /routine monitoring visits to its various PAS teams in the field offices. The regular field visits are meant to provide technical support and supervision of the programs to guide programme implementation for both the mainstream PAS sites that include Arua, Lira, Kitgum, Gulu, Mbarara, Kabarole/Fort Portal, Bushenyi, Jinja, Mbale, Busia and Soroti including the extension sites of Paidha, Nebbi, Patong, Pader, Ntungamo, Iganga, Tororo, Kumi, Masaka, Luwero/Nakasongola. A visit was also made to the Community Legal Volunteers (CLV) programme in Busia district which deals with civil interventions at village level as well as to its partners that included Uganda Prisons Service and the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity. In the period of April -June 2016, all the field sites were visited with a special focus on the new extensions.

During the visits, discussions that were held with the officers in the criminal justice system majorly highlighted cases which arose from the post-election period irrespective of their influence on the election results.

Capacity Building Trainings for CLVs and Stakeholders



Handover of bicycles and a vehicle for the Community Legal Volunteers programme during the local leaders capacity development training in Busia on 17th June 2016

Paralegals and Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs) periodically undertake refresher trainings on civil and non-criminal matters to enable them deal with emerging challenges in the justice system. The trainings have equipped them with knowledge that has enabled them to improve on their mediation and communication skills.

The trainings also brings on board the various stakeholders including district officials, local council leaders, clan leaders, opinion leaders, and

police officers who are the main actors in the justice system. Two trainings were planned and conducted between 14th and 16th June 2016 where one was for the 40 Community Legal Volunteers at 12 Pearls Hotel and another one was held at the Lunyo sub-county head quarters for 150 stakeholders from Busiime and Lunyo Sub counties in Busia district.

To improve on their service delivery and to boost the performance of the Community Legal Volunteers (CLV) programme in Busia district, 40 bicycles and a vehicle (Toyota Land Cruiser) were handed over to the implementing officers of the programme on 14th and 15th June 2016 during the local leaders training, an occasion that was honored by Mr. Otiti Adhola Kennedy, the Resident District Commissioner, Busia district.

The PAS team participates in the Plea Bargain launch



Left: Delegates at the launch of the Plea Bargain Programme on 23rd June 2016. Extreme right is Hon Justice Yorokamu Bamwine.

Right Delegates at the launch of the Plea Bargain Programme leaving Bushenyi Prison on 23rd June 2016. Extreme right is Mrs. E. W. Chemonges.

Hon. Justice Yorokamu Bamwine applauded the PAS programme for its contribution to the plea bargain programme. This was during the launch of the Plea Bargain Programme by the Judiciary in the Western region which coincided with the PAS monitoring visit to Bushenyi Prison on 23rd June 2016. One of the objectives of the programme is to reduce on the case backlog. FHRI was represented by members of the PAS secretariat led by Mrs. Elinor Wanyama Chemonges, the National Coordinator.

CITIZENS ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK-UGANDA (CEON-U).



CEON-U launches final report, resound democracy concerns *continued from page 1.*

with a chapter devoted to special interest groups and local council elections.

Supported by 23 sub-national partners, and an 18-member secretariat hosted by the FHRI, the CEON-U's project goal aimed at enhancing the integrity of the electoral process by exposing and deterring irregularities.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Guest, H.E. Mogens Pederson, the Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda noted that, "free and fair elections form a part of any healthy democracy which is why the work of CEON-U was important". He however, expressed his disappointment with the 2016 national elections which were reported to have had no level playing ground.

Mr. Jo Lesser-Oltheten, the Deputy US mission Director and Mr. Simon Osborn, the Country Director of National Democratic Institute applauded the effort behind the report. They noted that the report presented a whole load of hard work from CEON-U since September 2015. While Mr. Lesser-Oltheten noted that the report is a testament of hard work and perseverance of Ugandans, Mr. Osborn pointed out that Ugandans did not get involved in

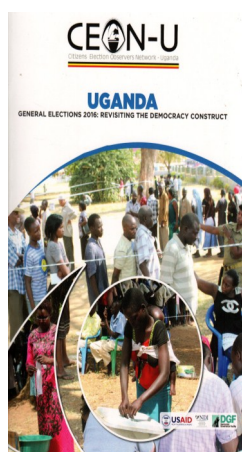
election observation to just release reports, but to ask questions and see what can change. "We are not just telling what we saw, it is a report of citizens, by citizens" Mr. Osborn remarked.

An public cry was directed towards the Electoral Commission (EC) as Mr. John Mary Odoi, CEON-U's Long-Term Observers Manager remarked, "The EC failed to control its officers who were doing so many wrong things, such as giving accreditation on Election Day." Activist and former Ethics Minister, Mrs. Miria Matembe also wondered whether CEON-U's report featured 'reconstituting the EC' as a recommendation.

Other findings discussed included, media in elections, special interest groups' representation, and inclusion of women in electoral processes, campaign financing among others. CEON-U recommendations included sufficient facilitation and supervision of electoral officials; fair access to media, amendment of restrictive laws e.g. Public Order Management Act 2013, Independent electoral body, among others.

A panel discussion on the findings of a 9-month electoral exercise featuring 18 civil society organizations from October 2015 to June 2016 was chaired by Mr. Richard Sewakiryanga, the Executive Director of National NGO Forum. Other panelists included Ms. Irene Ovonji, the Executive Director of FIDA, Ms. Ritah Aciro, the CEON-U Steering Committee Chair and Dr. Mayambala Kakungulu, from Makerere University.

The launch of the final report marked the climax of CEON-U intervention in Uganda's electoral process of the 2016 national elections. The enormous team of CEON-U was later dissolved.



Left: Cover page of the final report released by CEON-U at Hotel Africana, Kampala on 30th June 2016. **Right:** Part of the CEON-U team at the closure of the secretariat after the launch of the final CEON-U report.



CITIZENS' COALITION FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN UGANDA



CCEDU observes new district polls

The Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) an electoral advocacy organization with over 1,500 members, successfully concluded an observation mission for the districts of Kakumiro, Kibaale, Kagadi, Rubanda and Omoro. The new district elections were conducted on 29th August 2016. CCEDU, an 850-member coalition, observed Election Day activities in conformity with Ugandan laws and presented findings concerning the Election Day processes across the five districts. CCEDU positioned 115 Observers in the five districts.



Above: CCEDU observers at the tallying station in Kakumiro district on 29th August 2016.

Right: Mr. Crispy Kaheru, CCEDU Coordinator (c) and Ms Faridah Lule, Project Associate –Electoral Process (Right) of CCEDU before elections kicked off on 29th August 2016 at one of the polling stations in Kagadi District.



Findings from CCEDU teams across the five districts indicated a relatively peaceful and organized process from an administrative perspective. Observation outcomes also indicated that polling officials knew polling procedures and generally followed the legal provisions in opening up stations.

In 78 out of 100 polling stations observed, 1 to 14 voters were assisted in voting by polling agents; unidentified people also assisted voters in 67 of the 100 polling stations observed.

CCEDU received 22 critical incidents with Rubanda registering the highest cases, followed by Kakumiro, Kagadi and Omoro respectively. In Rubanda, Kakumiro and Omoro, voter bribery was reported most. Omoro also registered the late arrival of voting materials to the tally center at 10:40pm. CCEDU Election Observer Manager Mr. Ivan Mwaka re-echoed the general sentiment, noting "It was a well-run election save for a few glitches like bribery and monetization, other than that the Electoral Commission has to be commended".

CCEDU, which had 100 observers on ground, officially applauded voters in Kagadi, Kakumiro and Kibaale for maintaining peace and orderliness. The observer coalition, however, condemned voter-orchestrated bribery as was noted in some districts and pledged to continue with its commitment towards improving the integrity of electoral processes in Uganda.

CCEDU successfully launches a Feedback Drive on the TOPOWA campaign

On the heels of the February 2016 general elections, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) launched a nationwide reflection drive on 18th April 2016 at Serena Hotel. The reflection meetings aimed at soliciting electorate and stakeholder feedback concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the Topowa voter mobilisation campaign and its messages. In the process of winding up the TOPOWA – Honour Your Vote campaign, CCEDU wanted to find out the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of the campaign and use them as lessons for organising more effective electoral campaigns in the future. Following the Kampala launch, another four meetings were conducted in the districts of Mbarara, Mbale, Arua and Gulu, that helped CCEDU gather feedback on the TOPOWA – Honour your Vote campaign until 10th June 2016.



CCEDU members and other stakeholders pose for a group photo outside Boma Hotel, Gulu district following a feedback session on 10th June 2016.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Chairperson of CCEDU and FHRI Executive Director, thanked all the people who played a role in the campaign which made it a success. He emphasized the relevance of feedback from all stakeholders and urged

Feedback Drive on the Topowa Campaign *continued from page 17*



Some of the participants of the Topowa Mbale reflection meeting during the feedback drive.



A group of women after one of the sharing sessions of the Topowa feedback drives.

the members in attendance to use the moment of reflection as a platform for learning and identifying more opportunities for future activities.

Mr. Crispy Kaheru the Coordinator of CCEDU, said: “we engaged in campaigns of this nature because the voter turn up was declining over the years”. He reminded members that CCEDU has been involved in advocacy campaigns, voter mobilisation and activities to do with the voters register to mainly address voter apathy.

The electorate applauded CCEDU for the TOPOWA campaign, noting that it encouraged them to register for the National ID an exercise which was not taken serious before CCEDU’s intervention. This enabled them fulfill their civic duty in the elections and at the same time the National ID is used in many transactions where it is a must have. Mr. Godwin Asega, a Koboko resident, noted how CCEDU’s message was non-partisan. The media fraternity appreciated the Topowa radio messages for being precise and to the point. Prominently in the discussion was the malpractice that featured on the Election Day and the low mobilization in especially the villages, among other issues. While the electorate commended CCEDU for the campaign which provided important guidance to the communities they also anxiously wanted to know and discuss the post-election season.

Among the proposals discussed, these were the key suggestions:

- Developing more specific messages that will encourage citizens to participate in all levels of the elections rather than stopping at the presidential and parliamentary candidates.
- Continue advocating for electoral reforms.
- Advocate for addressing the challenges within the Electoral Commission (EC), particularly the conduct of security agencies that participate in the elections to enable the citizens regain confidence in rather than opting for other means to change power in the next election cycle.
- Start civic and voter education early enough before the next election cycle using grass root strategies by starting with the basics such as showing people what the ballot paper looks like and make it an ongoing activity so as to cover a wider area.
- Start community dialogues to discuss the challenges faced in the previous elections to help the electorate overcome ignorance and fear in future elections such as: the intimidating heavy police deployment; propaganda that worked against the rural populations which made them vote particular candidates under coercion.
- Involve religious, opinion and traditional leaders in sensitizing the people about their civic duty and deliver the message.
- Use more of the local languages in the radio and TV adverts in

future campaigns.

- The need for drama was emphasized as a means of targeting rural audiences that barely have access to audio and visual communication media.

The leaders in Western Uganda commended the campaign for contributing to improved voter turnout. The feedback session on 18th May 2016 at Lake View Hotel commended CCEDU for using the word ‘TOPOWA’ in its campaign because it resonated with the people. Ms. Jolly Mugisha, a civil society leader said the choice of the tagline ‘Topowa, Honour Your Vote,’ was timely and appropriate to deal with the observed growing voter apathy towards the elections.

According to Mr. Umar Kiymba the Regional EC officer of Mbale, the feedback session gave them a chance to interface with the citizens and clear the air on a number of electoral grievances from the February elections. During the feedback session at Mbale Resort Hotel on 26th May 2016, one of the participants thanked CCEDU for coming back to Mbale to help the people manage the pain they suffered after losing the 2016 election. He requested CCEDU to communicate to Government the feedback messages shared so as to improve on future election exercises.

In the West Nile region, a half-day event was held at Desert Breeze Hotel on 2nd June, 2016 in Arua District. A number of issues were discussed at the event, including election management, mobilization and more specifically the Topowa messaging, interpretation and execution. Ms. Josephine Angucia, the Public Relations Officer of the West Nile Regional Police praised the ‘TOPOWA’ campaign for sensitizing the electorate on what was expected of them and stated that “Police in West Nile served as a model in the February national elections - tear gas cases were few except for areas like Terego”.

It was a momentous discourse as CCEDU concluded their reflection meetings on 10th June, 2016, at Boma Hotel in Gulu district. The meeting attracted participants from Nwoya, Amuru, Pader and Gulu districts. Mr. David Lungulu, a participant from Nwoya said: “the Topowa campaign made a difference in peoples’ perceptions towards elections”. He noted that more people were informed of what to do compared to the previous elections where there was almost no civic education.

Feedback Drive on the Topowa Campaign *continued from page 18*

Presiding Officers also noted that there were fewer invalid votes in Gulu due to Topowa. Ms. Dorah Kukunda, a lawyer with the Refugee Law Clinic in Gulu noted that although some people at the grassroots may not have understood the word TOPOWA, the message was very clear. The Topowa campaign helped them to sieve the candidates of their choice. However, it was observed that the electorate hardly waited for the tallying of votes, one of the key processes in an election.

Dr. Sewanyana, re-echoed the Topowa campaign objective emphasizing “we mobilised people to go and vote so that they are part of a process that would deliver them credible leaders”. He called upon the participants not to give up on elections and democratic ideals. He urged all of them to play their role and raise their voices as citizens on critical governance issues which will build clear insights on how to transform society and determine what the 2021 election should look like. He thanked participants for their candid discussions about the electoral ills and encouraged them to also take part in the process of deepening democracy in Uganda for the good of our families and generations to come.

The feedback drive targeted a wide spectrum of people ranging from senior citizens to the unemployed youth with a special focus on the media, mobilisers, civil society, security agencies, religious leaders, the EC, the Local Council I and II leaders, advertising agencies, Uganda Police Force, opinion and political party leaders among others. This followed a series of countrywide “Below the line” (BTL) activations. CCEDU carried out 57 activations in 54 districts under the theme “Topowa.”

FHRI/WLEDE close out Election Observation Mission.



Ms. Rosette Meya, Advisor-Human Rights, Conflicts and Gender, European Union, handing over a certificate of participation to an observer at the closure of the Election Observation Mission at Eureka Place Hotel, Ntinda



Ms. Jennifer Kagugube, WLEDE chairperson (left) and Ms. Maria Magezi WLEDE Gender specialist (right) consult during the close-out session.

It was all fanfare at Eureka Place Hotel Ntinda as Women leadership Development (WLEDE) and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) marked the close out of their election observation mission for the 2016 general elections.

The occasion featured the recognition of the efforts of FHRI and WLEDE's 27 Long-Term Observers (LTOs) deployed to 29 constituencies in Uganda to observe the processes of the 2016 general elections.

The event was graced with the attendance

and remarks from Ms. Rosette Sayson Meya, the Advisor-Human Rights, Conflicts and Gender European Union and Mr. Charles Mwanguhya, CCEDU Communications Manager.

Additional remarks came from Ms. Edith Ssali, Executive Director of WLEDE and Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director - Programs at FHRI, who all commended the observation work by the LTOs, specifically acknowledging the qualitative reports to both FHRI and WLEDE.

Among the components observed under this program were issues ranging from, access to media by candidates, participation of women persons with disability (PWDs) and the elderly, election violence, voter turnout, general conduct of elections by the Electoral Commission and the overall security during the electoral process.

EVENTS DIARY: SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER 2016

- Launch of the Baseline Survey Report on the land question of the former internally displaced people and Model Local Policy Guidelines Amuru district 20th September, 2016
- Legal aid camp, legal rights awareness session and Local Leaders training, Kakiri, Wakiso district, 30th September 2016
- Presenting a statement on civil and political rights issues in Uganda at the Universal Periodic Review Pre-session in Geneva, 4th - 7th October 2016.
- 14th World day Against the Death Penalty under the theme “The Death Penalty in Uganda: Justice Vs Vengeance” 10th October 2016
- Legal aid camp, legal rights awareness session and radio talk show, Mugoye, Bufumira and Bujumba Sub-counties in Kalangala district, 24th – 28th October 2016
- Local Leaders training on land rights and gender based violence at Mugoye Sub County offices, Kalangala district, 24th – 28th October 2016
- Observing the 26th Universal Periodic Review Working Group session in Geneva, 31st October – 11th November 2016.
- Validation meeting of the research findings on a Human Rights Based Approach under the Youth Livelihood Programme from Bugiri and Namutumba districts, 3rd November 2016.
- Launch of the thematic report on pre-trial detention, 6th December 2016

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

FHRI participates in the 4th East Africa Human Rights Training Program, 2016

The 4th East Africa Human Rights Program (EAHRP) conducted by Equitas and its partners was held for the 2nd time in Arusha, Tanzania from 24th April to 6th May, 2016 at MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS-TCDC)

It brought together 26 participants (13 male and 13 female) from six East African countries namely; Uganda (7), Kenya (7), Tanzania (6), Rwanda (1), Burundi (1) and South Sudan (4). The overall goal of the EAHRP is to strengthen the capacity of human rights organizations and institutions to undertake human rights education (e.g. training, awareness, campaigns, information dissemination and advocacy) aimed at nurturing a global culture of human rights.

The EAHRP was a result of a continued collaboration between the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTIP) by Equitas in Montreal, Canada and its alumni in East Africa who work at the grassroots.

The facilitators included: Mr. George Mwai Gichuki from Kenya who works for the liberation of all oppressed people through popular education including human rights education; Ms. Harriet Adongo from Uganda working with Foundation for Integrated Rural Development Uganda; Mr. Charles Baraza from Kenya working with Amnesty International; Ms. Dona Aseru Abinika from Uganda working with National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (NACWOLA); and Mr. Benedict Aminer from Kenya working with Centre for Rights Education, Governance and Development (CREGD).

The EAHRP 2016 was organized by five alumni that included: Mr. Godlove Miho from Tanzania, Ms. Grandmaster Masese from Kenya; and Ms. Irene Nakasolya, Mr. Chris Bradley and Ms. Aginatha Festo Rutazaa from Tanzania who hosted the program.

Ms. Theresa de Hann, the Political Counsellor of the Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania was the chief guest alongside others who included Ms. Suba Churchill, Alumnus (2002), and Mama Anna Mugira

one of the founding members of the Legal and Human Rights Centre in Tanzania.

As human rights defenders, the participants developed individual plans on how they would make a difference in their organizations and communities back home. Ms. Claire Nampala, the Project Officer under the Capacity Development Division of FHRI attended the program. In her plan, she intends to further integrate a gender perspective in human rights work and come up with a spiral model method when carrying out trainings. The method will help her to build a wider network of more human rights defenders.

The 4th EAHRP opened up a movement with representatives from all the six countries which was named the Human Rights Forum Limited.

The participants were drawn from 26 organizations that focus on human rights promotion and protection in East African including FHRI.



Group photo of participants, facilitators and organizers of the 4th EAHRP 2016 with Ms. Aginatha Rutazaa, Managing Director Tusonge community development, (Front row, 5th from the right) together with the Chief Guest, Ms. Theresa de Hann – Political Counsellor of the Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania (Front row, 5th from the left)



Mama Anna Mugira (front centre seated), posing for a photo with some of the participants at the 4th East Africa Human Rights training program 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Gender, Women's Rights & Governance Course at MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC) - Arusha, Tanzania

A team from FHRI was given opportunity to attend an informative and experience sharing short course on Gender, Women's Rights and Governance. The course was organized by MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC), a non-profit training organization within MS Action Aid Denmark. Ms. Susan Nalukwago and Ms. Deborah Namirimu from CCEDU attended the course.

The center was established in 1967 and has gained a reputation for providing high quality trainings to civil society organizations with a core value of initiating, leading, sustaining and succeeding in popular struggles for a just, democratic and sustainable world.

The team was acquainted with the framework for generating pro-poor and gender-sensitive indicators to assist policy makers in monitoring and evaluating democratic governance at country level. This applied to areas concerning Parliamentary development, electoral systems, public administration reform as well as anti-corruption efforts.

The course included understanding of gender concepts in relation to analyzing internal forces within women and also instigated the web of power and injustices. The training highlighted the principles of effective governance monitoring as well as identifying challenges and opportunities for women participation.

The team gained an understanding of women's rights as human rights vis-à-vis governance and women representation. With the acquired knowledge and skills, CCEDU successfully organized a women experience sharing meeting to mobilize stakeholders and discuss the challenges they faced as aspirants during the 2016 general elections. This created a platform to discuss avenues for handling challenges to women's participation in the political and media spheres.

INTERNSHIP

FHRI inducts its 2016 interns

Wednesday, 1st June 2016 was yet another day that FHRI formally welcomed the 2016 interns eager to transform theory gained from their studies into practice.

The induction session started with introductions from 31 interns who joined FHRI in the second quarter of the year whose internship period ended in August 2016. FHRI received interns from both local and foreign universities.

The orientation process followed and interns were enlightened on the organizational values, programs and activities that FHRI conducts. The interns were sensitized how to conduct themselves in an office environment, management of documentation and the general office administration.



Ms. Sheila Muwanga addressing the interns during their orientation in the Board Room



A group photo of all the 2016 interns from both local and foreign universities at the Human Rights House.

In her remarks, Ms. Sheila Muwanga, the Deputy Executive Director emphasized that by choosing FHRI, the interns made a right choice that they would never regret. She informed them that FHRI provides equal opportunities without any form of discrimination to all those who are willing to learn from it using the available resources.

The orientation was concluded by taking the interns around the offices and showing each of them the division to work with.

Contact :

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI),
Human Rights House,
Block 15, Plot 1853, Lulume Road, Nsambya;
P.O. Box 11027 Kampala, Uganda.

Office Tel: +256-414-510263/498; 039-3-266025

Cell: +256-0752-791963

Email: fhri@gmail.com; info@fhri.or.ug

Website: www.fhri.or.ug; Face book FHRI; Skype: fhri123