



# FHRI e-Newsletter

Volume 11: Issue No.1

January– September 2012

## The Civil Society – Private Sector Forum Launched.



H.E. Dr. Roberto Ridolphi (L) addressing the delegates at the Civil Society –Private Forum at the Nice House of Plastics, Conference Hall. (C) Mr. L. Sewanyana, ED, FHRI & Hon. Joviah Kamateeka, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, 20/9/012

Launched by the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives on 20th September 2012 at the Nice House of Plastics Conference Hall, the *Civil Society – Private Sector Forum* is yet another initiative of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) geared towards strengthening collaboration with the Private sector while exploring opportunities and platforms in pursuance of social justice in Uganda.

Addressing over 250 participants from the private sector and civil society, the Keynote Speaker, the Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Uganda, H.E. Dr. Roberto Ridolphi, encouraged both sectors to embrace the emerging opportunities for collaboration. He cautioned that such a partnership required leadership with resilience and a framework to guide the engagement.

Other Guest Speakers at this event were Ms. Patricia Nduru, from the Human Rights Defenders Desk, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) who represented the Chairperson of UHRC and Mr. Javier Sanjuan from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights representing the Head of Office in Uganda. Both speakers welcomed the partnerships, while highlighting the emerging discourse on human rights principles and business and the human rights based approach to development.

In her speech which was read for her by the Commissioner, External Trade Mr. Silver Ojakol, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ms. Amelia Kyambadde commended FHRI for spearheading this venture. *'This is a golden opportunity for us*



A cross section of participants at the launch of the Civil Society –Private Sector forum at the Nice House of Plastics Conference Hall, Lugogo, Kampala. 20/Sept/12.

*to tap the expertise, resources and goodwill afforded by both sectors in realizing the goals that we have set ourselves in the National Development Plan.'* She called upon all stakeholders to support it for the good of our country.

After the extensive deliberations, the Forum participants made the following recommendations:

- *The Civil Society- Private Sector Forum should be popularized and launched countrywide.*
- *In order to strengthen public - private dialogue, the Forum should identify indicators and monitoring mechanisms for increased social accountability.*
- *The Forum should bring on board local governments in the pursuance of social justice.*
- *The Civil Society -Private Sector Forum should strive to enhance respect and observance of workers' rights as it promotes the interests of both parties.*

The Forum was supported by the United Bank for Africa.

### In this issue:

- **Executive Briefs: Pages 2-4.**
  - \* Oxfam America aid effectiveness campaign.
  - \* UN Expert Consultation on the Death Penalty.
  - \* Strengthening the role of Lawyers to fight against the Death Penalty .
  - \* Conference on Decent work in Uganda's Informal Economy.
- **FHRI Annual General Assembly: Page 5.**
- **Civic Education Briefs: Pages 6-9.**
  - \* Social Accountability project will check corruption.
  - \* The 5th Annual Inter-University Competition.
- **Parliamentarians & Human Rights: Pg10-11**
  - \* Human Rights Committee of Parliament inducted.
  - \* Strengthening the Tripartite Mandate of Parliament.
- **Legislative Advocacy : Page 12—13.**
  - \* Roundtable on Amnesty Law held.
  - \* The 2012 Annual Planning Meeting of the East African International Criminal Justice Initiative.
- **CCEDU Briefs: Pages 14-17**
  - \* Consolidating partnerships: *CCEDU briefs Human Rights and Democracy Working Group.*
  - \* CCEDU launches campaign to restore presidential term limits.
  - \* CCEDU goes regional with the Citizens' Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA)

## Briefs from the Executive Office.

### ICJ - United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Consultative Forum on the Draft General Comment Regarding Child Rights and Business Sector.

A Consultative Forum on the Draft General Comment regarding the Child Rights and Business Sector convened by the International Commission of Jurists, Kenya Section and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child was held at the Panafric Hotel, Kenya on Friday 24th August 2012.

The meeting drew participants from civil society, transnational groups, the business sector and UN agencies. Among the resolutions adopted at the meeting is the need for the business community to adopt ethical standards, share best practices regarding business and children rights. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child should recommend the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Business and Children's Rights within the regional human rights system; define the right to participate more clearly in the general comment; and address the rights of children in the informal sector.

An international seminar to discuss the final general comment will be held in Switzerland in October 2012. In attendance at the Consultative Forum was Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative who welcomed the development of the General Comment on the Business and Children's Rights in view of the Business Sector in the economic development of nations and the vulnerability of children to abuse.

### Oxfam America aid Effectiveness Campaign, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. USA.



*Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana (3rd from the left) after the presentation on USAID reforms at the USAID headquarters, Washington D.C.*



*After the presentation at the State Department, 2nd from left is, Mr. Learned Dees.*



*At the International Centre for Non Profit Law (ICNL), Washington DC. Extreme left is Mr. Douglas Rutzen, Executive Director ICNL, extreme right - Ms. Archana Palaniappan, Oxfam America.*

Oxfam America is spearheading a campaign towards more effective aid utilization. The campaign focuses on the current USAID reforms to promote value for money and eradication of corruption. FHRI has joined this campaign given its long standing effort to promote better service delivery among the rural and urban poor.

Oxfam America invited Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana to join the lobby campaign. From June 28 to 29, 2012 Mr. Sewanyana in company of Oxfam staff, Mary Marchal and Archana Palaniappan held meetings on Capitol Hill. Meetings were held with USAID, State Department, House Committee on Government Oversight, staff of several Congress and House Representatives, both republicans and democrats. Other meetings were held with the Human Rights Commission of Congress, International Center for Non-Profit Law and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).



*On Capitol Hill following a presentation to Members of Congress.*



*Livingstone at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in Washington DC. L- R is Mr. Ryota Jonen, Ms. Nancy Welch, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Mr. Dave Paterson and Mr. Eric Robinson.*

### International Literacy Day Symposium. 7th September 2012, Hotel Africana.

In recognition of the International Literacy Day, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development held a one-day symposium under the theme 'Literacy and Peace' on 7th September, 2012 at Hotel Africana.

In his paper titled 'The Role of Literacy in the promotion of Human Rights', Mr. Sewanyana underscored the empowering and democratizing effect of literacy. He noted that literacy contributes to society transformation as people can exercise their right to participate, make demands on the state, harness shared values and promote respect for each other.

## UN Expert Consultation on the Death Penalty, Harvard Law School, Boston, USA, 25- 26 June, 2012.

A two-day United Nations Expert Consultation on the Death Penalty and Freedom from Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment was held at Harvard Law School, Boston, USA. The consultation aimed at providing input in the UN Special Rapporteur report on both subjects which is due to be presented to the UN General Assembly in October, 2012. The event brought together leading scholars in criminology from Universities in Europe and the United States and Civil Society. Harvard Law School, Human Rights Program organized a very well attended public lecture to examine global trends towards abolition of the death penalty. Among the experts was Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana who discussed the Suzan Kigula case and gave an account of challenges being encountered to push for the abolition of the death penalty in East Africa.



*Sr. Christof Heyns ( L), Juan Mendez ( C ) and Livingstone Sewanyana at the opening session of the UN Expert Consultation on the Death Penalty, Harvard Law School, Boston, USA.*

### **Saving Lives: Strengthening the role of Lawyers to fight against the Death Penalty (SALI - KiCK OFF) Conference, Abuja, Nigeria.**



*Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana at the opening session of the Campaign against the Death Penalty, Abuja, Nigeria where he gave a Keynote address.*

Avocats Sans Frontieres in partnership with the Nigerian Bar Association, the Nigerian Human Rights Commission and Access to Justice convened a one- day meeting to launch a campaign against the death penalty in Nigeria at the Chelsea Hotel, Abuja on 27th March 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Attorney Generals Chambers, Director of Public Prosecution and leading attorneys in Nigeria.

Given FHRI's two decades of the campaign against death penalty and the recent Supreme Court ruling in the Suzan Kigula case in which mandatory death penalty was declared unconstitutional, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, was invited as a keynote speaker at the event. In his key note address, titled *'Towards Global Abolition of the Death Penalty: The African Experience,'* he welcomed the historic occasion as Nigeria joins the rest of the world in campaigning against the application of the death penalty. He invited the campaigners to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the debate given the controversial nature of death penalty.

Mr. Sewanyana gave an account of the progress made in Africa. He noted the experiences in Zimbabwe in the 1990s, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Kenya. In all these cases lawyers have been at the forefront and through provision of pro -bono services, applications have been made to challenge the constitutionality of the death penalty.

### **Strengthening Collaborative Partnership of the Police and Civil Society in Security, Justice and Peace.**

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre (JPIIPC) held a three-day workshop between 25th and 27th April 2012 for the Uganda Police Force and Civil Society at St. Augustine Institute Nsambya to discuss among others security concerns and how civil society can contribute to peace building and security reform.

In attendance was Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana Executive Director of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) who made a presentation on police efforts in ensuring security and peace from a civil society perspective. The meeting resolved to advocate for security reforms at the policy, legislative and practice levels.

The workshop attracted over 100 participants from the Uganda Police Force and a cross section of civil society organizations.



*Group photo of participants at the Police Brutality workshop on the 26th April 2012 at St. Augustine Institute Nsambya.*

## Human Rights Centre workshop on protection of Human Rights Defenders, Tuesday 11th September 2012 at Imperial Royale Hotel.

In a meeting that was organized by the Human Rights Centre on the protection of human rights defenders, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI discussed the way forward regarding democratic consolidation. In his presentation he pointed out the following key issues: building synergy and partnerships at institutional level. He highlighted the need for identifying the missing link, such as enforcement of practice directives and enforcement of court decisions. He also emphasized the need for broadening the sphere of influence and reaching out to the private sector as well as knowledge building that would result into building a new ethos.

The meeting was addressed by a number of presenters including: Mr. Patrick Tumwine from HURINET; Ms. Patricia Nduru from the Human Rights Defenders Desk, Uganda Human Rights Commission; Ms. Jovah Kamateeka, Member of Parliament and Chairperson, Human Rights Committee, Parliament of Uganda; and Mr. Erasmus Twaruhuka, Commissioner, Legal Department, Uganda Police Headquarters.

***“To take a life when a  
life has been lost is  
revenge not justice.”***

Desmond Tutu.

### Uganda Episcopal Conference on Decent Work in Uganda's Informal Economy.

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Uganda Episcopal Conference convened a three-day conference to adopt a collective strategy to advocate for the rights and dignity of workers in the informal economy at Kampala Kolping Hotel, Bwaise, 15 -18 July, 2012.

In a paper titled ' *The state of the Informal Economy and its contribution to Poverty Eradication in Uganda*', Mr. Sewanyana noted the growing importance of the informal sector to the growth of the economy. He noted however that the sector suffers from regulatory and administrative barriers as well as poor treatment of their workers.

### Workshop on Sentencing for Trial Judges, Speke Resort, Munyonyo, 29th August 2012.

The Judicial Studies Institute convened a two-day workshop for trial judges on sentencing. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Suzan Kigula vs. Attorney General* in January 2009, there has been a lot of controversy regarding sentencing in capital cases. Lessons learnt since the Supreme Court ruling were shared.

Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana addressed the judicial officers on the lessons learnt from a civil society perspective. He called for legislative reforms to give effect to the ruling that mandatory death sentences are unconstitutional.

### The future of PAS within JLOS.

At a meeting with His Worship Gadenya of Justice Law and Order sector (JLOS), Mr. L. Sewanyana & H. W. Gadenya agreed to explore prospects of working together. They both noted that FHRI could undertake review of JLOS reports, pointing out areas that require strengthening. Mr. Sewanyana pointed out the need to develop a partnership with police, in particular carrying out advocacy for them. On Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS) programme H. W. Gadenya noted that the 50m which JLOS budgeted for is meant to support the prisons department to improve the infrastructure for PAS operations. The 20 districts include the existing 11 at the moment.

## The African Regional Conference for Community-Based Paralegal Programs, Speke Resort Munyonyo, 9-11 July, 2012

Global Rights together with NAMTI and Open Society Initiative convened a three-day meeting in Kampala to advance the case for paralegals in the delivery of justice. In his presentation on '*Paralegal Training Models - continuous Onsite Training: The Experiences from Foundation for Human Rights Initiative*', Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI noted that continuous legal education, generating simple reference materials and close supervision is key to the growth of a vibrant paralegal scheme. He made reference to the Advocates (Legal Aid to Indigent Persons) Regulations, statutory instrument No. 12 of 2007 as an important legal framework for the use of paralegals in the criminal justice system.



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana ( R ) and Mrs. E. W. Chemonges (L) at the African Regional conference for community based paralegal programs; 9 - 11 July12, Kampala.



Staff and members at the departmental exhibition at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, 4th August 2012, Human Rights House.



On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012, FHRI held her 16th Annual General Meeting at the Human Rights House. The meeting attracted over 800 members. In attendance were; the Trustees, out going Board of Directors, Members, Development Partners and FHRI Staff. The Hon. Secretary to the Board of Directors, Her Worship Stella Amabilis welcomed the members and thanked them for the continued commitment and support to FHRI's work.

In his report to the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mr. Wycliffe Birungi thanked members for entrusting the out-going board to serve as the 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors. He enumerated the achievements made both within the human rights sector and at the institutional level and also highlighted the threats and challenges faced by the sector. He encouraged the in-coming board, Members and FHRI secretariat to continue with pioneering imaginative approaches to the realization of all types of human rights amidst the challenges faced in the protection and promotion of human rights, and asked the incoming Board of Directors to keep this legacy.

In his report, the Executive Director, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana introduced the current **7th Strategic Plan of FHRI (2012-2015) - Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda** to the membership. In his report, he addressed himself to the following issues: the status of the organization; the state of human rights and democratic governance; partnerships with the private sector; and organizational sustainability. In his address, he urged members to think of more ways through which the Foundation can supplement its programme budget. The Executive Director proposed the establishment of a Working Group comprising of members. This mechanism would facilitate tapping of members' expertise and best practices.

Members welcomed the proposal and appointed the out-going Board of Directors as the first members to this group. Similarly, he proposed the nomination of Prof. Justice George W. Kanyeihamba one of FHRI members as patron of the Foundation which members agreed to and confirmed.

He acknowledged the support of development partners that has made it possible for FHRI to provide assistance to many people seeking for justice and human rights knowledge. In a special way he acknowledged the attendance of Ms. Sophie Racine, the Component Manager - Human Rights, Justice Peace, from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) to the meeting.

The Chairperson's remarks and the Executive Director's report were adopted and discussed by the members. A number of

proposals were mooted on sustainability, alternative sources of income among others. On the issue of sustainability, members suggested that the Foundation offer consulting services and that also members make other financial contributions to the Foundation other than the membership fees, among other ideas.

Later the members constituted themselves into a General Assembly and elected a new Board of Directors of FHRI. The Chairperson read the constitutional clause

**"On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord."**

*By Wycliffe Birungi, FHRI Chairperson, Board of Directors (2009-2012) on 4/8/12.*

on the election of the new board members. He announced the nominees for the next Board of Directors who were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly

as the new Board of Directors of the Foundation. Thereafter the new Board of Directors addressed the gathering and promised to steer the Foundation to even greater heights. The exemplary commitment, contributions and efforts of the out-going Board of Directors to building a sustainable institution were acknowledged with Certificates of Appreciation. The meeting ended with a group photograph.

**Board Elects Officers:** On 14th August 2012, the first meeting of the 8th Board of Directors took place at the Human Rights House and the election of new office bearers was held. The Board of Directors (2012 -2015) therefore constitutes: Chairperson - Rev. Can. Dr. John .K. Tumwine; Vice-Chairperson - Her Worship Justine Atukwasa; Secretary - Mr. Adrian Jjuuko; Treasurer - Mr. Davidson Sserunjogi; Member - Mr. Celestine O. Mugisha; Member - Ms. Patricia Atim P'Odong; Member - Mr. Edward Peace Obura and Ex-Officio - Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana.



FHRI members at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, 4/8/12.

## Social Accountability project will check corruption.

### FHRI trains on timely reporting on service delivery:

*"Citizens are the owners of the resources; The President is a custodian".* These words sent the people of Masaka and Kalangala into frenzy as they considered the low level of their participation during the public resource distribution. This was echoed at a two-day training course for monitors of Kalangala and Masaka districts on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Greton Hotel, Masaka town, organized by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative under the Social Accountability programme.

The course aimed to equip monitors with the knowledge and skills in the application of the Poverty Resource Monitoring Tools (PRMT) and web based tools to effectively monitor and report on social service delivery. Sixty (60) monitors (35 men: 25 women) participated in the training which was ably facilitated by the FHRI project Officer, Ms. Rose Nanyondo and the CEW-IT Coordinating Unit staff, Mr. James Mwirima and Mr. Emmanuel Oluka who ensured quality.

By the end of the training, participants had understood the budgeting process, the PRMT and grasped the skills of monitoring service delivery and tracking public expenditure to ensure value for money.

### Participatory Assessment of Poverty

**Eradication Policies:** A participatory assessment of the Poverty Eradication programmes was conducted in five (5) districts; Kalangala, Masaka, Luwero, Kiboga and Kayunga between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Aimed at interrogating and finding out whether the effectiveness of government programmes and policies are achieving their social goal of improving the lives of the citizens, the survey assessed factors of availability, accessibility and affordability among others of the social services. The trained monitors, with the help of the project staff visited and collected data in one hundred (100) service delivery points including; water points, health centres and primary schools. During the survey, it was established that government programmes and services are available in all the five (5) districts. At least two (2) government primary schools exist in every sub county, health centres have been constructed in most areas and water extension programmes are planned at each district. However, the survey teams found that there were challenges associated

with accessibility; quality of the education, health and water services.

**Inclusion of Special Interest Groups:** The project also seeks to enhance the competence of the vulnerable persons in the matters of social accountability. Consultative meetings have been conducted amongst the representatives of special



Councilor Wamala Omar (PWD) from Kamira S/County deliberates during the Luweero District Consultative meeting, 9th August 2012.

interest groups and the district local government to strengthen participation and inclusion in the policy programming and implementation for effective engagement on policy issues. Two (2) consultative meetings were convened for Luweero and Kayunga districts on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012, respectively. A total number of seventy (70),

persons have participated in the consultative meetings, ranging from representatives (in the district council) of youth, women, elderly, Persons Living with HIV and AIDS and Persons with Disability( PWDs).

*Citizens are the owners of the resources; The President is a custodian".*

The groups appreciated the government initiatives under the affirmative action plan such as representation at all Local Government level, parliament, special funds, Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education. The absence of a mechanism to integrate special needs of PWDs was noted.

**The E – Society:** Under the project, use of modern communication methods will be employed to strengthen monitoring of service delivery. To this end, an Electronic society will be established and operated in each of the five (5) districts. District websites will be built and the existing ones rejuvenated to facilitate accessibility by all the stake holders, a citizens' voice platform, bulk sms service and Electronic library among others will all be utilized by the leaders and the citizens for effective communication. FHRI held discussions with the district administration in Kalangala (on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012) and Luweero (on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012); to introduce the concept, project design and the benefits of such an intervention in enhancing good governance. The Local Government Administration have welcomed this innovation.



Some of the primary schools visited: Left, Ntimba (Galiraya-Kayunga), Right, Mazzi (Mazzi – Luweero)

## Enhancing Civic Competence to strengthen Social Accountability in Uganda.

The **European Union's (EU)** commitment to improving the livelihood of the ordinary citizen in Uganda is far reaching. With financial support of the EU, FHRI has undertaken a project titled; *"Enhancing civic competence to strengthen social accountability in 25 districts"*. The project is implemented in 5 regions of Uganda. Civil Society organizations under the consortium; Citizens Elections Watch with Information Technology (CEW-IT). The project is funded under EU's broader programme of Democratic Governance and Accountability Programme (DGAP); benefits 25 selected districts in Uganda. Other key partners are HIVOs and Oxfam Novib.

The overall objective of the action is to enhance effective citizen and CSO participation in monitoring service delivery and undertaking social accountability so as to reduce poverty. The project will utilise innovative information technology to enlist the special participation of vulnerable women, men and other special interest categories in issues of social accountability.

FHRI is implementing the project in Buganda region, in 5 selected districts, namely; *Kalangala, Kiboga, Kayunga, Luweero and Masaka* and the beneficiaries are vulnerable women, men and other special interest groups. As part of the first programmatic activities under this project, ten (10) FHRI members of staff participated in a training on *"Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) & Poverty Resource*

*Monitoring Tools (PRMT)"* held at Eastern Route Hotel Kampala between 17th and 19th May 2012. The training equipped staff with skills in monitoring service delivery using web-based platforms.

In order to disseminate the knowledge and skills gained from the PRMT course, FHRI trained 30 monitors in each of the 5 districts in the use of the web-based tools.

Under the auspices of this project, FHRI has also been able to conduct trainings for staff and focal persons on poverty eradication policy analysis. Universal Primary Education, NAADS, the Health Service System and water accessibility were used as model policies for analysis during the training.



Participants conduct a group discussion at the Policy Analysis & Advocacy training. Human Rights House, Nsambya, 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

### Equitas regional training on human rights education.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> East Africa Human Rights Program (EAHRP) was held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Mukono - Uganda. The training on human rights education brought together a total of 34 participants from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The purpose of the training was to strengthen the capacity of human rights organizations and institutions to undertake human rights education efforts aimed at building a global culture of human rights.

The training was facilitated by a faculty of resource persons and facilitators that are well grounded and experienced in human rights education. They interrogated the subject of participatory learning, the learning spiral, the culture of human rights, understanding human rights education and its role in the process of social change, exploring universality of human rights, examining features of regional and international instruments, educational evaluation in human rights education, measuring results in human rights education among others. For further comprehension, case studies and role plays were employed.

Participants knowledge, skills, values, attitude were changed for the positive. An individual plan putting their learning into action was developed during the 2 weeks training for implementation when back home.

### Towards realizing good governance and democratic accountability.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> regional training course on human rights monitoring and reporting for community monitors under the theme, *"Promoting good governance and democratic accountability through human rights monitoring and reporting, legislative advocacy and leadership development of human rights defenders in Uganda"*, was conducted between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at Rwenzori International Hotel, Kasese. The training course that targeted community monitors from the Western region attracted 26 participants (10 female & 16 male) from the districts of Kibaale, Hoima, Buliisa, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kabarole, Ntoroko, Kasese and Bundibugyo. The training programme is supported by the 10th EU broader programme of Democratic Governance and Accountability Programme (DGAP).

The opening remarks at the inauguration of the training course were delivered by Mr. Martin Muwereza – Program Manager, Democratic Governance and Accountability Program (DGAP) and the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Internal Affairs Dr. S. P. Kagoda who was represented by the Ministry's Senior Assistant Secretary, Mr. Eramu Pascal.

In his speech, the representative from the Ministry of Internal Affairs applauded the European Union and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in coordinating and implementing training courses in the various regions as a way of promoting awareness, dialogue and best practices on human rights monitoring. He cautioned the participants to be objective in their monitoring assignments.



Ms. Alice Nassaka taking participants through the concept of human rights at Rwenzori International Hotel, 28th May 2012.

## Community monitors grounded in Human Rights monitoring.



Mr. Edmond Nkalubo FHRI Outreach Coordinator facilitating a training session on Democratic Governance and Accountability in Gulu district for the Community monitors in the Northern Region.

FHRI conducted the second regional training course on Human Rights monitoring and reporting for the Northern Region for community monitors from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012, under the 10th EU funded project on “Promoting good governance and democratic accountability through human rights monitoring and reporting, legislative advocacy and leadership development of human rights defenders in Uganda”. The objective of the training hosted by Sunset Hotel, Gulu was to strengthen the capacity of civil society groups to effectively monitor the democratic process and hold leaders accountable.

The participatory training course grounded the monitors in the knowledge on the right to a fair hearing, the right to life, liberty and security of person, the right to political participation, the concept of human rights, and in lobbying and advocacy skills among others.

For concerted effort, reputable facilitators contributed to the success of the training course. They include: Ms. Alice Nassaka, Capacity Development Manager, FHRI; Mr. Edmond Nkalubo, Outreach Coordinator, FHRI; Mrs. Sophie K. Bakidde from Action Aid; Ms. Rachael Nakyazze, from The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers-FIDA Uganda; Mr. Yona Wanjala

from Protection Desk (U); and Mr. Robert Opio, Pedigree Consult.

The methodology used in empowering the participants included: - field visits, group work and panel discussions. Twenty five (25) monitors, (17 male and 8 female) from the districts of Nwoya, Gulu, Amuru and Koboko participated in the training course. The community monitors were awarded with certificates of participation.

## 5th Annual Inter-University Competition, a success.



Kampala International University Students after they emerged winners at the 5th Annual Inter-University Competitions in March 2012

With the support of the European Union and Democratic Governance and Accountability Programme (DGAP), the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in partnership with Nkumba University Human Rights Association (NUHRA) convened the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-University Human Rights Competition on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012.

The competition enlisted the participation of about 500 students from 11 Uganda-based Universities. Participating universities included: Nkumba University, Makerere University Kampala, Gulu University, Kampala International University, Cavendish University, Uganda Christian University, Bugema University, Mutesa 1 Royal University, Kyambogo University, Islamic University in Uganda and Busoga University. The debate topics included: *The right to a fair hearing; electoral democracy; democratic accountability; multi-party system of governance and human rights; judicial independence; a right to life, liberty and security of persons; economic social and cultural rights.*

Each University presented on a pre-selected topic and

thereafter a plenary discussion. A panel of judges assessed the debate on the basis of skill and substance. The panel comprised; Mr. Gwada Ogot, (CCEDU - Project Communications Manager), Mr. Neil Blazevic, (Research Officer - East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project), and Mrs. Sophie Kyagulanyi Bakidde, (Research and Policy Analyst—Democratic Governance, Action Aid Uganda). From their assessments, Kampala International University emerged winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual inter university competition followed by Gulu University and UIIU. The top three Universities were awarded certificates of outstanding performance.

The event was graced by a number of dignitaries, including: Hon. Vincent Nyanzi, Minister of State-General Duties, Vice President's Office representing H.E. the Vice President; Justice Prof. George W. Kanyeihamba; Dr. Stephen Kagoda, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs; Mr. Martin Muwereza, Programme Manager PMU-DGAP; Prof. Michael Mawa, Associate Professor, Nkumba University and Patron, Nkumba Human Rights Association; and the FHRI Executive Director, FHRI Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana.



Delegates and University Students at the 5th Inter-university Competition at Nkumba University grounds, 23rd March 2012.

## Talking rights; FHRI convenes community human rights sessions in Makindye and Mityana.

In collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Resident City Commissioner Kampala – Makindye Division, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative is conducting mass sensitisation on human rights issues on marriage, succession and inheritances in Makindye Division. FHRI has so far conducted three parish-level sessions in Makindye Division. On 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 residents of Katwe Parish participated in the half day human rights session; on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012, Kibuye I Parish and; on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012 the FHRI team engaged residents of Katwe II Parish. Over 300 residents of Makindye division have so far participated in the human rights sessions. Participants across the parishes cited domestic violence, child abuse, forceful evictions and abuse of inheritance and succession as the major human rights challenges. Between September and October 2012, FHRI has planned subsequent human rights sessions in Makindye parishes of Kibuye II, Makindye I and Salama.



*Residents of Makindye division participating in a human rights session at Kibuye I Parish on 22nd July 2012.*

Similarly, on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2012, FHRI conducted a one-day capacity building session for members of Mityana Town Council Adult Community. The session highlighted common human rights issues around land tenure system, succession and inheritance. Participants included: local council leaders, religious leaders, civil servants, elders, youth, women and Persons With Disabilities.

## The University Students Human Rights Network in charity work at Nsambya Babies Home.



*University students and FHRI staff with the babies at Nsambya Babies home on 2nd June 2012*

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and University Students Human Rights Network (USHRN), on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2012, paid a courtesy visit to Nsambya Babies Home. University Students from the universities of Makerere, Kampala International, Gulu, Islamic University in Uganda, Muteesa 1 Royal, Nkumba, Kyambogo and Cavendish joined staff of FHRI to visit the babies' home.

During the visit USHRN and FHRI staff donated soap, sugar, pampers, toilet papers, salt clothes and shoes to the children. The Administrator of the home, Sister Immaculate Nabatanzi reiterated the key challenges of the facility including lack of sufficient medical care for the children especially those with chronic illnesses.

While at the home, the visiting team played with, prepared meals and fed the children. The USHRN members promised to mobilise more support for the babies, home.

## Gogonya Parish – Nsambya celebrating Women's Day, 18th March 2012.

To celebrate the International Women's day, FHRI conducted a training session on women's rights on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 for the community of Gogonya Parish – Nsambya, Kampala. The session organized by the Local Council I leadership was held at the Human Rights House gardens and conducted by the Capacity Development Division Manager, Ms. Alice Nassaka.

Over 170 men and women took part in the participatory session that availed them a platform to discuss pertinent issues related to succession and inheritance, types of marriages as well as the Marriage and Divorce Bill. Participants confessed that they had not had such an informative and essential session on human rights before and expressed their interest in a future follow-up session.



*Ms. Alice Nassaka CDD Manager addressing community members of Gogonya Parish, Human Rights House, 18th March 2012.*

## Human Rights Committee of Parliament inducted.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) facilitated an induction workshop for the members of the newly established Committee on Human Rights of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, under the theme: **'Strengthening the Respect for Human Rights through Parliament'**. This engagement is part of a series of activities undertaken within the framework of The Westminster Consortium (TWC) of which FHRI is part of.

The workshop brought together all members of the Committee on Human Rights and Chairpersons of the Legal and Parliamentary affairs Committee, the Equal Opportunities Committee and the Gender and Social Development Committee.

The induction was officially opened by the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights, Hon Joviah Kamateka and the Chairperson of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Hon. Stephen Tashobya also made opening remarks on this occasion.

The two-day meeting enriched the participants' understanding of the basic concepts of human rights principles and their application in the formulation of legislation.

A human rights handbook titled *'Human Rights and Parliament: Handbook for Members and Staff'* was also introduced to the members of the committee.

*Additionally, the workshop enabled Committee Members to internalize the committee mandate; design a Committee work plan as well as agree on Committee work methods.*



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI with the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, at the opening ceremony of the induction workshop at Imperial Royale Beach Hotel, Entebbe, 9th August 2012

## Parliament approves the Anti-Torture Bill, 2010.



FHRI staff and Board Members submitting FHRI views on the Anti-Torture Bill to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. Extreme Right is FHRI Board Chairperson, Mr. Wycliffe Birungi.

On 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda finally endorsed the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 without any debate. The Chairman, Hon. Steven Tashobya, presented the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee report on the Anti-torture Bill 2010 to the August House. Ndorwa East MP, Wilfred Niwagaba tabled the Bill in Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and it was passed; the Bill now awaiting the presidential ascent.

This was a milestone for FHRI, which is a member of the Coalition Against Torture. The Coalition played a critical advocacy role to ensure that parliament passed the Bill. On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012, FHRI made submissions on the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010, to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. The law seeks to provide a comprehensive definition of torture, make torture a criminal

offence, provide sanctions for the offence of torture, regulate the use of information obtained by means of torture and provide for individual criminal and civil responsibility for the offence of torture. While appearing before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, FHRI observed the need to fast track the witness protection law as a way of promoting the effective implementation of the anti-torture law.

In view of the incidents of torture, FHRI called for actual steps to be taken to ensure that the complainant, witnesses, relatives of the victims and their lawyers as well as persons participating in the investigations in relation to the allegation of torture, are protected against ill treatment or intimidation as a consequence of the complaint or any evidence given. Through parliament, FHRI further urged government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CAT, 2006 to ensure that regular visits are undertaken without notice by independent international and national bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The military and other security organs are perennially accused of torture and the passing into law of the anti-torture Bill brings a great deal of optimism, that the problem is on its way out if it is to be handled with the seriousness it deserves.

## Parliament and Human Rights: *Strengthening the Tripartite Mandate of Parliament.*

Under the theme: *"Parliament and Human Rights: Strengthening the Tripartite Mandate of Parliament"*, The Westminster Consortium (TWC), a program of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK), with support and facilitation by the Legislative Division of the Parliament of Uganda, and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), a three-day regional conference for parliamentarians was held in Entebbe, Uganda at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel between 2nd and 4th May 2012. About 50 Members of Parliament from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan were in attendance. The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) was also represented.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga was the Chief Guest of the conference, which exclusively focused on the following objectives:

- *disseminating best practices relating to parliaments and the respect of human rights;*
- *Equipping parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with human rights knowledge and practical skills to facilitate human rights scrutiny of the legislative and oversight processes in Parliament.*

The conference was also addressed by Dr. Christopher Mbazira, Ag. Deputy Dean, Postgraduate and Administration Department of Public and Comparative Law- School of Law, Makerere University who gave the welcome remarks and the conference objectives; Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, FHRI Executive Director; Hon Stephen Tashobya, Chairperson, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Parliament of Uganda; Hon. Gervaise Akhaabi from EALA; Mr. Patrick Angela, Director, Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE (UK) International Bar Association Human Rights Institute; and Mr. Pius Biribonwaha, Director, Legal and Legislative Services, Parliament of Uganda. The several topics discussed took stock of subjects like:

- *Human Rights and Parliament in East Africa - Analyzing the role of Parliament in upholding Human Rights and the Rule of Law in East Africa: A performance appraisal;*
- *Human Rights and Parliament: Country Situations- Performance, achievements, challenges and opportunities;*
- *The East Africa Legislative Assembly and Human Rights; and Parliamentary tools for human rights protection and supporting parliamentarians to protect human rights: The Role of Parliamentary Staff.*

The conference exclusively brainstormed on the different strategies and tools used in promoting the respect for human rights. The MPs were also exposed to the works of the joint committee of human rights in the UK Parliament.



*The Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, (L) and Mr. Livingston Sewanyana ED, FHRI (R) at the Regional Conference of Parliamentarians at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, 4th May 2012.*

As a way forward, MPs collectively developed the following action points:

- *Strengthen human rights committees in parliaments and lobby for their establishment where they do not exist;*
- *Parliaments must follow up on the domestication and enforcement on the International Human Rights Conventions that the states have committed themselves to; and*
- *Widely disseminate the IBA Human Rights Handbook launched in March 2011.*



*Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana giving his remarks at the Regional conference for Parliamentarians at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, 4th May 2012.*

*"I am excited about the creation of a standalone committee on human rights because this will enable parliament to better prioritize and focus on human rights issues more critically than before".*

*Pius Biribonwaha, Director Legal and Legislative Services, Parliament of Uganda.*

### Consultative Forum on the Future of Amnesty Law in Uganda, Churchill Hotel, Gulu, 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) together with the International Commission of Jurists- Kenya Section (ICJ-K) under the East Africa International Criminal Justice Initiative (EAICJI) with financial support of the European Union (EU) convened the consultative forum on the future of Amnesty Law in Uganda from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at Churchill Hotel, Gulu.

This meeting which builds on earlier consultations undertaken by FHRI in the districts of Kiryandongo and Amuru in Uganda provided a platform for reflection

on the future of Amnesty Law in Uganda with the aim of contributing to the on-going national process of developing legislative framework on Transitional Justice in Uganda.



*A cross-section of participants at the Consultative Forum on the future of Amnesty Law in Uganda, Churchill Hotel, Gulu, 30th August 2012.*

The Chairperson of the Amnesty Commission, Hon. Justice Peter Onega represented by Mr. Nathan Twinomugisha, the Resident District Commissioner of Gulu district Mr. Chris Owori Odoi and the LC V Chairperson of Amuru district Mr. Martin Ojara Mapenduzi and Rtd. Bishop M. B. Ocholla from Gulu addressed the 45 participants who attended the forum. These included victims of the northern Uganda conflict, local former abductees, beneficiaries of amnesty, victims groups, NGOs both at the district and community based, religious leaders and faith based groups, international NGOs and the media from the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Agago, Pader and Kiryandongo. Government was represented by local government officials; the Justice Law and Order Sector secretariat and institutions including: the Law Development Centre, prisons, police, judiciary and; the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF). The forum was supported by the European Union.

Following the discussions and deliberations participants mooted proposals and recommendations on the future of Amnesty in Uganda focusing on the Amnesty Commission; resettlement, integration and reparations; and amnesty in the Great Lakes region and Central Africa Republic.

### The 2012 Annual Planning Meeting of the East African International Criminal Justice Initiative.

Between 1st and 5th of April 2012, ICJ-Kenya held its annual planning meeting with its partners at the Sarova White Sands Hotel, Mombasa. Associate Researcher, Mrs. Penninah M. Atuhairwe, represented FHRI.

The meeting was an opportunity to share best practices and take stock of the 2012 activities and impact of the EAICJI in the seven situation countries in East Africa. As part of a forward looking strategy, the forum also sought to map out areas of emerging jurisprudence on international criminal justice in partner countries for purposes of research and documentation. In a new development, EAICJI resolved to encompass wider international criminal justice initiatives in its programme interventions.

This approach is a shift from the previous years' strategic programme practice which only focused on the International Criminal Court. As a key outcome of this meeting, members resolved that EAICJI partners take a proactive role to further the goals of the project in their respective countries.

In Uganda for instance, FHRI sought to undertake a research on perceptions of LRA victims on the ongoing process of

formulating an Amnesty Law in Uganda.

This study was carried out between July and August, 2012 in Masindi and Amuru districts. Between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2012, FHRI convened a two-day victims' consultative forum roundtable to validate the findings.



*Mrs. Penny Atuhairwe seated (2nd Right), represented FHRI at the ICJ Kenya EAICJI Planning meeting at Sarova Whitesands Hotel Mombasa, Kenya held from 1st to 5th April 2012*

## The IPU Side Conference: *Parliaments and Penal Reform.*



Ms. Andrea Huber (L) and Hon. Ann Clwyd at the IPU side conference at Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala on 3rd April 2012.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012, FHRI in conjunction with Penal Reform International (PRI) held a side event on the margins of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at Grand Imperial Hotel under the theme, “What can Parliamentarians do on Penal Reform?” The meeting was convened to implore parliamentarians from across the world to improve penal reform by focusing on criminal law as a tool to provide security and justice. Several distinguished guests including the Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd, (Member of the Inter Parliamentary Union Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians), Ms. Andrea Huber, (Policy Director- PRI), Hon. Ken Lukyamuzi, (MP Lubaga North) Mr. Frank Baine (Spokesperson, Uganda Prisons Service), Hon. Alice Alaso (MP Woman Representative - Soroti District), Mrs. Jackie Magnera from PRI and FHRI Board members attended the meeting.

In her presentation, the Rt. Hon. Ann Clwyd reiterated the need for parliamentarians to take a lead role in fighting for the rights of prisoners, especially the women, children, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS. She also observed that overcrowding and poor hygiene were key challenges stemming from long term pre-trial detention.

From a local perspective, Hon. John Ken Lukyamuzi and Hon. Alice Alaso, of the Ugandan parliament urged fellow parliamentarians to establish a Human Rights Committee in Parliament to handle human rights issues. The MPs also advised the Uganda Prison Service to partner with Civil Society Organizations and Parliament to lobby for expansion of prison facilities. The Executive Director of FHRI, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana chaired the meeting.



Hon. Ann Clwyd (L), Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana (C) and Hon. Ken Lukyamuzi (R) addressing the IPU Conference at Grand Imperial Hotel, 3rd April 2012.

## FHRI holds the 3rd Lower Level Platform.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Lower Level Platform (LLP) under the theme: ‘Ensuring access to quality health care for all Ugandans.’ was held in Gulu district (Northern region). The platform held at Churchill Courts Hotel between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 was attended by 68 participants including: district leaders, Ministry of Health (MOH) and district health officials, medical personnel, community based organisations, district and national civil society groups and the media.

The objective of the LLP was to disseminate the findings of the FHRI report titled: “*Right to Health Care in Uganda; January - June 2010*”; in order to spark dialogue on key challenges and possible interventions in the health care delivery system.

A number of challenges with respect to the Northern region were highlighted and from the robust discussions, a number of commitments were secured from the MOH officials, civil society and the district leaders. The Ministry of Health was represented by Director, Health Services Planning and Development, Dr. Isaac Ezati, who represented the Permanent Secretary; and Dr. Paul Kagwa, the Communications Commissioner.



Participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lower Level Platform at Churchill Hill Hotel, Gulu, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The Ministry applauded FHRI for sustaining the lower level dialogue on the right to quality health care in Uganda between government and civil society. National civil society groups including Uganda National Health Users/Consumers Organization (UNHCO) and Sickle Cell Association of Uganda also participated in the platform.

Present at the LLP were other distinguished government officials including: the Gulu Resident District Commissioner, Hon. Owor Odoi; Local Council V. Chairperson of Amuru District, Hon. Atube Anthony Omach; and the Resident District Commissioner from Nwoya District, Hon. Semet Okwir.

## Consolidating partnerships: CCEDU briefs Human Rights and Democracy Working Group.

The Citizens' Coalition on Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) was invited to meet with a delegation of diplomats under the European Union to give a brief on actions and strategies laid down for implementation of electoral reforms in Uganda. Amongst the EU nations represented were Britain, Italy, Ireland, France and Sweden. Members from the Democracy Governance Fund (DGF), the Irish Embassy and USAID were among those present. The Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda was represented by the Chairperson of CCEDU, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana and Project Communications Manager, Mr. Gwada Tao Ogot.

The two hours meeting took place on 17th April 2012 at the European Union Offices where Mr. Sewanyana, briefed the delegates on some of the actions that are a priority to the coalition as spelt out in the Citizens Electoral Reform Agenda Handbook (CERA) such as: - *the restoration of the term limits, an independent electoral commission and a clean national register and the representation in parliament of the runner up in the presidential election.*

Mr. Sewanyana observed that the coalition intends to work more with Parliament to lobby for electoral reforms through a Private Members Bill that will lead to a constitutional amendment. He also stated that the media is also one of their key allies that would be used as a channel to disseminate information, to enable citizens' demand for the reforms which will raise debate at different forums. In his argument, he saw no risks in advocating for term limits due to the fact that in East Africa, Uganda is the only country that still maintains a no term limit stance while the whole world, its only Uganda and Beirut. After his introductory remarks, Mr. Sewanyana asked Mr. Gwada Ogot to give a background on activities relating to the electoral reform agenda and to take the questions on behalf of the secretariat about the activities and programs implemented.

## CCEDU By-Election Observation Missions 2012

Since the beginning of year 2012, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) has participated in five election observation missions: Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality; Bukoto-South; Kasese District; Butambala; and Usuk districts.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 CCEDU deployed a team of 10 CCEDU members to observe the Bushenyi-Ishaka by-elections. Four candidates contested the election. The seat fell vacant after court nullified the election on account of electoral malpractices by the then incumbent Nasser Basajjabalaba. Odo Tayebwa of Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) won the election polling 7,048, defeating Nasser Basajjabalaba of National Resistance Movement (NRM) who scored 5,653. Ismail Kikurwe and Robert Bwarare, both Independent candidates, also contested the poll.

Hardly a month later, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012 CCEDU deployed 8 election observers to monitor the Bukoto-South MP by-election. The Bukoto-South constituency seat fell vacant after court nullified the election of Hon. Muyanja Mbabaali over inadequate academic qualifications. Contestants included eventual winner Mathias Nsubuga of Democratic Party (DP); runner-up Alintuma Nsambu of NRM; Julius Sentamu of FDC and Daniel Katura Mubiru- Independent. Mathias Nsubuga of Democratic Party (DP) emerged winner after scooping over 1,400 votes against his opponents. Voter turn-out at this by-election was rated at 58%.

During the Kasese district by-election for women's representative, on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2012, CCEDU deployed 37 election observers. The seat had fallen vacant after court nullified the election of Winnie Kizza over election irregularities. Winnie Kiiza of the Forum for

Democratic Change emerged winner by polling 97,669 votes while Rehema Muhindo of NRM polled 59,946 votes. Rosemary Masika of the Democratic Party came last with a marginal 1,229 votes. The voter turn-out was rated at 53%.

On 12th September 2012, CCEDU deployed two teams to observe the by-elections of Usuk and Butambala constituents. The Usuk by-elections were won by Prosscovia Alengot of NRM and Muwanga Kivumbi of the Democratic Party respectively. Muwanga Kivumbi won by 14,764 votes out of 58,278 registered votes while Prosscovia garnered 11,059 votes out of 37,887 registered votes against her closest rival who scored 5329 votes.

According to the CCEDU observer teams, though the by-elections were largely free and fair they were marred by incidences of irregularities including claims of violence, bribery and interference by security agencies. These aside, there was the positive element that saw an overall improved logistical organization on the side of the Electoral Commission (EC), a highly commendable point.

Some of the notable irregularities and areas for improvement included:- late arrival of voting materials and election officials; missing names in the voters roll; pre-ticked ballot papers; high security deployment around polling stations and cases of pre-voting day violence were widely reported amongst others.



Voters at the polling station witnessing the counting of ballot papers after the by-election of Butambala Constituency, 12/9/12.

## CCEDU co-hosts Press Conference to advocate Electoral Reforms.



From Right to left: Mrs. Sarah Kiyangi, Bishop Zac Niringiye, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana and Mrs. Irene Odida Ovonji at the press Conference, Makerere University

CCEDU has conducted a number of media briefings to generate sustained public debate on key electoral reforms. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, CCEDU held a press conference to spur debate on – the restoration of presidential term limits. The press conference held at Makerere University, Kampala ignited the debate and issues raised provide a foundation for additional campaigns being held across the country.

This media briefing on the proposal to reinstate term limits attracted a cross-section of interest groups including Members of Parliament and religious leaders. In subsequent weeks, MPs from across the political divide pledged their support for the electoral reform campaign with specific focus on the proposal to restore term limits in the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 CCEDU met with a cross-section of media houses to re-direct the focus of the debate beyond the person of President Yoweri Museveni towards the institution of the presidency.

Subsequent media briefings include a press conference held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 to launch a partnership between civil society leaders and MPs who are pushing for the Citizens' Electoral Reform Agenda.

## CCEDU launches campaign to restore presidential term limits.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) together with the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP), the Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG) and a group of sixteen parliamentarians launched a campaign under the aegis of a civil society and Parliamentarians' partnership for the restoration of presidential term limits at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

Members of the partnership revealed that their core mandate was to restore democratic hope among Ugandan citizens through campaigning for a peaceful handover of political power. The partnership also announced a time line within which parliament would be petitioned to pass a constitutional amendment to restore term limits by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

Members outlined five critical reasons justifying the need to amend the constitution to restore presidential term limits. These included:

- To correct historical mistakes such as bad governance, dictatorship, and leadership in perpetuity;
- To improve on the management of elections and promote institutional resuscitation;
- To fulfill citizen's aspirations and build an active citizenship;
- To overcome present and future challenges in politics and governance; and
- To ensure Uganda's rightful position in the East African Community agenda.

To achieve success, members agreed on the following actions:

- That citizens formally demand from their Members of Parliament (MPs) to restore term limits through petitions, appeals and by other forms of citizen pressure;
- That non-state actors including civil society institutions like religious, cultural, professional, trade and commerce bodies take their stand in support of this goal;

- That the citizens invite the president to pronounce himself in support of the Restoration of term limits campaign;
- That all members of parliament and political parties commit to restore presidential term limits;
- That Parliament amends the constitution to restore presidential term limits by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

The launch of the civil society-parliamentarians partnership attracted over 100 members from the media, religious institutions, professional bodies, political parties and parliament.

### CCEDU observes the Bushenyi-Ishaka by-elections.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 CCEDU deployed a team of ten CCEDU members to observe the Bushenyi-Ishaka by-elections. In this election, a total four candidates contested for the Bushenyi-Ishaka Parliamentary seat that fell vacant after court nullified the original election.

The Forum for Democratic Change candidate, Odo Tayebwa won the election defeating the NRM candidate and two Independent candidates. Returns filed by the CCEDU observers indicated that the election was largely free and fair. However some of the notable draw-backs included: names missing from the voters register, unavailability of voting material at some polling stations and the excessive deployment of police in some of the urban areas.

CCEDU released a post-election statement giving an overview of the conduct of the Bushenyi-Ishaka by-election. CCEDU also proposed timely voter education as well as strategic electoral law reform as potential interventions to improve future elections.

## CCEDU Holds its Annual Membership Meeting - 2012

Following the successful launch and initial popularisation of the Citizens' Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA) Handbook, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) held a members meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 at the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Nsambya, Kampala to take stock of the various activities undertaken by the Coalition during the period 2011/2012. This meeting was also intended to admit new members into the Coalition; and to discuss the future and possible specific programmatic engagements of CCEDU.

The meeting registered an attendance of 165 members including members from the CCEDU Executive Committee and Advisory Board, development partners, and members from the consulting agencies that handled past CCEDU media campaigns.

At the meeting, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana gave an overview of CCEDU's work over the past one year. He observed that CCEDU's activities were guided by the resolutions reached during the last members' meeting of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He also reiterated that CCEDU was strongly pursuing an electoral reform process in line with proposals that had been identified after the 2011 general elections.

The meeting provided a platform for members to share and make resolutions on pertinent issues including:

1. Whether CCEDU should include a natural resource management component in its configurations;
2. How to actively involve CCEDU members in programmatic interventions;
3. What the core programmatic interventions of CCEDU should be in light of the current governance terrain.

Cognizant of the current strategic position of CCEDU as a broad Coalition and in light of the mutating governance debate in Uganda, members made the following key program-based resolutions:

- Continue with the electoral reform advocacy efforts but have a select team comprising of the executive members and advisory board members who constantly engage with the relevant institutions that can potentially influence reforms;
- Regionalize and popularize the debate on electoral reform through "Face the Citizens" public forums as well as other media-based approaches;
- Consider current CCEDU activities on electoral reforms as bridge activities to a long-term civic/voter education agenda;
- Engage the Coalition's membership in monitoring and observing local by-elections in an attempt to build their capacity to monitor subsequent general elections;
- Co-opt a natural resource management configuration on to CCEDU's advisory board; and

- The Coalition should continue working closely with the National Consultative Forum (NCF) as well as explore prospects of formalizing this working relationship.



Members at the CCEDU Membership meeting, at the Human Rights House, 24/5/12

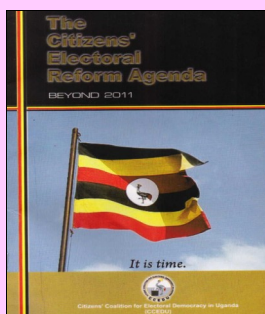
## CCEDU goes regional with the Citizens' Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA)

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, CCEDU embarked on a nation-wide campaign to launch the Citizens' Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA). CCEDU held a forum in Hoima, Bunyoro region to launch the Runyakitara version of the CERA Handbook. This forum attracted one Member of Parliament, Hon. Tophas Kaahwa Byagira, over twenty district local councilors as well as over two hundred members of the public from Hoima, Masindi and Kibaale districts. In Bunyoro, the CERA handbook agenda was launched by Commissioner Justine Mugabi, of the Electoral Commission. Opinion leaders including: Bishop Zac Niringiye, Lawyer Nicholas Opio and members of civil society attended the launch.

Regional launches for the campaign to restore presidential term limits: In a bid to support campaigns around specific electoral reform proposals, CCEDU participated in the national launch of the campaign to restore presidential term limits held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 in Masindi district. CCEDU has worked closely with the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP) and the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG) to mount the campaign, termed the Citizens' Action for the Restoration of Presidential Term Limits' (CARPTL).

CCEDU supported and participated in five CARPTL campaign activities held in: Gulu on 28<sup>th</sup> March; Bushenyi on 28<sup>th</sup> April; Luweero on 18<sup>th</sup> May; Soroti on 25<sup>th</sup> May; Kapchorwa on 1<sup>st</sup> June; and Kanungu on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012.

Political leaders were questioned by members of the public on a range of issues including electoral irregularities, service delivery and state responsiveness. Political leaders have taken advantage of the campaign to pledge improvements in the electoral process.



CERA handbook launched.

## CCEDU Observer Mission reports from Usuk.

*By Gwada Tao Ogot, Project Communications Manager, CCEDU.*

The Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) observer mission to the Usuk constituency reported numerous cases of violence and vote buying. The seat had been declared vacant following the death of independent Member of Parliament Hon. Micheal Oromait in July 2012.

A total of 10 candidates contested the by-election held on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012 which was subsequently won by Proscovia Alengot Oromait of the National Resistance Movement (NRM). Alengot, who is the daughter of the late Oromait, polled 11,056 votes against her closest rival, independent candidate Charles Oleny who garnered 5,329 votes. Okure Charles of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) came 3rd with 2,725 votes while Anyaakoit Cecilia of Uganda People's Congress finished 4th with 554 votes. A total of 10 candidates contested the by-election.

On election morning, heavy rains pounded the constituency compounding the already dire logistical challenges the area faced- it has neither electricity nor tarmac roads and mobile telephone connectivity is limited with barely any internet network. The poor weather accounted for late reporting by electoral officials at some polling stations including the delayed arrival of polling materials. In some instances, the polling stations were unable to open due to the unavailability of the requisite 5 voters to witness the official opening of the polling station and swearing in of electoral officials.

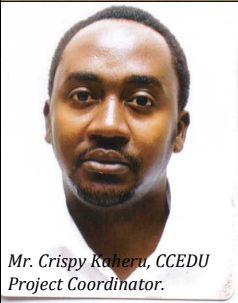
UPC candidate, Cecilia Anyakoit reported a case of physical assault against her by members of the presidential guard while independent candidate Charles Oleny had his land cruiser registration UAK 034Y smashed by people suspected to be members of the NRM. FDC parliamentarian Hon. Hassan Fungalu also lost the rear windshield of his land cruiser registration number UAD 438 Q to stone throwing hooligans.

In addition, Ongongoja Sub County and its polling stations were for several hours largely inaccessible following cases of violence along the Usuk-Ongongoja route. No one was arrested for the violence. On Election Day, our observer mission found several people being booked in at Katakwi police station allegedly for vote buying. It is not clear what fate subsequently befell them.



*The Electoral Commission officers at one of the polling stations during the by-elections on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Usuk Constituency.*

## Have by-elections become grounds to test the state's secret policing machinery?



*Mr. Crispy Kaheru, CCEDU Project Coordinator.*

*By Crispy Kaheru, CCEDU-Project Coordinator.*

During the recent MP by-elections in Bukoto South held on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, we came across a gentleman sited right at the entrance of the Kinoni Masgid Madina polling station located in Kinoni trading center. As CCEDU Election Observers, my colleague and I made our way to introduce ourselves to the polling constable in the polling ring. Less than two meters to the polling constable, the gentleman at the entry point yelled at us to come back and introduce ourselves to him. I imagined he was the presiding officer, probably taking a break from the long-day's toil. Funny enough, he did not speak to us as rudely as the way he had called us back. After introducing ourselves to him, he went on to ask about our conclusions on the election judging from the polling stations we had so sampled; without deeply delving into the conversation, I swooped in and asked him to kindly identify himself, he smattered introducing himself as a 'security representative' from the RDC's office. This thrilled me to ask more questions like: which RDC office? What's your name? What's your designation? What's your role here? But lately I have learnt that in Uganda, asking a detective many questions is rude and could potentially earn you an impromptu arrest. Yes, I remembered the time I asked a traffic officer in Kololo why they had blocked Upper Kololo Terrace road and his prompt response was "it is an offence to refuse to comply with lawful orders and am going to arrest you" – very unrelated answer to my question!

I introduced ourselves to him. I imagined he was the presiding officer, probably taking a break from the long-day's toil. Funny enough, he did not speak to us as rudely as the way he had called us back. After introducing ourselves to him, he went on to ask about our conclusions on the election judging from the polling stations we had so sampled; without deeply delving into the conversation, I swooped in and asked him to kindly identify himself, he smattered introducing himself as a 'security representative' from the RDC's office. This thrilled me to ask more questions like: which RDC office? What's your name? What's your designation? What's your role here? But lately I have learnt that in Uganda, asking a detective many questions is rude and could potentially earn you an impromptu arrest. Yes, I remembered the time I asked a traffic officer in Kololo why they had blocked Upper Kololo Terrace road and his prompt response was "it is an offence to refuse to comply with lawful orders and am going to arrest you" – very unrelated answer to my question!

Anyhow, back to my original narration; the 'RDC representative' finally allowed us to go inside the Kinoni Masgid Madina polling ring and speak to the polling officials, candidates' agents and some of the voters who were in the queue. Neither the polling officials nor the candidates' agents could identify this gentleman at the entrance of the polling station. The polling constable only suspected that the gentleman was the overall supervisor for the polling station sent by the EC Kampala office.

It further turned out that nobody could clearly identify this

gentleman who seemed to wield authority over the polling officials, agents, voters now the poor observers.

Probably, this Bukoto South scenario was a test ground for non-conventional secret policing in subsequent elections. In the just concluded Butambala by-elections, we saw similar occurrences. At the Gombe Play Ground polling station A-M, I overheard an MP asking the authoritative unidentified man who had stood still for hours at the entrance of the polling ring whether he was a supervisor, EC official, candidate agent, security personnel, observer or voter. The gentleman could not identify himself under any of the listed categories.

At several other polling stations men like these were active in supervising voters' queues and making sure there is orderliness in the polling ring. Notwithstanding their concealed identification, these mysterious men did not seem to interfere with the voting process although they surely caused anxiety from the vigilant voters. Without anybody seeming to know who these persons were, my worry was the possibility of the heedful voters pouncing on to these men thinking that they were positioning themselves to snatch the ballot boxes and disrupt the voting.

Voters by now take for granted the presence of a polling constable and the uniformed security personnel around polling areas. But being policed secretly by a civilian-like detective network without knowing it, justifiably raises concern on this 'Big Brother' who is watching the voter, the EC, the polling constable and the uniformed security officer.

This new tactic in electoral policing comes at a time when violence is increasingly becoming an election mainstay. It also comes at a time when security involvement in electoral processes is under scrutiny.

Anyhow, it is yet too early for us to pass judgment on this new sort of policing. Subsequent elections are going to prove if concealed policing is the crucial solution to electoral violence or if this is a mere security nuisance.

## The FHRI-PAS program; a monitoring perspective.

Between January and September 2012, the Paralegal Advisory Services Project (PAS) programme was implemented in all the eleven programme sites including; Arua, Fort Portal, Luzira, Mbarara, Gulu, Lira, Bushenyi, Kitgum, Jinja and Mbale – managed by Uganda Prison Service and Kampala – managed by Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity (UCLF).

- A steering committee meeting held on January 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to discuss the transition of PAS into JLOS and the Roles of PAS stakeholders.
- A Sub committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 to conclude the discussions.
- Monitoring visits were carried out in the 11 programme sites. PAS has continued to register a satisfactory number of releases through its activities. However some of the issues pointed out as affecting performance included among others; Irregular District Chain Linked meetings/ DCC meetings in many PAS sites and the absence of, or non vigilance of Community Service Officers or Probation Officers in some PAS programme sites which has reduced the award of community service orders hence contributing to high prisons populations.
- There was transfer of 8 Paralegals in the Northern and Western PAS sites to allow the sharing of best practices amongst the sites. The transfers were effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

- PAS carried out an exchange visits activity amongst the Eastern, Central and Western PAS sites in the month of April to share successes, challenges, success stories and best practices for better service delivery.
- PAS attended and participated in a number of external meetings including, among others Opening of the New Law year's day at the High Court on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012, JLOS open day held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 where the team displayed and shared materials with other actors in the Criminal Justice system, the Africa Regional Conference on community based programs on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012, among others.
- In August 2012 three Paralegals were recruited in Lira, Kitgum and Bushenyi following the lay off and resignation of the former paralegal officers in those respective sites.



*Paralegals offering basic legal awareness and sensitization to the inmate, Gulu Prison.*

## Events Diary.

- Launch of the CERA Handbook in Eastern Region; 1st October 2012.
- Commemoration of the World Day against the Death Penalty under the theme: *Progress made in ten years and challenges ahead*; 10th October 2012.
- Training Course on *Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting* for the Central Region; November 2012.
- Training in Leadership Skills for Executive Members of the University Human Rights Clubs; November 2012.
- Round table meeting with the Districts and National stakeholders to validate the findings of the participatory assessment in the five districts of Kalangala, Kiboga, Masaka, Luweero and Kayunga; November 2012.
- Release of the Thematic Human Rights report on *Right to a Fair Trial in Uganda*; December 2012.



Foundation  
for  
Human Rights  
Initiative (FHRI)

**2011**  
ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN UGANDA: (1991 - 2011)

*FHRI Annual Report 2011*