

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS (ACTV)









MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



JOHN LIVINGSTONE OKELLO-OKELLO

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ear Partners and Friends,

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) has the utmost pleasure of presenting to you her 2022 Annual Report:

The Journey of Hope. This report echoes the Journey of Hope that ACTV has consistently walked with survivors and enabled them to heal from the horrendous effects of torture and violence, and the progressive steps taken in advocating torture prevention and accountability in the country and the entire world.

The year 2022 marked the full opening up of the economy after two years of closure due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the opening, the effects of the lockdown were still significantly felt among the population. The situation led to a spike in inflation, which directly and indirectly affected the organisation's programmes.

Although we commend the Uganda Government for lifting the suspension of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), this came at a time when the DGF programme was nearing closure and no programmatic activities could be carried out.

Furthermore, the 2022 contextual situation indicated that although it is 10 years since the enactment of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012 (PPTA), the law has not been effectively implemented. This is mainly due to limitations in the documentation,

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investigation and prosecution of torture cases by the criminal justice actors; and these were also cited by the UN Committee against Torture (UNCAT) in it 75th General Session in November 2022.

Albeit the contextual challenges, ACTV became more resilient and continued to advocate against torture, genderbased violence (GBV) and other forms of violence, and provided holistic care to survivors. Throughout the year, a total of 1,141 survivors of torture and other related violence were supported by ACTV, of whom 798 were supported directly by the ACTV team of experts and 343 by ACTV community support volunteers.

In addition, 1,630 community members were empowered with knowledge about torture prevention through awareness-raising and 201 state and non-state actors trained on torture prevention and accountability.

Through the integration of livelihood in rehabilitation, ACTV established a tailoring school where 20 survivors were empowered with tailoring skills to enable them to obtain a source of income. ACTV actively engaged in advocacy at the regional and internationallevelsbysubmittingstatus reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and UNCAT, respectively.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Development Partners for the financial and technical support rendered to ACTV in her work, Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs) that collaborated and worked with ACTV, as well as civil society organisations (CSOs), especially those under the Coalition against Torture (CAT), that jointly advocated against torture.

Let us continue standing together against torture.

John Livingstone Okello-Okello BOARD CHAIRPERSON



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Two thousand twentytwo is the second year of our Five-Year Strategic Plan (2021–2025) and it is the year in which we embarked on the journey of recovery from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which had led to on-and-off lockdowns in the previous two years, 2020 and 2021.

We were now able to enhance our outreach programme in order to reach out to more survivors of torture, which was not the case during the pandemic owing to the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health to counter the pandemic, which affected both the clients and ourselves. However, we continued to face difficulties due to the suspension of our main Development Partner, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), which unfortunately ceased providing support in September 2022.

From the time of DGF's suspension in February 2021, ACTV has not been able to implement all its planned activities, especially in the area of community dialogues and advocacy against torture engagements, which has affected the achievement of outcomes and impact in our continuous quest to rid the world of torture. ACTV remains eternally grateful to DGF for continuing to remunerate staff even after they had been suspended until they officially ceased operations in Uganda in September 2022. We are thankful also to the following Development

Partners who supported us in 2022: the Danish Institute against Torture (DIGNITY), Wellsprings, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

We are also thankful to our partners and stakeholders, namely members of the Coalition against Torture (CAT-Uganda), the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), civil society organisations (CSOs), security agencies, members of the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) and, last but not least, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

They lighten the load of challenging circumstances, especially in the financial realm.

On behalf of the staff of ACTV and on my own behalf, I would like to

wholeheartedly thank the Board Chairperson and the Members for the wisdom and guidance they provided throughout the year, especially in the course of a restructuring process where we had to lose some staff because of resource constraints.

I thank from the bottom of my heart the staff of ACTV for managing to complete a challenging year in which we implemented activities across our six strategic objectives despite the resource constraints as we continue the quest to rid the world of torture.

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACTV actively engaged in advocacy at the regional and international levels by submitting status reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and UNCAT, respectively.

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Appreciation to Partners.....

Acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
CAFOMI	Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants
CAT	Coalition against Torture
CFLI	Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives
CMI	Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DIGNITY	Danish Institute against Torture
DISO	District Internal Security Officer
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IRCT	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NUP	National Unity Platform
РРТА	The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RRU	Rapid Response Unit
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNCAT	United Nations Committee against Torture
UNOHCR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNVFVT	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

2022 SUMMARY IN NUMBERS

- Treated and rehabilitated 1,141 new survivors of torture (798 by ACTV experts and 343 by ACTV community support volunteers).
- Established a tailoring training centre and empowered 20 survivors with tailoring skills.
- Built the resilience of 112 survivors by providing livelihood support.
- Established a child care centre to provide a safe environment to children during the rehabilitation process.
- Supported 222 survivors with legal aid services.
- Raised awareness of 1,630 community members about torture prevention.
- Enhanced the capacity of 201 state and non-state actors to handle torture prevention and accountability.
- Held 12 engagement meetings with 230 government MDAs, CSOs and political parties.
- Participated in 3 regional- and international-level advocacy initiatives.
- Reached out to the community with anti-torture messages through 12 radio talk shows.
- Engaged 179,282 persons through social media.



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ACTV AREAS OF OPERATION, 2022



CENTRAL REGION: NORTHERN REGION: KARAMOJA REGION: EASTERN REGION: WESTERN REGION: Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Mityana, Masaka, Mpigi Gulu, Amuru, Lira, Apac, Kitgum, Agago, Pader, Oyam, Kwania Kaabong Jinja, Luuka, Iganga, Kamuli Kasese

1.0 INTRODUCTION

he 2022 African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims(ACTV) annual report presents the milestones achieved towards our effort to advocate against torture and to provide holistic care to survivors. The report specifically highlights the achievements attained as we walked the journey of hope with survivors that had suffered heinous incidents of torture, reflects on challenges that tested our resilience, as well as the way forward in connection with strengthening the fight against torture.

1.1 OUR WORK

ACTV has six pillars with six strategic objectives:



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2.0 OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

he year 2022 marked the full opening up of the country after it had passed through the worst phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there was a total opening of the economy, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown remained alive, leading to high inflation, with prices of basic commodities like fuel, food and soap, among others, significantly increasing.

Subsequently, activists came out to demand that the government intervene in the matter of high commodity prices. However, many of them were brutally arrested and charged.

The political terrain continued to be tense in the aftermath of the 2021 general elections. The opposition leaders alleged the kidnap, illegal detention, enforced disappearance and torture of a number of their supporters. The state denied the allegations though it could not account for all the persons whose names were presented to them by the opposition leaders as missing persons. This instilled fear in many people who would have wanted to raise their voices against torture and violence.

Though the suspension of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) was lifted by the government, this came at a time when the DGF programme was nearing closure and no programmatic interventions were carried out thereafter. This led to a major reduction in the organisation's resources, which resulted in restructuring the organisation in order to be able to continue providing support to the vulnerable survivors of torture.

The civic space continued to shrink, with over 54 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) being suspended by the National NGO Bureau. Although the Civil Division of the High Court in Kampala declared the indefinite suspension of the activities of Chapter Four Uganda, one of the many organisations suspended as illegal, other organisations remained suspended. This negatively impacted on ACTV's collaboration with different stakeholders.

Though the suspension of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) was lifted by the government, this came at a time when the DGF programme was nearing closure and no programmatic interventions were carried out thereafter. This led to a major reduction in the organisation's resources, which resulted in restructuring the organisation in order to be able to continue providing support to the vulnerable survivors of torture.

3.0 ACHIEVENENTS

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3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 SURVIVOR HEALING

Torture has horrible and devastating effects on individual survivors, their families and society. Through the holistic treatment and rehabilitation programme, in 2022, ACTV supported 1,143 (729 male and 414 female) survivors across the country to overcome the effects of torture and GBV.

Of these, 798 (517 male and 281 female) were supported directly by the ACTV team of experts and 343 (212 male and 133 female) through the community support network comprised of trained community volunteers in Kasese and Kaabong districts.

Survivor testimony 1

W life had become useless and meaningless; I was no longer a man in my own home because I could not provide for the family. I separated with my wife because she could not bear the miserable situation we were living in. I lived in isolation; I was sad, hopeless and hated myself. ACTV got me at my worst point when I only wanted to die. I was offered medical treatment and later I was enrolled for group counselling.

When I attended the group counselling, I realised that I was not alone through experience sharing and the counselling sessions guided by the ACTV psychologist. I gained strength and courage. After attending 10 counselling sessions, I gained hope for the future. I started associating with my friends and relatives again. My physical and psychological wellbeing improved, and I went back to work. I am currently happy, I have been rejoined by my wife and children, and I can ably take care of them. I testify I am now healed from all the trauma caused by the torture incident I went through.

Survivor testimony 2

Dehabilitation involves trust-building - a survivor's experience

RFollowing the torture incident, I suffered. I abandoned my family and went into hiding, fearing reprisals from security agencies. I had flashbacks of the torture incident I went through; I felt anger and hatred towards security agents, and experienced self-blame. I resorted to isolating myself and went into hiding in a place where I couldn't get anything that reminded me of the incident or threatened me. I was later contacted by one of the village leaders who had known about my plight, and told me about ACTV services.

At first I didn't trust the organisation, thinking that they were spies and wanted to hand me over to my tormentors. However, with the confidence I got from our councillor, the professionalism, compassion and care received at ACTV, I gained confidence and trust. I later enrolled for counselling services and now I am a better person. ACTV offered me a safe place where I could freely express my feelings and thoughts about the torture I experienced and I received counselling accordingly.

Survivor testimony 3

David (not real name), was kidnapped and tortured during the 2021 general elections. David used to work as a taxi conductor before his kidnap. However, when he was kidnapped and subjected to harsh treatment, he lost his left eye and could not go back to his job because he could not see well and yet, as a taxi conductor, his main role is to look out for prospective passengers on the road and ensure they board the taxi.

He was told by his friend to seek help from ACTV. He narrated:

I received a phone call from my friend, who told me to come and receive help from ACTV. When I went to the ACTV office, I was taken on as a client. I received medical treatment and counselling. The counselling helped me to overcome the extreme fear that I had developed. After I had been kidnapped, I used to fear everyone, I never wanted to come close to anyone, and I never wanted to come close to anyone in a security uniform. If I had to go somewhere, I would always pass through the bushes because I never wanted to meet people.

ACTV medical and psychological experts provided intense and continuous support that included treatment of the eyeball socket that had developed an infection and musculoskeletal pain that hindered his physical wellbeing, as well as individual trauma counselling. David added:

After the treatment and counselling I started a rabbit-rearing project which generates income that I use to support my family. I have recovered as a person; I am happy and very hopeful for a great bright future.

3.1.1 Healing services offered by ACTV experts

Healing and restoring lives of survivors of torture and violence is the sole aim of ACTV rehabilitation services. Survivors of torture, GBV and other forms violence who were registered at ACTV received holistic services that included medical treatment, mental health services and social support services.



In the year 2022, 798 (517 male and 281 female) were enrolled and offered medical treatment; 157 (98 male and 59 female) mental health services, which included individual counselling, group psychological counselling and brief family therapy; 212 (149 male and 63 female) received social support that included social counselling, the provision of basic needs and community reintegration; and 294 (205 male and 89 female) were offered physiotherapy services. Continuous follow-up was done on the survivors to ensure that there was complete recovery. These services were provided at the two ACTV medical centres in Kampala and Gulu, via community outreach and home visits to survivors.

3.1.2 ACTV Community Support Network

A CTV increased access to rehabilitation services in Kasese and Kaabong districts through the recruitment and empowerment of community volunteers. These were organised to form a Community Support Network that identifies survivors, provides basic services and makes appropriate referrals. The ACTV Community Support Network structure comprises community facilitators, community counsellors, peer support workers and health workers. The Community Support Networks in Kasese and Karamoja reached out to 345 (212 male and 133 female) survivors of torture and violence during the year.



Survivor testimony 4

One day in January 2021 at night as I was sleeping at my home, I heard voices outside asking me to open the door. I trembled, and before I could open, about 9 soldiers banged the door and forced themselves inside. They started asking me for something that I did not have; they checked the whole house, scattered everything inside. They started slapping, beating and punching me. Later on, I was dragged to police and locked up in a police cell where I spent one week being subjected to cruel and humiliating acts. Later I was released on police bond and went home. I spent 3 months without moving out of my house. I did not want to see any person; I feared seeing policemen or any person wearing a police uniform. It was not until one of the community counsellors got to know about my story that she visited me and started offering counselling services. She also took me to a health centre for a medical check-up and I received treatment. Now I am okay and can move freely without fear.

3.2 Socio-economic Empowerment of Survivors

Over the years, ACTV has come to note that the rehabilitation of survivors of torture without definite sources of livelihood derails the rehabilitation process and engulfs survivors in persistent psychological and physical challenges. Thus, ACTV integrated the livelihood component into her strategy so as to enable survivors to access livelihood opportunities for self-reliance. A total of 132 survivors were engaged in socio-economic empowerment activities during the year that included skills-building and the provision of business start-ups.

3.2.1 Survivors' skills building activities

In 2022, ACTV established a tailoring training school for survivors of torture and violence. During the year 20 (09 male and 11 female) survivors were enrolled and trained in tailoring skills, and these were able to set up their individual tailoring businesses utilising the knowledge and skills gained from the training. In addition, 2 groups had their capacity built in modern farming and the use of farming equipment, including a milling machine. Also, oxen and ploughs were offered to the groups.

Survivors' testimonies

When I went through torture, I became unemployed and could not afford meeting the basic needs for my family. I developed depression, I always isolated myself, and I couldn't sleep at night. After going through counselling, I was enrolled for tailoring training by ACTV. This helped me meet new people that were friendly and supportive, which built my self-confidence, my self-esteem increased and I started interacting with others. After the training, I started my own tailoring shop with the sewing machine that ACTV gave me, and now I can make fashionable clothes which I sell to people and get money. I can provide for my family and they are very happy for the life we are living now.

I am a single mother with 3 children. After experiencing torture, getting something to eat with my children was very difficult, my children dropped out of school, and I struggled to make ends meet. I attempted to commit suicide several times, I didn't have hope for tomorrow, and I thought death was the best option. I later resorted to prostitution for survival, something that was against my religious and cultural morals and values. I was referred to ACTV by a person who had received services from ACTV. At ACTV I was offered counselling and later enrolled for tailoring training. This was a golden opportunity for me.

After 6 months' training, I was given a sewing machine which I used to set up my tailoring workshop in my village. This has improved my life. I am regarded as an important person in my village. I got a contract to make school uniforms for one of the neighbouring schools. My children are back in school and I can afford to give them the basic things they need in life.

Photos of the survivors during the training in tailoring



3.2.2 Provision of business start-ups

A total of **112 (73 male and 39 female) survivors of torture and violence** were provided with livelihood support through the provision of small-scale business inputs, the formation of social support groups, and the training of survivors in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and basic business management skills.

Below is a testimony by the wife to a survivor who was offered a business start-up:

My husband always used to tell me to buy him poison so that he could die and stop living a stressful life. Seeing the kind of life we were in since his torture incident, I always wanted to leave him and get married to another man because he was hopeless, but when you supported us to start the shoe-selling business, life changed. He no longer asks for poison, we get food and rent for the house and I also gave up on leaving him.

Photos of survivors' social groups being trained in VSLA and gross margin analysis



3.3 Legal Aid and Justice for Survivors

A CTV is licensed by the Law Council to run and manage a Legal Aid Clinic that supports indigent survivors of torture and violence to access justice. During the year 2022, a total of 222 (161 male and 61 female) survivors were provided with legal aid services that included legal advice, case follow-ups, field investigations to collect evidence for cases, and referrals to relevant institutions for further support. 17 (13 male and 4 female) survivors had files opened at the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and 02 male cases were initiated at the Police Standards Unit (PSU).

One client testified:



Was very worried when I heard the comments my tormentor was making after receiving the letter from the UHRC. It was so bad that I even considered withdrawing the complaint, thinking it would make no difference, with all the atrocities he has got away with in the past. But after this engagement with you, your advice and empowerment, I feel confident in the decision I made to report him and I will follow through with all that is needed, to ensure that he is held accountable for his actions and for him never to do what he did to me to someone else.

Another client made the following remark after receiving a court judgement in Civil Suit No. 288 of 2018 Gideon Olowo vs. KCCA & AG, where he was awarded compensation for the torture he suffered:

I am happy that I have finally gotten justice after spending a while in court. Thank you for standing with me through this journey.

3.4 Advocacy for Torture and Violence Prevention

The year 2022 marked 10 years since the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012 (PPTA) was enacted and assented to by the president. However, there has been public acknowledgement that the law has not been effectively implemented. Our advocacy work, therefore, was pivoted on ensuring that the barriers and challenges to effective implementation of the PPTA are addressed. 03 advocacy reports on the status of torture in Uganda and torture during the 2021 general elections and 01 policy brief were developed and utilised during the different advocacy engagements at national, regional and international levels.

3.4.1 National advocacy engagements

3.4.1.1 Training of state and non-state actors

A total of 201 (122 male and 79 female) state and non-state actors were empowered with knowledge and skills for them to be able to prevent and effectively respond to cases of torture and violence in the country.

Table 1: Trainings carried out during the year

DATE			NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS			
	TITLE OF TRAINING	TARGET GROUP	Male	Female	Total	
29 November – 2 December 2022	Psychological first aid	Community volunteers and Community Development Officers (CDOs) in Kasese	10	09	19	
7 – 8 June 2022	Trauma-informed approach in litigation process for cases of torture and violence	Advocates and lawyers 14		10	24	
A series of trainings	Self-care and psychological wellbeing	Human rights defenders and grass- roots human rights activists	20	15	35	
27 – 28 January 2022	Torture prevention at community level, identification of survivors and making appropriate referrals	Community volunteers from Gulu, Lira, Kampala, Mukono, Jinja, Luuka, Kamuli and Iganga	21	19	40	
27 – 28 January 2022	Effective documentation and management of survivors of torture	Health workers from Gulu, Lira, Kampala, Mukono and Jinja	09	11	20	
23 November 2022	The 48-hour rule and its implications for torture prevention	Police officers at the Central Police Station, Kampala	39	11	50	
	Basic psychological counselling	Community volunteers – Karamoja (community counsellors and peer support workers)	09	04	13	
	Total		122	79	201	

Some of the comments by participants after the trainings

- "This workshop has been wonderful, but we are just a drop in the ocean, lawyers are so many. I suggest ACTV continues such programmes for many other lawyers to benefit as well."
- "I now know why some of our clients have been acting in what I used to call a weird way. I know they were going through some psychological challenges. This training has opened my eyes."
- "As we are looking out for physical evidence in cases of torture, it's equally important to also focus on psychological evidence as well. This is where professionals from ACTV can support

us."

• "There is a lot I have learnt from these two days, more so to do with mental health. I myself have been going through some of these symptoms, more so the ones of stress, I have learnt how I can help myself."

"The uniqueness in this training is that it identifies the gaps in our litigation processes, which, simply put, require our ability to be aware of the psychological needs of the victim which fundamentally affect evidence presentation in court. The training has opened a channel for lawyers to discover true compassion and better their skills as litigants." Ms Diana Angwech, Vice President, Uganda Law Society



Photo of the training of health workers in Kampala



Training of community volunteers from Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Luuka, Kampala and Mukono

3.4.1.2 Awareness-raising and community empowerment

An awareness campaign on combating violent extremism as a driver of torture and violence was launched in Masaka district. Community dialogues were held and raised awareness about the right to freedom against torture, GBV and other forms of violence. At total of 1,630 (878 male and 752 female) community members were reached out to during the awareness campaigns and were empowered to seek support and demand accountability for cases of torture.

Table 2: Number of community members reached during awareness-raising sessions

DISTRICT				
			PEOPLE REACHED	
	SUB-COUNTY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Kasese	Maliba	240	199	439
	Bwesumbu	467	419	886
Masaka City	Kimanya-Kabonera	171	134	305
Total		878	752	1,630



Community dialogue session in Kabonera, Masaka City



Community dialogue at Kyamuyimbwa, Masaka City



Community dialogue at Kiziba and Kijjabwemi, Masaka City

Voices and feedback from the community

"Torture is so rampant among children, females and males, especially the psychological form of torture. Therefore, it is important that ACTV conducts more awareness-raising sessions on human rights (the right to freedom from torture) and mostly on radicalisation and fundamentalism." GISO, Kyamuyimbwa

"I will study and understand this law you have given me and implement it. But there is need for capacity-building of police officers in torture prevention." Community member, Kabonera

3.4.1.3 Media campaigns

During the year, different media campaigns were carried out in order to reach out to community members and various stakeholders with messages of torture and other related forms of violence. This would foster prevention and accountability for the violations and abuse.

Table 3: Media initiatives undertaken during the year

	es under taken during the year
MEDIA PLATFORM	ISSUES DISCUSSED
Social media	 A total of 179,282 were reached during the different engagements on social media (165,138 on Twitter and 14,144 on Facebook; 507 new followers joined our platforms. The key topics discussed included: Violent extremism as a driver of torture. Reporting mechanisms for torture violence. Relationship between gender-based violence and torture. Torture prevalence and prevention mechanism. Documentation of torture and access to rehabilitation services for
Radio talk shows	 survivors. 12 radio talk shows held in Kampala (5), Masaka (2), Gulu (3) and Jinja districts (2), and spot messages aired. The issues discussed included: Violent extremism as a driver of torture and ill treatment. Human rights, equality and dignity for all. The value of professional documentation in fostering access to justice of torture victims or survivors. Torture prevention and accountability.
Television talk shows	 04 television talks held in Kampala on Civic TV, Digi Talk TV and NBS TV. The topics discussed included: Human rights situation and corruption; the relationship and its impediment to justice. Violent extremism a trigger for rights violations and torture. The state of torture in Uganda. Torture prevention and accountability following the Presidential State of the Nation Address.
Press statements	World Mental Health Day statement: Making mental health for all a global priority.
Community radios	24 sessions in Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Luuka, Kampala and Mukono districts.



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Photos of some items developed for social media in 2022

3.4.1.4 Amplifying the voices of survivors

a) National dialogue meeting on election violence and civic awareness

ACTV and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) held a national dialogue under the theme "Democratic and Peaceful Elections in Uganda; a Prerequisite for National Development". The dialogue was attended by different stakeholders, including government ministries and agencies, Members of Parliament, religious leaders and civil society. The keynote speakers included Justice Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson, UHRC and Mr Keith Namara Kyaruzi, an advocate and scholar, and the guest of honour was Major General Henry Matsiko, Chief Political Commissar of the UPDF. The dialogue provided a platform for participants to discuss and generate a concrete way forward on how security agencies, politicians and the general public can work together towards guarantee peaceful elections while ensuring active citizen participation.



Group photo with participants at the national dialogue on peaceful elections as a prerequisite for sustainable development in Uganda



b) Stakeholders' meetings

A total of 12 engagements were held with the 230 members of the different government agencies and departments. Through our valued work on torture prevention and rehabilitation, ACTV was invited by the Human Rights Committee of Parliament to present a status report on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom from torture and ill treatment in the aftermath of the 2021 general elections. ACTV delivered a presentation with specific recommendations which were adopted by the committee in its report to Parliament.

District	Date	Institution	Venue	Number of participants		participants	Topic of discus- sion
				Μ	F	TOTAL	
Gulu	23 February 2022	District leaders	Nook Continental Hotel	12	02	14	Mitigating election violence and torture
Kampala – Kawempe Division	23 February 2022	District leader	Kolping Hotel	06	11	17	Mitigating election violence and torture
Masaka	25 February 2022	District leaders	Maple Leaf Hotel	08	07	17	Mitigating election violence and torture
Kampala	28 February 2022	Political party leaders	Golf Course Hotel, Kampala	08	00	08	Mitigating election violence and torture

Table 4: Number of engagements held with stakeholders

Dis	strict	Date	Institution	Venue	Nun	nber of p	articipants	Topic of discus- sion
	lu, Lira, /ania	12 August 2022	District leaders	Churchill Courts Hotel, Gulu	13	04	17	Mitigating election violence and torture
Jir	anga, nja, Luuka, muli,	16 August 2022	District leaders	Ci' Sand Suites Hotel, Jinja	09	07	16	Mitigating election violence and torture
	mpala, Ikono	16 August 2022	District leaders	Sports View Hotel, Kampala	09	09	18	Mitigating election violence and torture
– K Ka	isaka City Kimanya bonera vision	21 – 22 nd Sep- tember 2022	Division and city leaders	Maple Leaf Hotel	48	33	91	Addressing violent extremism as a driver of torture
Ka	mpala	19 October 2022	Security agen- cies: UPDF, Police and Prisons	Eureka Palace Hotel	16	08	24	Prevention of vio- lence and torture during elections
Ka	mpala	13/ October 2022	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of State, including political parties	Golden Tulip Hotel	14	06	20	Launch of a policy brief on elections in Uganda
Ka	mpala	15 March 2022	Human Rights Committee Members of Parliament	Parliament			Invited to the committee to present ACTV perspective	Human rights status in Uganda post-2021 general elections







Engagement with Masaka City leaders



Engagement with Masaka City leaders



Engagement with leaders from Jinja, Iganga, Kamuli and Luuka



Engagement meeting with Gulu leaders



Engagement with Kimannya, Kabonera Division leaders

c) Commemoration of 26 June International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

ACTV, with other members of the Coalition against Torture (CAT) and partners, including the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), jointly commemorated the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture under the theme **"You too can be a victim; stand up against torture".** The event provided a platform to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) 2006 to allow unlimited access to all places of detention and improvement in documentation, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of torture. Key activities implemented in commemoration of the day included the publication of a joint press statement with UHRC and CAT members, television and radio talk shows, social media campaigns on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube under a hashtag (#AntiTortureLaw @10), as well as a public dialogue that was streamed live, and medical legal camps in Kampala and Gulu.

3.4.2 Regional and international advocacy

3.4.2.1 Reporting at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

ACTV attended and participated in the 73rd Session of the Africa Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights(ACHPR) in Banjul from 19 October to 28 October 2022. A statement on the situation of torture in Uganda was presented during the session calling on the ACHPR to ask the Ugandan State to strengthen documentation and investigation of torture, and streamline rehabilitation services for survivors.

ACTV participated in the launch of the Abidjan Rules on the alert and reporting mechanism to the ACHPR on the situation of torture in Africa, and also participated in the rollout training in the rules in Dakar, Senegal organised by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa. Other bilateral meetings were held, including a meeting with the Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the United Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

3.4.2.2 United Nations Committee against Torture (UNCAT)





ACTV team in Banjul, Gambia during the 73rd Session of ACHPR

On 9 and 10 November 2022, CAT reviewed the state of Uganda during its 75th Session and on 22 November 2022 made concluding observations with several recommendations that ought to be implemented by the state before the next review period. It is important to note that ACTV, through her international advocacy initiatives, made 20 recommendations to the committee in her alternative report, and 19 of them were adopted. In line with ACTV mandate to advocate for the prevention of torture, it intends to carry out national advocacy to follow up on the committee recommendations and ensure their implementation by the state.

3.5 Survivors of Torture Registered for ACTV Services in 2022

Table 5: Number of survivors registered for ACTV services at our centres

ACTV Centre	Male	Female	Total
Kampala	195	74	269
Gulu	74	147	221
Karamoja – Field office	241	57	298
Kasese – Field office	07	03	10
Total	517	281	798

A total of 798 (517 male and 281 female) survivors were registered for ACTV services, with a 30.7% reduction in the number of cases compared to the 1,151 cases registered in 2021. The reduction is attributed to the fact that 2021 was an election year that witnessed cases of torture and violence. Secondly, there was significant fear among survivors, which discouraged them from coming out to report cases of torture. The Karamoja field office registered more cases mainly due to the disarmament process that was taking place in the region.





Figure 3: Monthly trends of the registered survivors





The majority of the survivors registered in 2022 were male, accounting for **64.8**% (**517**), compared to female survivors, who were **35.2**% (**281**). Although women seeking rehabilitation services were slightly fewer than men, it is positive that some women can receive services while knowing that most of the time they suffer both as primary and secondary victims of torture. Women take up the gender roles of men when they husbands or brothers get tortured and become incapacitated, and are thus unable to take care of their families.





Figure 5: Age categories of the survivors registered

The majority of the survivors, at **37.8% (302)**, were aged between **36–58**, followed by those aged **18–30**, at **26.2% (209)**. It should be noted that **47.1%** of the survivors were youth aged 18–35 and this is a population that is mostly at risk of torture. In addition, children who were primary survivors accounted for **1.02%**. This implies that efforts are needed to address torture among all the age categories.

Nationalities of survivors registered

Table 6: The nationalities of survivors registered

NATIONALITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%GE
Ugandan	503	254	757	94.8%
Democratic Republic of Congo	7	21	28	3.5%
Rwandan	4	2	6	0.8%
Somali	1	3	4	0.5%
Burundian	1	1	2	0.3%
Sudanese	1	0	1	0.1%
TOTAL	517	281	798	100.0%

94.8% (757) of the survivors registered were Ugandan nationals and **5.2% (41)** were refuges from the neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan. The reduction in the number of refuges was attributed to the reduction in the inflow of refugees from neighbouring countries, which were relatively stable for the largest part of year.

Point where survivors were first contacted

POINT OF CONTACT								
Point of Contact	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total			
Static centre	110	108	00	04	222			
Community Outreach	68	113	283	03	467			
Home visit	13	00	15	03	31			
Call centre	06	00	00	00	6			
Case follow-up	72	00	00	00	72			
Total	269	221	298	10	798			

Table 7: The point where survivors were first contacted

ACTV reached out to most of the survivors through community outreach programmes, especially those from the Karamoja sub-region. Others were contacted at ACTV centres in Kampala and Gulu, and during home visits and case follow-ups. Six clients were received through our call centres and were offered tele-services. 392 survivors were referred to ACTV for services by partners, as can be seen in the table below.

Table 8: The referral partners that referred survivors to ACTV

REFERRALS FROM PA	REFERRALS FROM PARTNERS								
Source	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Total					
Community Support Network	5	0	125	130					
VIVO International	0	48	0	48					
Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT)	0	46	0	46					
UN Office for the High Commission for Human Rights	0	17	12	29					
Friends/family	16	6	0	22					
UHRC	10	0	8	18					
ACTV clients	12	3	0	15					
Self-referral	9	5	0	14					
Refugee Law Project	16	0	0	16					
Human rights defenders	2	9	0	11					
Media houses	7	0	0	7					
Jesuit Refugee Services	6	0	0	6					
Journalists	5	0	0	5					
Law firms	5	0	0	5					
National Unity Platform (NUP) – Secretariat	3	0	0	3					
CAFOMI	3	0	0	3					
Gulu NGO Forum	0	2	0	2					
Human Rights Focus	0	2	0	2					

REFERRALS FROM PARTNERS							
Source Kampala Gulu Karamoja Total							
Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights	2	0	0	2			
Others	8	0	0	8			
Total	109	138	145	392			

The community support networker referred more survivors to ACTV centres, with 130 cases being referred out of the 392. It is important to note that there is an increase in the number of partners that referred survivors to ACTV, including NGOs, media houses and journalists, political parties, and clients that have benefited from ACTV services, among others.

Alleged perpetrators of torture and violence

Table 9: The alleged perpetrators of torture

PERPETRATORS	2020		20	2021		2022	
Security agencies	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	
UPDF (SFC - 2, CMI - 9, Military Police - 2)	426	39.1%	371	30.0%	341	39.3%	
Uganda Police	170	15.6%	126	9.8%	149	17.2%	
Local Defence Units					12	1.4%	
Prison warders	9	8.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.6%	
Internal Security Organisation (ISO)	4	0.4%	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	
KCCA – Enforcement officer	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%	
Game rangers	0	0	16	1.2%	0	0.0%	
Sub-total	609	63. 1%	517	41.2%	509	58.7 %	
Non-security agencies							
Lord's Resistance Army	176	16.1%	348	27.1%	160	18.5%	
Private individuals	167	15.3%	167	19.0%	55	6.3%	
Unknown	55	5.1%	99	7.7%	42	4.8%	
Karamoja warriors	7	0.6%	5	0.4%	20	2.3%	
Opposition supporter	0	0	0	0	6	0.7%	
Mobs – Mob justice	6	0.6%	3	0.2%	5	0.6%	
NRM supporter	0	0	0	0	4	0.5%	
Local Council	4	0.4%	2	0.1%	2	0.2%	
Clan leaders	2	0.2%	5	0.4%	2	0.2%	
Sub-total	417	37.7 %	629	54.9 %	296	34.1 %	
Refugees and asylum seekers	53	4.9%	60	4.7%	15	1.8%	
Sub-total					15	1.8%	
Cases of gender-based violence							
Husband			80		46	3.2%	
Mother					1	0.1%	
Sub-total					47	5.4%	
As observed in the previous reports, in the year 2022, security agencies still had the most cases alleged against them, accounting for 58.7% (509), non-security agencies had 34.1% (296) cases alleged against them, 5.4% (47) were cases of GBV and 1.8% (15) were cases among refugees that involved torture in their home countries.

Among the security agencies, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) had the most cases, at 341 (39.3%), against them, and these were mostly from Karamoja, where there a disarmament operation by the army is ongoing. The Uganda Police Force followed with 17.2% (149) cases alleged against it. Owing to the long-term effects of torture, survivors of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) were received and these accounted for 18.5% (160), leading the non-security perpetrators, and private individuals accounted for 6.3% (55) cases.

CONTEXT AND REASONS FOR TORTURE	
Category	Number
Intimidation	198
Rebel atrocities	160
Election violence	150
Disarmament process	112
Punishment	108
Extraction of information	85
Sowing fear	52
GBV	47
Forced confession	29
Dispersing social gathering	28
Unknown	13
Destruction of personality	18
Enforcement of COVID-19 guidelines	10
Discrimination	8
Mistaken identity	4
Humiliation	3
Family/personal conflict	2
Land wrangles	2
Ethnic clashes	1

The majority of cases reported (198) gave intimidation as the reason for their torture, followed by rebel atrocities (160), mainly in Northern Uganda. The survivors tortured in the context of elections were also significantly high, with 150 survivors. Other reasons included the disarmament in Karamoja, punishment and extraction of information, among others.

Table 11: The forms of torture survivors went through

FORMS OF TORTURE					
Form	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total
F	Physical tortu	ire			1,016
Beating (blunt trauma)	260	120	45	3	428
Positional torture	89	33	26	0	148
Crush injuries	46	11	87	0	144
Medical amputation	18	0	0	0	18
Penetrating injuries	31	4	12	6	53
Sexual torture	39	32	0	0	71
Chemical exposure	9	0	0	0	9
Conditions of detention	23	35	64		122
Burns	7	0	0	0	7
Deprivation of normal sensory stimulation	6	10	0	0	16
Psychological torture 493			493		
Accentuating feelings of helplessness	137	21	34	1	193
Witnessing the torture of others	41	16	8	0	65
Threats	62	16	6	0	84
Humiliation	64	1	13	0	78
Sexual torture	39	34	0	0	73

Survivors registered in 2022 suffered mostly physical forms of torture, with physical beating being the highest reported. Other forms of physical torture included positional torture, crush injuries and being exposed to poor conditions of detention.

Accentuating feelings of helplessness was the psychological form most used, followed by humiliation, threats and sexual torture and abuse.

3.6 Staff Capacity Development

S/ NO.	CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE	PARTICIPANTS	ORGANISER/ FACILITATOR
1.	2 days' training on resource mobilisation and fundraising	Management and unit heads	DIGNITY
2.	Knowledge and learning visit to a partner organisation MIDRIFT in Kenya.	Head of Programmes, Programme Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mental Health Coordinator, Research and Documentation Officer, Project Officer	DIGNITY
3.	2 days' training of training on outcome harvest	All staff	ACTV
4.	Re-orientation training on monitoring, evaluation and reporting	ACTV Gulu staff	ACTV M&E Unit
5.	1-day training on career transition	All ACTV staff	ACTV hired consultant
6.	2 days' training on psychological first aid	ACTV - Holistic team	DIGNITY
7.	Refresher training on effective documentation of survivors using the revised Istanbul Protocol	ACTV – Holistic team	DIGNITY
8.	Training on digital safety and security	All ACTV staff	ACTV hired consultant
9.	Training on effective management of survivors of sexual and gender- based violence	Social workers	CAFORMI
10.	Global partnership engagement meeting with all DIGNITY- supported organisations	All ACTV staff	DIGNITY



ACTV staff retreat and team-building



ACTV team during trainings and planning workshops





ACTV team during the knowledge exchange visit to Midrift, Nakuru, Kenya

4.0 CHALLENGES

4.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- Insecurity in the Karamoja sub-region that interrupted implementation of activities in the region as well as risking the security and safety of staff. In addition, this led to the spike of cases of torture in the region with limited support for survivors.
- Economic inflation that led to an increase in price of commodities, e.g. fuel, food and soap, among others, which led to an increase in the cost of implementing programmes and administration.
- Ignorance among the rights-holders and duty-bearers about human rights, torture and legal
 processes prohibiting torture. This limits reporting and access to rehabilitation and justice for
 survivors of torture and violence. This hence presents a need for continued awareness-raising
 and capacity-building of the both duty bearers and rights holders.
- Hopelessness among communities leading to increased acts of violent extremism and radicalisation. This provides a risk for increased cases of human rights violation and torture.
- An unstable inflow of resources to support the organisation's programmes. This came with the closure of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and led to the restructuring of the organisation and suspension of some of the staff benefits.

5.0 BEST PRACTICES

5.0 BEST PRACTICES

- The process of trust-building for survivors of torture and violence gives survivors confidence and creates a safe environment for survivors to open up during the process of rehabilitation.
- The outcome harvesting approach adopted by the organisation is instrumental in the documentation of results and changes realised from our advocacy interventions.
- Effective documentation of survivors' experience of torture is key as it helps in the generation of evidence for medical legal reports, identification of survivors' needs, and production of information for evidence-based advocacy.
- Collaborative and transformative engagement is fundamental in mobilising and establishing dialogue with stakeholders to support torture prevention and accountability initiatives.
- It is crucial to integrate livelihood support for survivors of torture and violence for improved rehabilitation outcomes.



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6.0 GOING FORWARD

- Work with the Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to improve the documentation, investigation and prosecution of torture using the PPTA 2012 and its 2017 Regulation.
- Advocate for the enactment of a Witness Protection and Legal Aid Act to enable survivors to access justice and increase accountability for acts of torture.
- Continue advocating for the National Policy on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Survivors of torture as per the General Comment 4 of the ACHPR.
- Develop interventions to address and combat violent extremism as a driver of torture and violence in communities.
- Popularise the UNCAT concluding observations against Uganda and advocate for their implementation.
- Operationalise the fundraising and sustainability strategy to ensure a sustainable inflow of resources to support organisational programmes.

7.0 FY. STATEMENT

7.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

2022 Income



2022 Expenditure



Trends for the last 3 years 2020, 2021, 2022

DONOR	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2020
IGF	119,410,695	44,076,000	790,000
DIGNITY	961,975,179	641,050,000	462,714,000
WELLSPRING GENERAL SUPPORT	515,128,577	561,368,000	467,773,000
WELLSPRING HRD	174,279,000	174,279,000	73,605,000
DGF	652,896,075	274,774,000	1,177,487,000
IRCT	121,465,825	86,454,000	26,464,000
UNVFVT	193,539,500	133,369,000	157,536,000
CFLI	112,822,144	91,309,000	
NDI	149,383,155		
TOTAL	3,000,900,150	2,006,679,000	2,366,369,000

ACTV STAFF IN 2022

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga, Chief Executive Officer Sophia Achan, Head of Finance and Administration Esther Nabwire Waswa, Head of Programmes Alex Kigoye, Programme Manager, Kampala Alfred Okettayot, Programme Manager, Gulu Arasto Reece Mujungu, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Daniel Lubinga, Accountant Dr Robert Rafiki, Medical Doctor, Kampala James Ogwal Opio, Medical Coordinator, Gulu Leila Wakabi Hassan, Mental Health Coordinator, Kampala Isaac Ogwal, Clinical Psychologist, Gulu Baker Isabirye, Counselling Psychologist Juliet Anango, Legal Officer, Kampala Tony Ojok Obonyo, Legal Officer, Gulu Jordan Megolonyoa, Legal Officer, Gulu Peace Avola, Social Worker, Kampala Beatrice Acayo, Social Worker, Gulu Apollo Robinson Kinyera, Aq. Medical Coordinator/Physiotherapist, Kampala Andrew Olwedo, Physiotherapist, Gulu Grace Namatovu, Research and Documentation Officer Paul Kirva Mukalere, Communication and Advocacy Officer Geoffrey Ojiambo, Information Technology Officer Annet Nantume, Nurse, Kampala Susan Labeja, Nurse, Gulu Robinah Nabatanzi, Accounts Assistant, Kampala Augustine Nkurunziza, Accounts Assistant, Gulu Esther Kyakuhaire, Social Worker Assistant, Kampala Mary Nabwogi, Social Worker Assistant, Kampala Nancy Ayebare, Legal Assistant, Kampala Edina Atimango, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, Gulu Peter Opio, Transport Officer, Kampala Agnes Mukamugema, Interpreter Charles Ayella, Driver, Kampala Benon Kanyanzira, Office Attendant, Kampala Santos Okaa, Office Attendant, Kampala Maureen Nassimbwa, Administration

Joyce Lakop, Psychologist, Gulu Solomani Mukeka, Field Officer, Kasese Giovani Angela, Project Officer, Kaabong Dr Portia Busingye, Part Time Medical Doctor, Kampala Thomas Aquinas Lokol, ICT Administrator

VOLUNTEERS

Angella Kunihira, Nurse, Kampala Brenda Kemigisa, Communication and Advocacy Gerald Kahuki, Field Officer, Kasese

BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chairperson Mr Livingstone Okello-Okello

MEMBERS

Dr Juliet Nakku Ms Sayson Rossette Meya Mr Jackson Katende Semakula Reverend Canon Augustine Musiwuufu Magala

SECRETARY

Mr Samuel Herbert Nsubuga

Appreciation to Partners

ur greatest appreciation goes to all our partners for walking the Journey of Hope with us and the survivors in 2022. Special thanks go to Wellsprings Philanthropies, which diligently provided the organisation with budget support and for acknowledging the plight of human rights defenders, hence extending psychosocial support services to them. We thank DIGNITY for the continued strengthening of ACTV institutional and technical capacities, DGF for the resilience you showed, so that even during the suspension you continued extending support towards our administrative costs.

We also express our gratitude to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) for enabling ACTV to amplify its advocacy at regional and international levels as well as the commitment to the integration of livelihood into rehabilitation. Finally, we appreciate the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), which provides holistically for survivors of torture in the Karamoja sub-region, and the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and CISU, that enabled us to raise awareness about the value of professional documentation and respond to the survivors of election violence.

The Coalition against Torture in Uganda (CAT) that has continued to advocate against torture in Uganda

NO.ORGANISATION1.African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)2.Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL)3.Human Rights Network - Uganda (HURINET)4.Human Rights Focus (HURIFO)5.Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)6.Chapter Four- Uganda7.Human Rights Centre - Uganda (HRCU)8.Refugee Law Project (RLP)9.Kumi Human Rights Initiative (KHRI)10.Women of Uganda (WOU)11.Uganda Prisoners Aid Foundation (UPAF)12.Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ)13.Association of Human Rights Organisations in the Rwenzori Region (AHURIO)14.Foundation of Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)15.Coalition of Uganda Private Teachers Association (COUPSTA)16.The Uganda National Medical Alliance for Prisoners Support (TUNMAPS)17.World Voices18.Torture Survivors Association of Uganda (TOSAU)	in Ugano	
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		Support (TUNMAPS)
18. Torture Survivors Association of Uganda (TOSAU)	17.	World Voices
	18.	Torture Survivors Association of Uganda (TOSAU)
19. Penal Reform International-Uganda (PRI)	19.	Penal Reform International-Uganda (PRI)
20. Women Human Rights Defenders' Network	20.	Women Human Rights Defenders' Network

PARTNERS:

NO.	ORGANISATION
1.	National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Uganda (NCHRDs)
2.	Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
3.	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
4.	Uganda Journalists' Association (UJA)
5	Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT)

HEAD OFFICE KAMPALA

Block No. 207, Plot No. 2756 Kanyanya Off Gayaza Rd Opposite GAZ Petrol Station P.o Box 6108, Kampala Uganda Tel +256323301261 and +256323301260

GULU OFFICE

Layibi A and B Village Left Hand Side on Gulu - Kampala Road 1/2Km after Railway Crossing. Plot 16-18 Olanya Tony Road Behind Pope Francis Secondary School Tel; 0323301624 and 0766416090

THE JOURNEY OF HOPE 47