



African Centre for
Treatment and Rehabilitation of
Torture Victims (ACTV)



Beyond **NUMBERS**

2021 **ANNUAL**
REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Dear partners,


It is my singular honour to present to you the 2021 African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) annual report entitled ***Beyond Numbers***.

The report reflects on the achievements attained, the challenges encountered and the lessons learnt along the way as we strive for a world free from torture. It should be noted that 2021 marked the first year of implementation of the ACTV Five-Year Strategic Plan 2021–2025. Drawing upon the lessons learnt from the previous strategic plans, ACTV broadened her mandate to include gender-based violence and

other forms of violence as key issues in the fight against torture.

In 2021, the country held her National General Elections amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Government and political actors had to observe strict guidelines in order to curb the spread of COVID-19. However, this resulted in reports of rampant brutality and torture incidents. In addition, civic space continued to shrink, leading to the suspension of one of our major development partners, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF).

In the wake of the challenges in the operating environment, ACTV continued to advocate against torture and providing rehabilitation services to survivors, thus giving hope beyond numbers. During the year, ACTV received an award during the Inaugural Peace Awards 2021 in recognition of her work towards torture prevention and support for torture survivors. ACTV was able to reach out to 1,151 survivors of



torture and other forms of violence, and these were provided with medical treatment, mental health services, social support and legal aid services. Furthermore, ACTV empowered communities to demand torture accountability through awareness-raising, media campaigns, and transformative engagements with state and non-state actors.

ACTV would like to thank all the development partners and other stakeholders that have contributed to her work during the year, for without them we would not have made such significant achievements. I would like to warmly thank the ACTV management and staff for their work and contribution towards advocating against torture and violence, and for providing holistic rehabilitation to survivors.

I wish you enjoyable reading of this report as we continue advocating for a world free from torture.

Hon. Livingstone Okello Okello
Board Chairperson

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER




Twenty twenty-one is the first year of the new ACTV Strategic Plan (2021–2025), and during the COVID-19 pandemic it became clear that we have to expand our focus beyond dealing only with torture to encompass gender-based violence and other forms of violence.

In January 2021, presidential and parliamentary elections were held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the strict guidelines developed by the Ministry of Health

on how the candidates should carry out their campaigns led to violence being meted out by the enforcement agencies in their efforts to enforce these guidelines in general and to torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and punishment. The details are found in the body of this annual report.

In February 2021, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) was suspended from supporting civil society in Uganda. This had a huge impact on the work ACTV does in implementing its mandate, including, but not limited to, advocacy against torture and the treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture.

On a positive note, we remain eternally grateful to our fellow civil society organisations (CSOs) in general and the Coalition against Torture members in particular for the activities done in our joint quest to rid the world of torture. We also thank the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), security agencies, as well as Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)



“On a positive note, we remain eternally grateful to our fellow civil society organisations (CSOs) in general and the Coalition against Torture members in particular for the activities done in our joint quest to rid the world of torture.”

for the various engagements, especially in the area of trainings and creating awareness about prevention of torture measures. Last but not least, we thank the development partners who have supported us and been flexible, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let me take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Board, management and staff for succeeding to implement the ACTV mandate albeit the challenges encountered. To you I remain eternally grateful.

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga

Chief Executive Officer

“

Torturers must never be allowed to get away with their crimes, and systems that enable torture should be dismantled or transformed

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General

”

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
AIGP	Assistant Inspector General of Police
CAT	Coalition against Torture
CMI	Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DISO	District Internal Security Officer
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IRCT	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
PPTA	The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RRU	Rapid Response Unit
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRT	Sigrid Rausing Trust
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNOHCR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

SNAPSHOT OF 2021

Welcomed survivors of torture from 7 **African countries**: Uganda, DRC, South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda and Cameroon.

Treated and rehabilitated **1,151** new survivors of torture and violence, and reviewed **1,715**.

Supported 227 new survivors with legal services.

Comforted 254 new survivors of torture through social counselling.

Attended to the mental health needs of **175** new survivors through individual and group psychological counselling.

Commemorated the United Nations Day, 26 June, in Support of Torture Survivors on the theme “**Speak Out against Torture During and After COVID-19**”.

Reached out to 1,169,622 people on social media with 5,084 **people engaged** through our Facebook page and Twitter pages and **1,814** through community dialogues.

Trained 409 members of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS).

ACTV AREAS OF OPERATION, 2021

Central Region:

Kampala
Wakiso
Mukono
Mityana

Northern Region:

Gulu, Amuru, Lira, Apac,
Kitgum, Agago, Pader,
Oyam

Karamoja Region:

Kaabong

Western Region:

Kasese

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2021, ACTV launched its new strategy for the period 2021–2025, which would provide strategic direction for the next five years aimed at advocating against torture, gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of violence, and provide holistic care to survivors. The organisation broadened its mandate to provide services to survivors of gender-based violence and other forms of violence.

Provision of services continued amidst COVID-19 and ACTV was able to provide services to 1,151 (649 male, 502 female) survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence. Of these, 27 (13 male, 14 female) were children that also received services. There was a 19.8% increase in the number of survivors received in 2021 in comparison to those of 2020.

1.1 OUR WORK

ACTV has six pillars with six strategic objectives.

Pillar 1: Holistic Treatment and Rehabilitation

SO1: Promote access to holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence.

Pillar 2: Advocacy for Torture Prevention

SO2: Advocate for the prevention of torture and the effective implementation of the anti-torture law.

Pillar 3: Research and Documentation

SO3: Strengthen research and documentation on torture and other forms of violence.

Pillar 4: Livelihood Support

SO4: Empower survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence through livelihood support.

Pillar 5: Legal Aid

SO5: Strengthen legal support to survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence through professional litigation services.

Pillar 6: Enhance Institutional Sustainability

SO6: Improve resource mobilisation, financial sustainability, human resource capacity and organisational systems of ACTV.

2.0 CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

COVID -19 Pandemic and Its Effects

The government continued to enforce the presidential and Ministry of Health guidelines to curb the spread of the pandemic. Implementation of organisational activities being continued amidst COVID-19 with tele-services provided to survivors of torture, as well as the utilisation of the work-from-home policy.

Election period

Uganda held its presidential and parliamentary elections amidst COVID-19 and these were marred by allegations of torture, violence, illegal detention and enforced disappearances. Limitations were imposed on the monitoring of elections by CSOs.

Shrinking civic space

The operations of the DGF were suspended and this affected ACTV's work in the provision of services to survivors of torture. Few organisations were granted permission to monitor elections.

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS



The ACTV CEO after receiving the Peace Award 2021 on behalf of ACTV.

3.1 Holistic Treatment and Rehabilitation

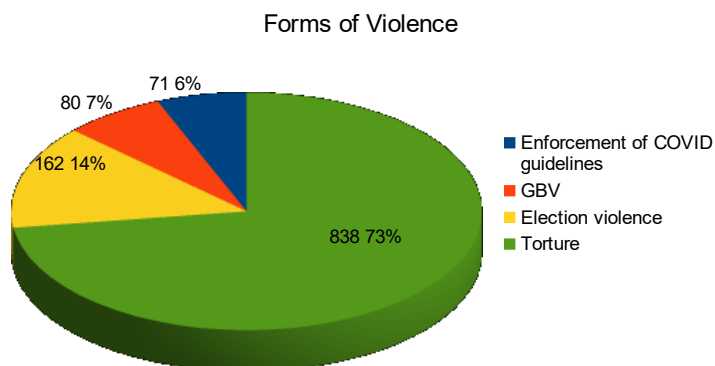
ACTV enhanced access to holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to 1,151 (649 male, 502 female) survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence through restoring their hope and assisting them in facing the future.

3.1.1 Survivors of torture who received ACTV services in 2021

Table 1: Statistics on new survivors who received services in 2021

MONTH	KAMPALA			GULU			KARAMOJA			KASESE			TOTAL		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
JANUARY	12	7	19	5	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	9	26
FEBRUARY	33	29	62	21	41	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	70	124
MARCH	41	38	79	26	3	29	43	23	66	0	0	0	110	64	174
APRIL	17	12	29	13	37	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	49	79
MAY	38	18	56	18	26	44	31	6	37	18	19	37	105	69	174
JUNE	0	0	0	15	13	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	28
JULY	6	4	10	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	12
AUGUST	13	3	16	25	17	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	20	58
SEPTEMBER	1	11	12	11	25	36	23	26	49	9	4	13	44	66	110
OCTOBER	12	6	18	25	29	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	35	72
NOVEMBER	48	22	70	69	17	86	47	5	52	12	17	29	176	61	237
DECEMBER	4	21	25	11	21	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	42	57
	225	171	396	241	231	472	144	60	204	39	40	79	649	502	1151

ACTV was able to provide services to 1,151 survivors of torture and violence in Uganda, an increase of 19.8% from the 960 survivors reached out to in 2020. This could be as a result of 2020 being an election year, with presidential and parliamentary elections being held, which were characterised by violence and acts of torture.

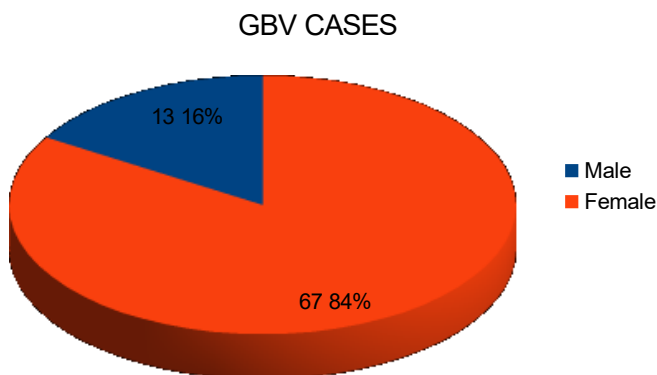


Torture in the Context of COVID-19

In 2021, the country experienced the second lockdown. As a result, ACTV received survivors who were tortured in the process of enforcing presidential and Ministry of Health guidelines. 71 (40 male, 31 female) cases were recorded in 2021 in comparison to the 95 cases recorded in 2020. It should be noted that the president came out to condemn torture during this period and CSOs also condemned what was happening. This could partly explain the decline in the numbers registered.

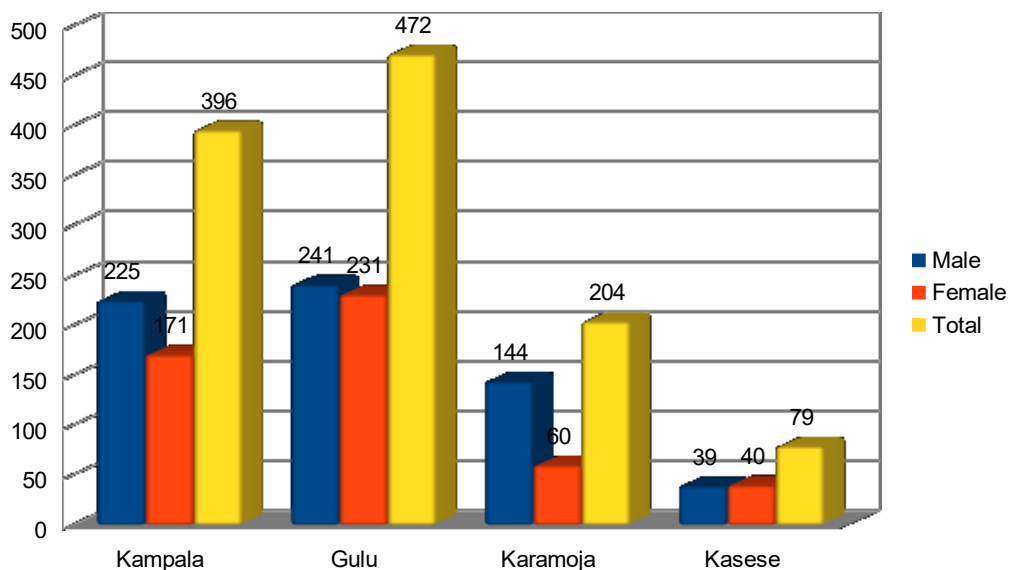
Gender-based Violence

As a result of COVID-19, ACTV responded to cases of GBV in 2020 and registered 63 survivors. Therefore, in developing its new strategy, ACTV now responds to survivors of GBV. The organisation in 2021 was able to provide specialised services to 80 (13 male, 67 female) survivors of GBV. From the statistics, it is clear that GBV disproportionately affects women as compared to men. More women received rehabilitation services from the organization, as shown in the chart below.



ACTV RECEPTION CENTRES

Graph 1: Clients received at the different centres



The Gulu Centre registered the highest number of clients at 472 (41%) and the Kampala Centre registered 396 (34.4%) clients. Karamoja received 204 (17.7%) and Kasese 79 (6.9%) survivors. The Gulu Centre still receives survivors of torture from the LRA war who are suffering from the long-term effects of torture.

3.1.2 Point of contact with survivors of torture

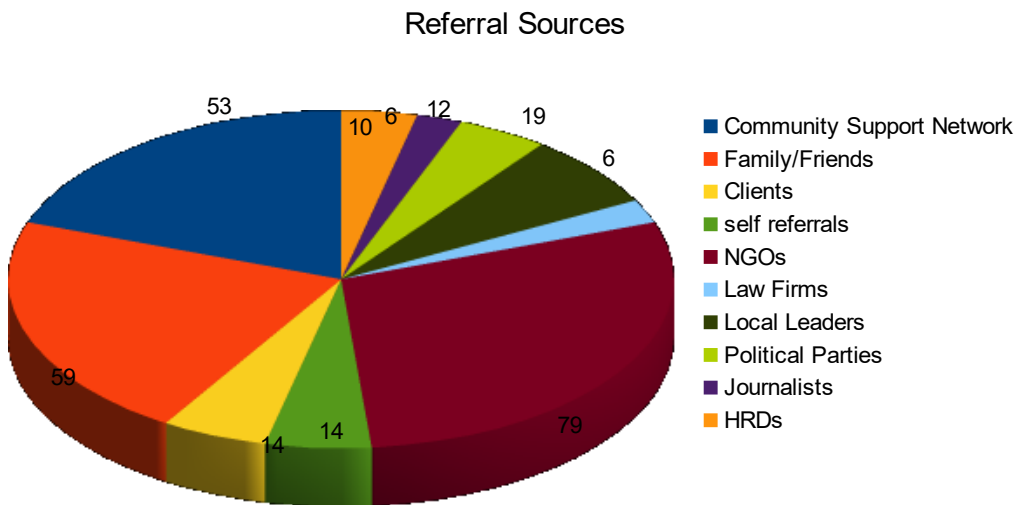
Table 2: Point of contact

CONTACT	KAMPALA	GULU	KARAMOJA	KASESE	TOTAL
Static office	153	67	4	0	224
Jesuit Refugee Services	30	0	0	0	30
Community outreach	17	151	200	79	447
Home visits	127	213	0	0	340
Tele-services	52	19	0	0	71
Documentation (field visits)	17	20	0	0	37
Case follow-up	0	2	0	0	2
Total	396	472	204	79	1151

The majority of the clients in 2021 were contacted through community outreach (447 clients), followed by those seen through home visits (340 clients). Home visits were intensified during the year in order to reach out to survivors that faced limitations in their efforts to reach the static centres.

3.1.2.2 Referrals to ACTV

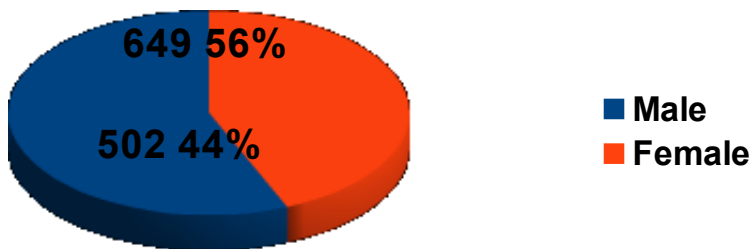
Graph 2: Referrals of clients



Building partnerships with various stakeholders is key to the provision of services to survivors. As can be seen in the graph above, NGOs have continued to lead in referring survivors to access services, with 79 survivors referred. ACTV’s community support network, which includes peer support workers and community facilitators, among others, also refer survivors to ACTV centres. With awareness creation about torture and violence in communities, local leaders, political parties, families and friends have been instrumental in referring survivors to ACTV.

3.1.3 Gender of the clients received

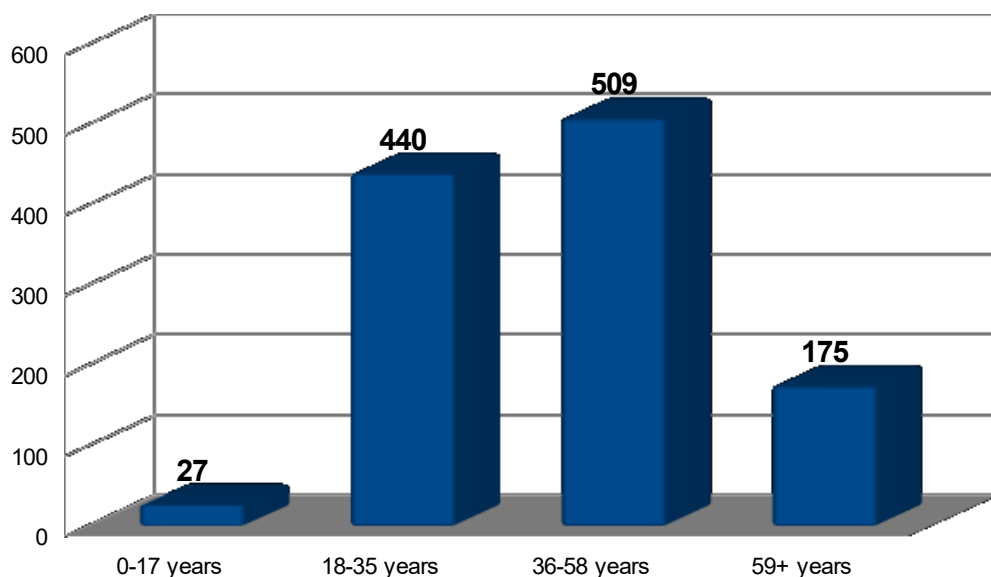
Graph 3: Sex of clients



ACTV realised an increase in female survivors accessing services from 433 in 2020 to 502 in 2021. This could be explained by the fact that more women reported cases of GBV than men in the reporting period and also experienced torture as a result of COVID-19. However, it is also encouraging that more women are now seeking rehabilitation services, and not only men.

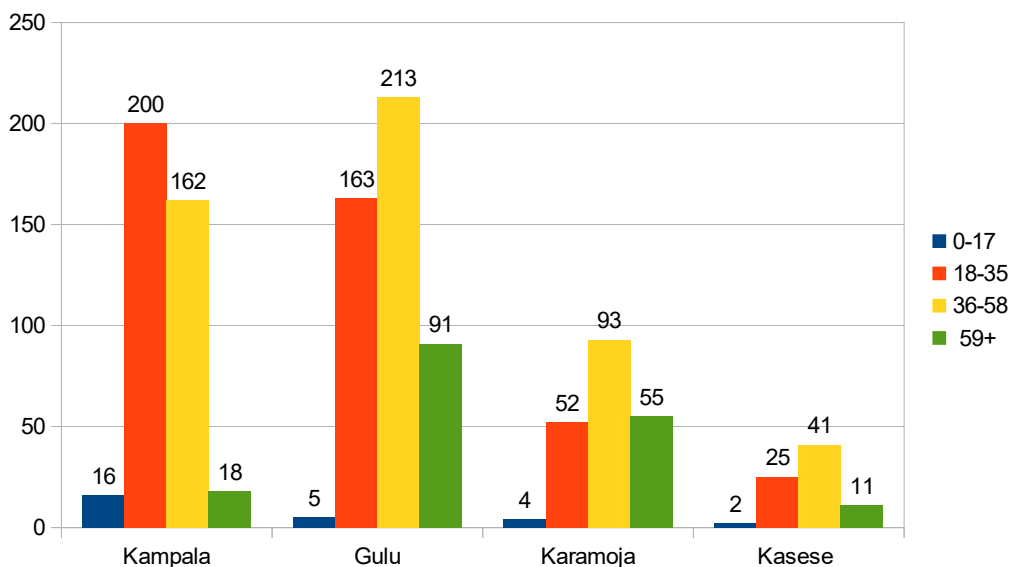
1.1.4 Age distribution of torture survivors

Graph 4: Age distribution



ACTV received 509 survivors in the age category of 36–58, as shown in the graph above, followed by the youth, at 440, thus highlighting the prevalence of torture in Uganda. However, unpacking the statistics as per reception centre indicates that Kampala continues to receive more youth in the age category of 18–35, especially in connection with the presidential and parliamentary elections, as shown in the graph below.

1.3.5.1 Age distribution by centre



1.1.5 Distribution of clients by nationality

Table 3: Nationality of the clients received

Nationality	Female	Male	Total	Percentage
Uganda	413	619	1032	89.7%
DRC	62	21	83	7.2%
Rwanda	20	3	23	2%
Burundi	4	4	8	0.7%
Sudan	3	1	4	0.3%
Cameroon	1	0	1	0.1%
TOTAL	502	649	1151	100%

Ugandan nationals made up 89.7% of the clients seen and the refugees accounted for 10.3%. The reduction in the number of refugees is attributed to the COVID-19 measures that limited cross-border movements.

1.1.6 Alleged perpetrators of torture

Alleged perpetrators	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%
UPDF	569	28.5%	426	39.1	371	30%
LRA	163	8.2%	176	16.1%	348	27.1%
Private individuals Torture (163) GBV(80)	394	19.7%	167	15.3	243	19%
Uganda Police	451	22.6	170	15.6%	126	9.8%
Unknown	54	2.7%	55	5.1%	99	7.7%
Other regions (refugees)	80	4.0%	53	4.9%	60	4.7%
Game rangers	0	0	0	0	16	1.2%
Clan leaders	5	0.2	2	0.2%	5	0.4%
Mob justice	69	3.5%	6	0.6%	3	0.2%
Local Council	20	1.0%	4	0.4%	2	0.1%
Karamoja warriors	9	0.5%	7	0.6%	5	0.4%
Intelligence agencies (ISO)	18	0.9%	4	0.4%	4	0.2%
Prison warders	23	1.2%	9	0.8%	0	0
Government officials	82	4.1%	0	0	0	0
Security unspecified	19	0.9%	0	0	0	0
Inmates/Katikkiros	14	0.7%	0	0	0	0
Private security guards	7	0.4%	4	0.4%	0	0
Opposition supporters	6	0.3%	0	0	0	0
NRM supporters	4	0.2%	0	0	0	0
RDCs	3	0.15%	1	0.1%	0	0
Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)	2	0.1%	4	0.4%	0	0

Source: ACTV

The Uganda People's Defence Forces are top of the list, at 30%. However, there was a decline from 39% in 2020. The effects of the LRA conflict are still being felt in the Northern region, accounting for 27.1% of the alleged perpetrators. Torture by private individuals is increasingly becoming an issue which must be addressed. This came third at 19%, with the police in fourth place at 9.8%. It is commendable that torture by the police is on the decline in comparison to the last two years. The increase in the number of allegations against the UPDF relate

to the operations that they were involved in, i.e. the disarmament in Karamoja, elections and responses to the bomb blasts in the November 2021.

1.1.7 Reasons for torture

Table 4: The reasons for torture

No.	Reason	Total
1	Rebel atrocities	348
2	Disarmament process	196
3	Intimidation	194
4	Punishment	188
5	Election violence	162
6	GBV	80
7	Forced confession	78
8	Enforcement of COVID-19 guidelines	71
9	Land wrangles	56
10	Humiliation	41
11	Sowing fear	37
12	Reason unknown	35
13	Extraction of information	20
14	Extortion	15
15	Destruction of personality	13
16	Destruction of opposition	8
17	Disruption of community	7
18	Mistaken identity	6
19	Tribe/ethnicity	6
20	Discrimination	4
21	Dispersing social gathering	4
22	Family/personal conflict	4
23	Ethnic clashes	1
24	Relationship with victim	1

The major reason for torture was rebel activities; there are victims of the LRA conflict (348) that still present with long-term effects of torture. Furthermore, there is a significant number of survivors that were tortured during the disarmament in Karamoja region (196). Punishment and intimidation were also pointed out as reasons for torture. The others included election violence, GBV, forced confession, land wrangles, enforcement of COVID-19 guidelines, sowing of fear, among others.

1.1.8 Methods of torture

Table 5: Major forms of torture

Forms of Torture					
Form	Gulu	Karamoja	Kampala	Kasese	Grand Total
Physical forms of torture					
Beating (blunt trauma)	403	236	421	89	1,149
Sexual torture	39	08	73	01	121
Exposure to poor conditions of detention	26	31	41	0	98
Penetrating injuries	47	11	15	1	74
Positional torture	32	13	20	0	65
Deprivation of normal sensory stimulation	0	0	16	0	16
Asphyxiation	0	0	14	0	14
Burns	7	0	5	0	12
Crush injuries	3		5		8
Chemical exposure	0	0	5	2	7
Medical amputation	0	0	1	0	1
Electric shocks	0	0	1	0	1
Psychological forms of torture					
Accentuating feelings of helplessness	67	23	101	5	196
Sexual torture	39	08	73	01	121
Humiliation	0	0	79	1	80
Witnessing torture of others	38	4	21	0	63
Threats	0	0	51	2	53
Behavioural coercion	5	0	2	0	7
Pharmacological torture	0	0	2	0	2

Beating that leads to blunt trauma and accentuating the feeling of helplessness was the commonest form of physical and psychological torture. Sexual torture that included rape, forced nakedness and insertion of objects into one's sexual organs was significantly reported. This had both physical and psychological attributes.

3.1.10 Holistic rehabilitation services offered to survivors

Medical treatment (including physiotherapy services)

1,151 survivors of torture and other forms of violence were provided with medical treatment of whom 223 (145 male, 78 female) received physiotherapy. 115 survivors were referred for more specialised services due to the complexity of effects they suffered from torture. The medical treatment was provided both at ACTV treatment centres and during community outreach.



The ACTV medical team working alongside a trained health worker in Isule Health Centre III to offer medical services to survivors of torture that attended the medical outreach.



Physiotherapy treatment being given to a client during a home visit.

Psychological counselling

In 2021, 175 (96 male, 79 female) survivors that presented with mental health challenges were offered psychological counselling. This was done through individual and group counselling sessions, as well as brief family therapy. The counselling helped the survivors to regain their psychological wellness that had been affected by torture that included depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, suicidal ideation and behaviour change.

Social support

Social support, including social counselling, providing basic needs and economic empowerment, was provided to 254 (136 male, 118 female). This enabled survivors to rebuild their lives, restore their social networks so as to reintegrate in the community, and live a self-reliant life. In addition, 48 home visits were made and 415 survivors were reached out to this way, especially secondary survivors who were offered social support within their homes.



Staff engagement with a survivor during a home visit in Mityana district.



A human rights defender receiving business inputs for economic empowerment.



A bee-keeping project for survivors of torture to enhance their livelihoods.



The ACTV Head of Programmes handing over a VSLA kit to a group of survivors after undergoing VSLA training.



ACTV social workers during an awareness session on community intergration of survivors of torture in Nabweru.

3.2 ADVOCACY AGAINST TORTURE

ACTV continued to undertake advocacy interventions that aimed at the prevention of torture and the effective implementation of the anti-torture law. In 2021 advocacy the activities carried out included awareness-creation among communities, media campaigns both in mainstream and social media, capacity-building of state and non-state actors, and engagement meetings with stakeholders. ACTV engaged community volunteers who were fundamental in mobilising and raising awareness in communities.

3.2.1 Awareness-creation interventions

In 2021, a total of 1,814 (967 male, 847 female) people were reached out to during community dialogues and awareness-creation sessions. This was aimed at empowering communities with knowledge of torture prevention and response mechanisms so as to enhance torture prevention and accountability. Kasese district had more people reached out to (1,362) during the continuous community engagements made by community facilitators (volunteers) through the community support network model.

Table 6: Community dialogues carried out

District	Sub-county	Number of dialogues	People reached		
			Male	Female	Total
Kasese	Maliba	05	376	369	745
	Bwesumbu	05	355	262	617
Gulu	Lakang and Awach	02	60	108	168
Napak	Matany	01	64	14	78
Masaka City	Kimanya Kabonera Division	02	56	31	87
Kampala	Kawempe Division	02	56	63	119
Total		17	967	847	1,814



Community awareness session in Kasese – Nyabisusi parish, Maliba sub-county.



The community facilitator and ACTV social worker creating awareness at Bwesumbu H/C III.

3.2.2 Capacity-building for state and non-state actors

State and non-state actors as duty bearers and rights holders, respectively, play a major role in the prevention of torture and holding perpetrators accountable. Therefore, building their capacity is important so that they are able to fight acts of torture. During the year 2021, a total of 171 (115 male, 56 female) state and non-state actors had their capacity on torture and the laws against torture built. These included members of JLOS, CSOs, local leaders and journalists. Furthermore, a total of 238 JLOS members from Mukona, Wakiso, Gulu and Kampala were trained in a joint project with Human Rights Centre Uganda and Uganda Human Rights Commission funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

Table 7: Capacity-building for state and non-state actors

District	Period	Institution	Topic	Venue	M	F	Total
Kampala	12 March 2021	Civil society organisations	Psychosocial needs of human rights defenders based on ACTV research findings	Jfrigh Hotel	11	09	20
Kasese	31 March 2021	Community counsellors	Basic psychological counselling	Uhuru50 Hotel	06	04	10
Kasese	1 June 2021	Community formal structures	Roles of different institutions in the prevention of and response to torture and violence in the community	Uhuru50 Hotel	12	05	17
Kasese	2 June 2021	Local Councils I and II	Referral pathways for survivors of torture	Uhuru50 Hotel	21	00	21
Kasese	14 September 2021	Community informal structures	Referral pathways for survivors of torture	Uhuru50 Hotel	13	07	20
Kasese	7 September 2021	Peer support workers	Refresher training on the provision of social support for PSWs	Virina Hotel	08	02	10
	14 September 2021	Health workers	Refresher training on effective management and treatment of SOT	Uhuru50 Hotel	07	02	09

Wakiso	March 2021	Journalists	Mental health and wellbeing	Esella Hotel	09	09	18
Kampala	1 and 2 September 2021	Journalists	Trauma-informed reporting in investigative journalism	Tick Hotel	11	08	19
Wakiso	30 and 31 August 2021	Community volunteers	Human rights, torture prevention and referral mechanism	Esella Hotel	17	10	27
Total					115	56	171



Training of community counsellors in Kasese on basic counselling skills at Uhuru50 Hotel.



The peer support workers engaging in an exercise on how to use the tree of life in supporting survivors during refresher training in Kasese.



Participants during refresher training of health workers in Kasese district.



Training of community facilitators from Kampala, Masaka and Gulu districts at Essella Hotel, Kampala.



Training of Local Council I and II leaders in Kasese district on referral pathways for survivors of torture



Training of journalists on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing at Essella Hotel.

3.2.3 High-level engagement meetings with MDAs and stakeholders

High-level engagement meetings with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders were carried out to advocate for torture prevention as well as raising the voices of survivors.

Table 8: High-level engagements carried out in 2021

District	Period	Institution	Venue	Number of participants			Topic of discussion
				M	F	TOTAL	
Kampala	30 April 2021	MDAs, Parliament and CSOs	Serena Hotel in Kampala	06	06	12	Election violence and torture
Kasese	15 September 2021	Kasese District Health Committee	Sandton Hotel in Kasese	05	06	11	Documentation of survivors in health centres
	16 September 2021	Kasese district leaders	Sandton Hotel in Kasese	12	05	17	The community support network model
Kasese	30 November 2021	Ambassadors/ diplomatic missions	Serena Hotel in Kampala	03	06	09	Recommendations for the Universal Periodic Review
Kasese	25 November 2021	Ministries, Departments and Agencies	Protea Hotel Marriot in Kampala	06	03	09	Recommendations for the Universal Periodic Review



ACTV team with officers of the Uganda Police Force in Gomba district during a community follow-up on survivors of torture.



The launch of a booklet on the importance of professional documentation of torture during elections.

3.2.4 Media advocacy

The media play an important role in passing on information to the public. ACTV continued raising awareness through the various media platforms, including social media and mainstream media, i.e. radio and television. In addition, ACTV engaged with journalists so as to enhance their participation in the fight against torture.

Table 9: Engagements with the media

Media campaign	Period	Media platform
Social media	Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 8 to 9 February 2021 a social media campaign with StopTortureUG # was run to promote the importance of documentation of torture cases.• #Justice4TortureSurvivors hashtag 11-day online campaign performed from 1 July 2021 to 11 July 2021.• Generally, we reached out to 1,169,622 people on Facebook and Twitter in 2021 – 700,000 people on Twitter and 469,622 people on Facebook. We engaged 5,084 people with our posts – 3,097 on Twitter and 1987 on Facebook – compared to 2020, where we reached out to 104,734 people.	<i>Twitter and Facebook</i>

Press releases	<p>Two (2) press releases were developed and published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement on ill treatment of journalists by security agencies entitled 'Journalism and security agencies at crossroads; a test for democracy and good governance in Uganda' released online on 23 February 2021 in response to the beating of journalists that were covering the opposition presidential candidate as he delivered a petition to the UNOHCHR. • World Mental Health Day 2021: Title 'Survivors of torture need access to mental health services in Uganda'. 	<i>Twitter and Facebook</i>
Production and airing of radio spot messages	<p>The 14 radio spot messages which were produced were aired 406 times in total in Luo, Luganda, English and Lushono.</p> <p>CBS FM, Radio One FM, Rupiny Radio, Simba Radio, 91.3 Capital FM, Light FM, Ngeya UBC</p>	<i>Electronic media (radio)</i>
ACTV television talk shows	<p>Six (6) TV talk shows were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These initiatives were due to ACTV's strong working relationship with Vision Group under the DGF-funded project on promoting rights and enhancing justice. 	<i>Electronic (television)</i>
ACTV Radio talk shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBS 88.8 FM – 29 September 2021 from 8 pm to 9 pm • Buddu 98.8 FM – 21 September 2021 from 6 pm to 7 pm • Centenary 88.1 FM – 21 September 2021 from 4 pm to 5 pm • 100.5 Bukedde FM – 30 November 2021 at 7pm to 8 pm • Radio One FM 90 – 24 November 2021 • Radio One FM 90 – 10 December 2021 from 4 pm to 5 pm • CBS 88.8 FM – 22 November 2021 • 107.6 Mboona FM – 27 October 2021 	<i>Electronic media (radio)</i>

Media space offered by the Coalition against Torture (CAT) members and partners	<p>Through Human Rights Centre Uganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupiny FM – 12 March , 2021 • KFM – 23rd February 2021 • Dunamis FM – 11 February 2021 • Beat FM – 25 February 2021 • Rupiny FM – 26 April 2021 • Sanyu FM – 08 June 2021 <p>During the UN Day, 26 June 2020, commemoration in support of torture victims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 26 June 2021, 1 e-public dialogue on NTV was aired live. • On 24 and 25 June 2021, 2 TV talk shows conducted. • 3 TV promos prior to the e-public dialogue done from 24 June 2021 to 26 June 2021. • Online media campaign done for 7 days from 19 June 2021 to 26 June 2021. • 4 radio talk shows held: 2 in Karamoja sub-region – on 25 June 2020 from 9 am to 10 am on Ateker Radio station and Etoil Radio. • 2 in Central region: 24 June 2021 on Akaboozi Ku Biri from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Radio One FM 90 from 7 pm to 8 pm. • 2 radio spot messages produced: 1 in English on Radio One FM 90 from 24 June 2021 and 1 in Luganda on Radio Simba FM 97.3 on 24 June 2021. • An ACTV torture documentary was aired on UBC, NTV and NBS TV. 	<i>Electronic media (radio)</i>
Media breakfast meetings and press conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 11 January 2021, journalists attended a media breakfast meeting that was held at Protea Hotel Skyz and the importance of documenting torture stories was discussed. 27 journalists were reached out to – 17 male and 10 female. 	<i>Electronic media</i>

Following the various ACTV media engagements, media houses continued raising awareness about reporting incidents of torture. This included providing detailed investigations and analysis of the incidents as they reported about them. Here is a list of some of the torture stories reported in the media:

1. <https://www.independent.co.ug/mp-francis-zaake-awarded-ugx-75m-for-torture/>
2. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/2021-rights-report-paints-grim-picture-of-torture-3847912>
3. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/03/12/uganda-opposition-torture/>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/22/torture-abducted-uganda-crackdown-museveni>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/11/world/africa/uganda-election-disappearances-museveni.html>
6. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/22/uganda-hundreds-disappeared-tortured>
7. <https://www.voanews.com/a/uganda-security-agencies-accused-of-torture-disappearances-of-civilians/6496166.html>



Some of the media engagements attended by ACTV to enhance torture prevention advocacy.



ACTV staff on television talk shows to discuss issues of torture.



ACTV staff and partners on radio talk shows at CBS FM in Kampala and Mboona FM in Mityana districts, respectively.

3.2.5 Commemoration of 26 June in Support of Torture Victims

The 26 June UN Day in Support of Torture Victims was commemorated under the theme “Support torture survivors to report and access justice”. The day was used to demand accountability and justice for survivors. ACTV worked with partners under the Coalition against Torture (CAT) to organise and implement a series of activities in respect to the day. The grand activity was an e-public dialogue that was telecast live on television. The e-public dialogue was attended by: a survivor of torture; the UHRC Director of Legal Complaints and Investigations; a representative from the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions; and a representative from the Uganda Police Force. Other activities included radio talk shows, airing of spot messages and the release of a press statement.



E-public dialogue and television talk show during the commemoration of 26 June UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

3.2.6 Universal Periodic Review

ACTV, together with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, led the Civil Political Rights cluster in developing the CSO shadow report ahead of the Universal Period Review for Uganda. In addition, in partnership with International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), a policy brief with specific issues and recommendations on the prevention of torture and ill treatment in Uganda was developed for use in advocacy with state actors, development partners and embassies. The key issues raised in the brief were better investigation and prosecution of torture offences, comprehensive reparation to survivors and improved detention monitoring, and recommendations were made in that regard. Bilateral online engagement meetings were held with different delegations that included Denmark, Norway, France, Germany, Mexico, France, Britain and Ireland. A further 2 meetings were conducted on 25 November 2021, at Protea Hotel Marriot in Kampala district, and was attended by 9 (6 male, 3 female) representatives from government MDAs and another on Tuesday 30 November 2021, at Serena Hotel in Kampala district, and attended by 6 ambassadors. The meetings were aimed at lobbying the delegates, government agencies and stakeholders to support and adopt our recommendations during Uganda's Universal Periodic Review.



A group photo with the Danish Ambassador, His Excellency Nicolaj Abraham Hejberg Petersen, during the engagement with delegates on the Universal Period Review.



A group photo with stakeholders from government MDAs after an engagement meeting to discuss the Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

3.3 Staff capacity-building and participation in regional and international dialogues

- IRCT webinar on the importance of livelihood in rehabilitation, where the ACTV Social Work Coordinator gave a presentation.
- CSVr webinar on torture and trauma in Africa where the ACTV Programme Manager was a panellist.
- OMCT anti-torture week, where the Head of Programmes was a panellist in one of the webinars.
- DIGNITY partners international online meeting.
- OMCT African Working Group online and meeting in Senegal.
- IRCT thematic online meeting about the management of conversion therapy and its effect on survivors of torture.
- PARI participated in the regional consultation webinar held from 13 to 17 September 2021 on the theme “Accountability and Access to Justice for Survivors”. ACTV presented a paper on the status of torture in Uganda. The PARI rehabilitation manual was launched.
- CTI international convention which attracted the major global stakeholders involved in the fight against torture from ambassadors to UN stakeholders and CSOs, among others.
- Training of staff in communication and office etiquette.
- Training of staff on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

4.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- Inability to access places of detention especially since the year was an election year with many detained and in need of rehabilitation services. It is important to design an approach of provision of tele services in the prison setting in order to maintain a connection with survivors of torture and violence.
- Working amidst COVID-19 which limited personal contact with survivors of torture. Assessment through tele services can be challenging, costly and time consuming
- Dwindling resources towards the rehabilitation of survivors of torture and violence more so, with the suspension of the Democratic Governance Facility by the State. The importance of having a sustainability strategy was amplified during this period.
- Immense fear among survivors of torture and violence during the election period hindered them from having their cases effectively documented. It calls for trust building which takes time amidst threats and intimidation from perpetrators.

5.0 BEST PRACTICES

- Reflection and continuous learning have provided a platform for replication of best practices. For instance, professional documentation of torture and violence is an integral part of the work that ACTV does on a daily basis.
- Giving hope to survivors of torture walking the recovery journey through the documentation of success stories and sharing of experiences is critical.
- The community support network model of building local level structures to provide basic services and sensitise communities on their rights and responsibilities is an effective way of tackling torture and violence in communities.

6.0 GOING FORWARD

- Development of a sustainability strategy for the organisation in the wake of the shrinking civic space.
- Adoption of a transformational approach to working with state actors in order to implement the PPTA (2012) and its Regulations (2017).
- Conducting a study on the cost of torture to the economy as a means of amplifying the effects of torture.
- Enhancing and building our work at the regional and international levels in order to advocate against torture and violence.
- Advocate for a national rehabilitation policy for survivors of torture and violence.

7.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

2021 INCOME

Donor	Amount
IGF	44,076,000
DIGNITY	641,050,000
WELLSPRINGS_ HRD Project	174,279,000
WELLSPRINGS_ General Support)	561,368,000
DGF	274,774,000
IRCT	86,454,000
UNVFVT	133,369,000
CFLI	91,309,000
CISU	199,605,000
Total	2,206,284,000

2021 EXPENDITURE

ITEM	Amount
PERSONNEL COSTS	1,552,245
CONSULTANCY	37,373
GOVERNANCE	3,541
OFFICE RUNNING COSTS	368,968
TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION	937,777
PUBLIC AWARENESS, TRAINING & NETWORKING	553,470
DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION	79,560
CAPACITY-BUILDING	1,760
REPORTING	28,690
TOTAL	3,563,384

ACTV Staff in 2021

Staff Name	Title
Samuel Herbert Nsubuga	Chief Executive Officer
Esther Nabwire Waswa	Head of Programmes
Sophia Achan	Head of Finance and Administration
Alex Kigoye	Programme Manager, Kampala
Alfred Okettayot	Programme Manager, Gulu
Arasto Reece Mujungu	Monitoring and Evaluation Manager
Daniel Lubinga	Accountant
James Ogwal Opio	Medical Coordinator, Gulu
Leila Wakabi Hassan	Mental Health Coordinator, Kampala
Peace Avola	Social Worker Coordinator, Kampala
Dr. Robert Rafiki	Medical Doctor, Kampala
Isaac Ogwal	Clinical Psychologist, Gulu
Baker Isabirye	Counselling Psychologist
Juliet Anango	Legal Officer, Kampala
Tony Ojok Obonyo	Legal Officer, Gulu
Beatrice Acayo	Social Worker, Gulu
Apollo Robinson Kinyera	Physiotherapist, Kampala
Andrew Olwedo	Physiotherapist, Gulu
Grace Namatovu	Research and Documentation Officer
Paul Kirya Mukalere	Communication and Advocacy Officer
Geoffrey Ojiambo	Information Technology Officer
Annet Nantume	Nurse, Kampala
Susan Labeja	Nurse, Gulu
Robinah Nabatanzi	Accounts Assistant, Kampala
Robinah Nabatanzi	Accounts Assistant, Kampala
Augustine Nkurunziza	Accounts Assistant, Gulu
Esther Kyakuhaire	Social Worker Assistant, Kampala

Staff Name	Title
Mary Nabwogi	Social Worker Assistant, Kampala
Nancy Ayebare	Legal Assistant, Kampala
Joyce Lakop	Psychologist Assistant, Gulu
Edina Atimango	Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, Gulu
Peter Opio	Transport Officer, Kampala
Maureen Nassimbwa	Administration Assistant
Agnes Mukamugema	Interpreter
Charles Ayella	Driver, Kampala
Benon Kanyanzira	Office Attendant, Kampala
Santos Okaa	Office Attendant, Kampala
Volunteers	
Angella Kunihiro	Nurse, Kampala
Brenda Kemigisa	Communication and Advocacy
Joshua Sserwanja	Psychologist, Kampala
Board Members	
Mr Livingstone Okello-Okello	Board Chair
Members	
Dr Juliet Nakku	
Ms Sayson Rossette Meya	
Mr Jackson Katende Semakula	
Reverend Canon Augustine Mushiwuufu Magala	
Secretary	
Mr Samuel Herbert Nsubuga	

APPRECIATION TO PARTNERS

We would like to thank our esteemed partners for standing with survivors of torture and violence in 2021. Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT), which supported ACTV for more than 10 years, WELLSPRINGS, which has trusted the organisation to know what its priorities are and has provided organisational support, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), DIGNITY, which has walked the journey with ACTV at the community level, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), which is passionate about the livelihood of survivors, and the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), which provides holistically for survivors of torture in the Karamoja sub-region.

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

No.	Organisation
1.	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– Uganda
7.	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 Voices
18.	Torture Survivors Association of Uganda (TOSAU)
19.	Penal Reform International-Uganda (PRI)

Partners:

No.	Organisation
1.	Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)
2.	National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Uganda (NCHRDs)
3.	Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
4.	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
5.	Uganda Journalists' Association (UJA)
6.	Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT)

Tribute to a CAT member that passed on.



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) is deeply saddened by the untimely death of a Human Rights Defender (HRD) Mr. Opedun Robert, Executive Director Kumi Human Rights Initiative (KHRI)

We worked closely with Mr. Opedun and KHRI under the Coalition Against Torture (CAT) on many Anti torture campaigns including advocating for the passing of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012. His commitment towards having a just and fair society that respects the rights of every human being will highly be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family of Kumi Human Rights Initiative, the Teso Sub region, and the Human Rights Defenders' fraternity in Uganda.

May the almighty God rest Mr. Opedun Robert's soul in eternal peace, Amen.

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