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

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
ABOUT AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS (ACTV)

ACTV is the pioneer provider of services to survivors and victims of torture in Uganda. ACTV is a registered non-governmental organisation in Uganda. ACTV is accredited by the Ministry of Health to operate a medical referral centre that provides physical and psychological care that supports the process of rehabilitation of victims of torture by state and non-state actors in Uganda and neighbouring countries. ACTV is also accredited to International rehabilitation Council (IRCT)
OUR VISION:
A world free from torture

OUR MISSION:
To advocate against torture and provide holistic care to survivors

OUR CORE VALUES:
Teamwork
Integrity
Professionalism
Compassion
Dear Partners and Friends,

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) with great pleasure presents to you our 2019 Annual Report: Where Is the Will?

We ask this question in order to prompt each one of us to reflect on the fight against torture in Uganda.

Despite its absoluteness, the violation of the right to freedom from torture and ill treatment is still glaring and preempts the discourse regarding the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

The magnitude of the need to continue deliberating on torture can be illustrated by the number of survivors of torture to whom ACTV provided holistic services in 2019, which stood at 2,020 in comparison to 1,070 in 2018.

However, we have registered some successes with regard to the implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) 2012 by the end of 2019. One example is the court order by Justice Seekaana Musa on 19 August 2019 that the accused should pay a compensation of Ush. 120 to the plaintiff for torture leading to loss of a leg to amputation in Issa Wazembe v. Attorney General (Civil Suit No. 154 of 2016).

Another example is the case of Yahaya Lukwago and 4 Others v. AG and 3 Others regarding the torture of inmates in prison where Justice Seekaana Musa ordered compensation for damages amounting to Ush. 150 million to all the five plaintiffs on 20 December 2019. These, among others, constitute the first step in a promising process.

Although we commend the justice sector for these milestones, these are only a drop in the ocean in the light of the total number of survivors reported, which is 2,020. We urge the justice sector to effectively utilise the PPTA to prosecute the perpetrators of torture as a deterrent measure.

Uganda still lags behind in the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture 2006, which allows unlimited access to all places of detention. In addition, there are delays in the receipt of the compensatory awards ordered by both the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) Tribunal courts and the mainstream courts of law. Finally, the absence of a national disaggregation data on torture survivors, as recommended by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to the state delegation a couple of years ago, still haunts us.

Even as we ponder a few of the challenges highlighted above, and further reflect on the journey ACTV walked in 2019, I would like to call on each one of us to condemn torture. The responsibility is, therefore, upon all of us to continue advocating against torture, speaking out at every opportunity and reporting these cases to the relevant authorities.

I would like to conclude by thanking our development partners for the continuous trust you have placed in us and for both the financial and technical support you render to ACTV in her work. Thank you all for amplifying your voices in saying “NO” to torture.

Mr Okello Okello John Livingstone
Board Chairperson
The year 2019 is the second-last year of the ACTV Five-Year (2016-2020) Strategic Plan. Unfortunately, torture is still prevalent in Uganda. The year 2019 was the first in which the survivors of torture ACTV registered surpassed 2,000. The Karamoja sub-region has not been our area of focus but in the latter part of 2018, we started providing services there. Owing to the disarmament exercise, the aforementioned region has over the years not received services. This was the first time, hence the spike in the number of survivors of torture ACTV registered in 2019, which totalled 2,020.

We have started engaging the Ministry of Health to chart a path to mainstream torture treatment and rehabilitation in hospitals and other health institutions. This is because we strive for a situation where most, if not all, health centres have medical officers who know what torture is so that they treat torture cases or at least refer them to ACTV and other health institutions for specialised treatment and rehabilitation.

Furthermore, there are still challenges in effectively implementing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012 (PPTA) or anti-torture law even after the regulations were gazetted in 2017. The perpetrators of torture still need to be identified, isolated, charged using the PPTA and punished. We should go out of our way to report occurrences of torture and the institutions in the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) should consciously use the PPTA to try those suspected of perpetrating torture so that they are subjected to the punishment they deserve. ACTV is in advanced stages of having its legal officers represent the survivors of torture in the courts of law; currently we offer legal advice and refer cases to legal aid service providers and law firms.

This hopefully would act as a deterrent and mitigate occurrences of torture in our country.

Lastly, the parliamentary and presidential elections are less than one year away and already the environment is tense. This requires us, including you, our stakeholders, to prepare for any occurrences of human rights violations.

We remain eternally grateful to our Development Partners, the Coalition against Torture (CAT) members, the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and state and non-state actors who have continued to partner and collaborate with ACTV over the years as we jointly pursue our Vision of a World Free of Torture. Let us not drop our guard. Let us remain resilient and determined, focused and persistent in our pursuit of this Vision.

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
Chief Executive Officer
“The aim of torture is to destroy a person as a human being, to destroy their identity and soul. It is more evil than murder... Today we know that survivors of torture can be helped to regain their health and strength, and in helping them we take the weapon from their torturers. They sought the destruction of other human beings. We have proved that they have not succeeded.”

*Inge Genefke* – Founder member, IRCT
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACTV  African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
IRCT  International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
DGF   Democratic Governance Facility
SRT   Sigrid Raising Trust
PPTA  The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act
CAT   Coalition against Torture
OPCAT Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
FGHR  Fund for Global Human Rights
JLOS  Justice, Law and Order Sector
UHRC  Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNOHR United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPDF  Uganda People’s Defence Forces
LRA   Lord’s Resistance Army
RDC   Resident District Commissioner
AIGP  Assistant Inspector General of Police
DISO  District Internal Security Officer
KCCA  Kampala Capital City Authority
RRU   Rapid Response Unit
DRC   Democratic Republic of Congo
CMI   Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence
PTSD  Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
WHAT YOU HELPED US ACHIEVE IN 2019

Commemorated the United Nations Day: June 26th in support of torture survivors on the theme “Torture is real speak out” in Kampala, Karamoja and Arua

Visited 10 places of detention in Uganda, in 20 visits we provided holistic services to 367 SOTs

Trained 101 state actors (UPDF, Police, OOPP) and 64 cultural and opinion leaders on torture, and 34 CSOs on the Law and Human Rights.

Supported 237 clients with Legal advices, with 65 cases referred to Partners and responded to 20 summons to provide expert witness

Touched Lives of 2020 torture survivors and provided medical, psychological, social and Legal Services

Reached out to 40,103 people on social media through our Facebook page and Twitter pages

Created awareness among 2777 community members on torture, its effects and where to report it and disseminated.

Investigated 6 torture related cases

Tended to mental health needs of 305 survivors through 2100 sessions in individual and group psychological counselling in the communities

Comforted 255 survivors through the provision of social counselling; formed seven social support groups for empowerment and made referrals to partner organisations

Welcomed survivors from African countries in the region (DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Kenya) through providing holistic rehabilitation services
WHERE IS THE WILL?

ACTV AREAS OF OPERATION, 2019

- Central region: Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Mubende
- Northern region: Gulu, Amuru, Lira, Apac, Kitgum, Agago, Pader, Oyam
- Karamoja region: Abim, Kotido, Napak and Kaabong
- West Nile region: Arua
- Western region: Kasese, Fort Portal
1.0 INTRODUCTION

ACTV stayed on course during 2019 and continued with her advocacy work and holistic rehabilitation of survivors. Torture is real and it affected the lives of 2,020 survivors of torture; these included 702 women and 1,318 men, of whom 75 were children. It stripped them of their humanity and dignity, and left them hopeless and vulnerable. ACTV intervened in the lives of these survivors and held their hands as they embarked on a journey of recovery. We thus ask: “Where is the will” to prosecute the perpetrators who committed these torture actions?

This report highlights our journey in 2019 in the provision of quality holistic care to survivors of torture by state and security agencies as we work towards a world free from torture!

1.1 OUR WORK

1. Holistic care: To provide quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture.  
2. Advocacy: To advocate for the prevention of torture and the implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012.  
3. Research: To undertake research and documentation on torture.  
4. Empowerment: To empower survivors of torture through livelihood programmes to integrate them in society.  
5. Organisational strengthening: To build the institutional capacity of ACTV to deliver on its mandate.

2.0 OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

EXTERNAL

• The enactment of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act 2019  
• In September 2019, Members of Parliament on the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee were blocked from accessing suspected ‘safe houses’ in Nkokonjeru, Kyengera and Nalukolongo.  
• The untimely death of a key partner of ACTV, Mr Medi Kaggwa, the Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission.  
• The development of the Human Rights Policy of the Police.  
• Passing of the National Transitional Policy.  
• Mandatory validation of NGOs in Uganda.  
• The training and passing out of Local Defence Units (LDUs) in villages.  
• Restrictions on freedom of expression, for instance, vis-à-vis Stella Nyanzi, Makerere University students involved in a demonstration protesting an increase in tuition fees etc.
INTERNAL

• ACTV now has a well constituted Board of five professionals in the field of Medicine, Law, Social Development and Finance, who are providing strategic direction to the organisation.
• Approval by the Law Council for ACTV to operate a Legal Aid Clinic.

3.0 STRIDES MADE IN 2019

3.1 The provision of quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture

Torture is real in Uganda and its effects are also real. This is captured in the voices of some of the survivors from the Arua by-elections who received rehabilitation services in 2019:

“I am just a man by title now. I cannot provide for my family or even perform conjugal rights…”

“My husband blamed me for attending the rally on the 13 of August 2018 during the by-election here in Arua. He said I had gone to look for another man so I deserve the pain. He has left me with six children. I cannot support myself or my children….I don’t work….where do I get the money to feed them?”…She paused and cried…”Life has become very difficult for me”

“NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US”

ACTV’s approach to the provision of quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation focuses on the involvement of the survivors of torture in the rehabilitation journey through inclusive consultations, session planning and informed consent. Below are the services provided at ACTV.
HOLISTIC REHABILITATION AT ACTV

Medical Treatment (including Physiotherapy)

Legal Services

Holistic Rehabilitation

Mental Health Services

Social Rehabilitation and Livelihood

WHERE IS THE WILL?
### 3.1.1 Survivors of torture who received ACTV services in 2019

**Table 1: Statistics of new survivors who received services in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>ACTV KAMPALA</th>
<th>ACTV GULU</th>
<th>KARAMOJA</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, ACTV provided holistic rehabilitation services to 2,020 survivors of torture, an increase from 1,070 in 2018. This increase was as a result of the organisation deepening its outreach activities in the Karamoja sub-region. ACTV was able to reach out to survivors of torture in Karamoja who had experienced torture during the disarmament process but had never received rehabilitation.
Graph 1: Clients received at the different centres

The Karamoja sub-region registered the highest number of survivors of torture at 914 (45.2%) followed by Gulu at 564 (28%) and Kampala at 542 (26.8%). Though both women and men were affected by the torture, more men bore the brunt of torture. It is therefore important to ensure that rehabilitation services are gender-sensitive.

3.1.2 Point of contact with survivors of torture

Table 2: Point of contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Kampala</th>
<th>Gulu</th>
<th>Karamoja</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community outreach</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison visits</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals from partners</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk-in (self-referral)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police/Court</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>2,020</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACTV’s community approach to reach out to survivors within the community continues to pay off, with 51.8% of survivors being provided with holistic services. Prison visits accounted for 26.9%, while building partnerships was also important, with 26.9% of the survivors and through the referral path by partner organisations to ACTV. Self-referrals were at 5%, while 0.3% of the survivors of torture were referred to ACTV by the Uganda Police.
3.1.3 Gender of the clients received

Graph 3: Sex of clients

Torture affects women and men differently. That is why ACTV has tailored her services to respond to their respective needs through engendering the services provided. We realised an increase in the women reached, from 29% in 2018 to 35% in 2019. However, ACTV still received more men, at 65%, as the primary beneficiaries of ACTV services.

1.1.4 Age distribution of torture survivors

Graph 4: Age distribution

The statistics clearly show that torture affects both the young and the old. However, the youth (18-35 category), just like in 2018, are still more susceptible to torture, at 837 cases out of the 2,020 registered. The number of children affected by torture increased from 29 in 2018 to 75 in 2019, which is daunting. ACTV has continued to tailor its programing to provide child-friendly services through capacity-building and mapping out a referral system.

There is need for more awareness creation in the communities since these cases were mainly perpetrated by private individuals. Below is a picture of one of the cases of child torture in Masaka investigated by the Legal Unit.

A child who was allegedly tortured in Masaka.
1.1.1.1 Age distribution by centre

- **0-17 years**:
  - Kampala: 27
  - Gulu: 10
  - Karamoja: 38
- **18-35 years**:
  - Kampala: 290
  - Gulu: 319
  - Karamoja: 228
- **36-54 years**:
  - Kampala: 191
  - Gulu: 235
  - Karamoja: 320
- **55+ years**:
  - Kampala: 30
  - Gulu: 85
  - Karamoja: 237
- **Not Known**:
  - Kampala: 4
  - Gulu: 6
  - Karamoja: 0
### Distribution of clients by nationality

Table 3: Nationality of the clients received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,895</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>1,318</td>
<td>2,020</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of expanding our work in the Karamoja sub-region, the number of Ugandan survivors of torture increased by 5.9%, from 87.9% in 2018 to 93.8% in 2019. The number of beneficiaries of ACTV services who were urban refugees was 125 (6.2%), which is a decline from 2018, when it stood at 129. Going forward, ACTV is strengthening its approach to tailor its programmes to the needs of the refugees in the settlement areas as the majority are encouraged to live in these areas.

### Alleged perpetrators of torture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alleged perpetrators</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPDF</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda Police</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flying Squad (14)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crime Preventers (6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private individuals</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRA</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other regions
- DRC government (19)
- Mai Mai (18)
- Burundian police/army (12)
- Rwandese Government (11)
- Sudanese rebels (5)
- Al-Shabaab (4)
- Ethiopian government (4)
- Sudanese police/army (2)
- M23 (2)
- NALU rebels (1)
- Interahamwe (1)
- Eritrean government (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mob justice</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government officials</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National level</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local level</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison warders</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local council</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security unspecified</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence agencies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMI (11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO (7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inmates/Katikkiros</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karamoja warriors</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private security guards</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition supporters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clan leaders</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM supporters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDCs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Defence Unit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACTV MIS
The Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF) was the leading alleged perpetrators of torture in Uganda in 2019, in comparison to 2018 where the Uganda Police Force was in the lead. This shift is attributed to ACTV’s programme expansion to the Karamoja region where more cases against the UPDF were registered, as shown in the table below.

The table below shows the breakdown per location.

![Bar chart showing the breakdown of torture cases per location]

The Kampala centre registered the highest number of alleged perpetrators. These were the Uganda Police at 263, and Gulu came in second at 154. The Karamoja sub-region registered only 14 allegations against the police, while the cases brought against the UPDF were the highest, at 440. Most of the cases were attributed to the disarmament process which had been ongoing for over 10 years, while torture rehabilitation services in the region were limited.

1.1.7 Reasons for torture

Table 5: The reasons for torture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Punishment (suspected criminals)</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Forced confession</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Intimidation</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rebel atrocities</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Political affiliation</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Extraction of information</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Humiliation</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Extortion</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Destruction of personality</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Relationship with victim</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Family/personal conflict</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Land wrangles</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Disruption of social/community organisation</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Destruction of opposition</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Tribe/ethnicity</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Human rights defender</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Mistaken identity</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Destruction of opposition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Others (demonstrations, organised violence, SGBV, labour atrocities, none)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Punishment of suspected criminals, forced confessions and intimidation jointly account for 63.6% as the major reasons for torture. This clearly highlights a gap, with the security agencies utilising coercive interrogation and investigation techniques. Capacity-building of security agencies in non-coercive interrogation techniques is still key in order to ensure that torture is not perpetrated by the officers.

1.1.8 Methods of torture

Table 6: Major forms of torture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Form of torture</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Beating (blunt trauma)</td>
<td>2,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Positional torture</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Conditions of detention</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sexual torture</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Penetrating injuries</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Asphyxiation</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Deprivation of normal sensory stimulation</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Crush injuries</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Chemical exposure</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Electric shocks</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Medical amputation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Humiliation</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Witnessing torture of others</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Behavioural coercion</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Pharmacological torture</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Enforced disappearances</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the figures presented above show, all clients received by ACTV had undergone physical torture through beating (blunt force trauma), which took the lead. The numbers for psychological torture have also increased with threats, humiliation and witnessing the torture of others being used as methods of torture. This clearly shows that ensuring that all these clients are holistically rehabilitated is an uphill task.

Below are some of the clients in need of rehabilitation whom ACTV received:
In 2019, ACTV continued advocating against torture. This was through capacity-building of state and non-state actors to the PPTA, torture and human rights, mobilising and organising communities to speak out against torture, advocating against torture through the media and strengthening networks and partnerships. ACTV also worked closely with the Coalition against Torture (CAT), comprised of 19 organisations which it currently chairs, to advocate against torture.

3.2.1 Empowering communities to speak out

ACTV strengthened its community approach and was able to mobilise and organise communities to speak out against torture in the Central, Northern, West Nile and Karamoja sub-regions. Community members were able to identify and report cases of torture, especially in the Karamoja sub-region, as demonstrated by the increased number of those allegedly tortured seeking services.

Below is a breakdown of communities reached out to:

**Table 7: Awareness creation in communities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>24 June 2019</td>
<td>Rubaga Division, Royal Gardens in Kasubi</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>25 June 2019</td>
<td>Public dialogue at Hotel Africana</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>21 February 2019</td>
<td>Ndeeba</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasese</td>
<td>13 September 2019</td>
<td>Hima</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasese</td>
<td>12 September 2019</td>
<td>Bwesumbu Sub-county</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubende</td>
<td>6 September 2019</td>
<td>Nbingoola Sub-county</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kotido</td>
<td>11 November 2019</td>
<td>Kotido Community Centre</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napak</td>
<td>12 November 2019</td>
<td>District headquarters</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaabong</td>
<td>13 November 2019</td>
<td>Community Centre</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abim</td>
<td>14 November 2019</td>
<td>Abim Community Centre</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakiso</td>
<td>22 November 2019</td>
<td>Entebbe Municipality at Leisure Gardens park</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasese</td>
<td>10 April 2019</td>
<td>Global Hotel</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwania</td>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Inomo Sub-county</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omoro</td>
<td>4 to 5 December 2019</td>
<td>Awere Sub-county, Omoro County</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apac</td>
<td>24 September 2019</td>
<td>Chegere Sub-county, Maruzi County</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.2 Capacity-building for state and non-state actors

ACTV strengthened its relationship with both state and non-state actors through building their capacity on torture, the law and human rights. Below is a breakdown of the trainings conducted for both state and non-state actors.

Table 8: Capacity-building for state and non-state actors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gulu</td>
<td>4 May 2019</td>
<td>Gulu College of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patongo and Pader Prisons, Northern Uganda</td>
<td>23-26 October 2019</td>
<td>Patongo and Pader Prisons</td>
<td></td>
<td>240</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukono</td>
<td>20 June 2019</td>
<td>Mayors Gardens at the District Municipal Council offices</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arua</td>
<td>26 June 2019</td>
<td>Police playground in Arua Municipality</td>
<td></td>
<td>141</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Table 8: Capacity-building for state and non-state actors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitgum</td>
<td>28 to 30 August 2019</td>
<td>Uganda Peoples Defence Force – UPDF</td>
<td>Boma Hotel</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbarara</td>
<td>16 to 17 September 2019</td>
<td>UPDF, Second Division</td>
<td>Pelikan Hotel</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>19-20 September 2019</td>
<td>UPDF 1st Division based in Kakiri</td>
<td>Hotel J-Frigh</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakiso</td>
<td>29-30 October 2019</td>
<td>Criminal justice actors</td>
<td>Flora Hotel</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakiso</td>
<td>19 November 2019 to 20 November 2019</td>
<td>Criminal justice actors</td>
<td>Nican Resort Hotel in Kajansi</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulu</td>
<td>17 – 18 July 2019</td>
<td>Criminal justice actors</td>
<td>Doves Nest Hotel</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>24 September 2019</td>
<td>Coalition against Torture membership</td>
<td>Casa Miltu Hotel in Ntinda</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>26 September 2019</td>
<td>Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) on torture, the law and data evidence-based advocacy</td>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.3 Media advocacy

In the past ACTV has built the capacity of the media to report on torture and continued building linkages with these institutions in the fight against torture. Social and mainstream media was utilised to advocate against torture. The table below gives the engagements undertaken by ACTV with the media.

Table 9: Engagements with the media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDIA CAMPAIGN</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>Media house/platform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td></td>
<td>Twitter and Facebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>From January to December 2019, online media advocacy posts reached out to 37,578 people and engaged 3,273 people in the conversation with her posts on the ACTV Facebook page.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>From January to December 2019, the CAO’s online media advocacy tweets managed to engage 2,525 people in his conversations on Twitter. This page was never promoted, too.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>A number of media houses have since interested themselves in covering torture-related events and stories. The list below is just a snapshot. This implies that the anti-torture conversation is taking shape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UcDmlkSu-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UcDmlkSu-w) Using data to fight torture in Uganda.
2. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luzBiGiTeU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luzBiGiTeU) 16 September 2019; Torture victim speaks out on Kayihura sanctions.
3. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6x0tZHtITY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6x0tZHtITY) 23 August 2019; Safe houses in Uganda.
4. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgOMhO19u3g&t=16s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgOMhO19u3g&t=16s) 16 August 2019; Uganda owes torture victims almost 12 billion –UHRC
5. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al3nNNi-8ZM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al3nNNi-8ZM) 18 June 2019; CAT and UHRC ask government to compensate torture victims.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Receiving Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Print media**                              | 3 supplements were produced and published; 1 in the Bukedde newspaper, 1 in the New Vision paper and 1 in the Daily Monitor on 26 June 2019.  
2 investigation stories on torture were published in the New Vision and Bukedde papers on 26 June 2019 at no cost.  
On 11 October 2019, the press conference which was conducted on 30 September 2019 on child torture was published in the Bukedde newspaper. | Nation media and Vision Group                                                                                                           |
| **Production and airing of TV infomercials** | 2 infomercials were produced and aired − 1 in the first quarter and 1 in the second quarter on NTV and Bukedde TV. The high cost of advertising affected the number of times ACTV could air the infomercial. (On 25 March 2019, 1 infomercial was produced and aired on NTV during the 9 p.m. news.) | Bukedde TV and NTV                                                               |
| **Production and airing of radio spot messages** | 4 spot messages were produced; 1 in English by Radio One FM 90, 2 in Luganda by Radio Simba 97.3 FM.  
Spot messages ran from 21 June 2019 to 27 June 2019; 3 times a day on Radio Simba and Radio one FM 90.  
3 spot messages were produced and run in Lep Thur, English and Nga’karimajong on Karibu FM and Voice of Karamoja. | Radio one, Karibu FM, Voice of Karamoja & Radio Simba                               |
| **Television talk shows**                    | 1 TV talk show was conducted on 25 June 2019 on Bukedde TV.  
3 talk shows were offered by partners – Human Rights Network for Journalists on NTV on 18 June 2019, Refugee Law Project on NBS TV on 26 June 2019, Vision Group on Bukedde TV on 24 June 2019, Vision Group on Bukedde TV on 23 June 2019 and Uganda Journalists Association on Kingdom TV on 21 June 2019. | Kingdom TV, NTV, Bukedde TV and NBS TV                                             |
| **Free media space offered to ACTV**         | - ACTV’s CEO was hosted together with Human Rights Network for Journalists on NTV on 18 June 2019  
- ACTV’s CEO was hosted together with Refugee Law Project on NBS TV on 26 June 2019  
- ACTV’s CAO was hosted by Vision Group on Bukedde TV on 24 June 2019  
- ACTV’s Nursing Officer was hosted by Vision Group on Bukedde TV on 23 June 2019  
- CCEDU represented the CAT on a space offered by the Uganda Journalists Association on Kingdom TV on 21 June 2019.  
- Metro FM 90.8 offered by Uganda Journalists Association on 17 June 2019.  
- Bilal FM 94.1 FM offered by Uganda Journalists Association on 23 June 2019.  
- Namirembe 93.9 FM on 20 June offered by Uganda Journalists Association.  
- Bukedde FM on 24 June 2019 offered by Vision Group.  
- Bukedde FM in October 2019 offered by ADC, CAO represented ACTV.  
- Akaboozi Ku Biiri 87.9 FM in November 2019 offered by ADC, CAO represented ACTV.  
- ACTV’s Head of Programmes interviewed by NBS Television | Bukedde TV, Bilal FM, Continental FM, Kingdom TV, Etop radio, Metro FM, NBS TV, Namirembe FM, Akaboozi Ku Biri & Bukedde FM |
| **Radio talk shows** | Radio talk shows on torture, gender and the law; 2 radio talk shows on torture were held; 1 in Kotido district on Voice of Karamoja, 92.7 FM on 11 November 2019 and in Abim district on 14 November 2019 on 98.3 FM Radio Karibu.  
20 June 2019 on Simba FM 97.3  
1 in Arua on 25 June 2019  
25 June 2019 on Bukeedde FM  
25 June 2019 on 89.2 CBS FM  
24 June 2019, in Arua by the Gulu office  
31 March 2019, 1 radio talk show on Radio Simba.  
1 radio talk show was held on Sunday, 8 September 2019 on Radio Simba 97.3 FM in Kampala district | Simba FM, Bukeedde FM, CBS FM, Karibu FM and Voice of Karamoja |
| **Media breakfast meetings and press conferences** | 25 June 2019, breakfast meeting with the media in Arua Municipality. 20 journalists attended; 13 male, 7 female.  
2 press conference organised; one on 28 March 2019 at ACTV, 24 journalists; 18 media houses, 8 female and 16 male.  
The second one was held on child torture on 30 September 2019 in the ACTV Kampala head office board room at 2 p.m. 15 people attended – 10 male and 5 female – representing 14 media houses. | KFM, Bukeedde paper, Daily Monitor, BBS TV, NTV, Bukeedde TV, Super FM, Metro FM, CBS FM, Top Radio, Dembe FM, Prime Radio, Baba TV and Sanyu FM |
ACTV in the Media

Mr. Paul Mukalere, Communication and Advocacy Officer discussing the state of torture in Uganda on Bukedde Television

Hon. Asuman Basalirwa raising awareness on prevention and torture
3.2.4 Strengthened networking and partnership building

On 26 June 2019, ACTV, in partnership with CAT, UHRC and the UNOHCR joined the rest of the world to commemorate the UN Day in Support of Torture Victims on the theme “Torture is real, speak out, take action”. Three events were organised in Kampala, Arua and Kotido with testimonies from survivors of torture.

The commemoration week started with a press conference attended by the Coalition members. Below is a pictorial narrative of the commemoration:

The CEO of ACTV and Chairperson of CAT, Head of Delegation UN Human Rights Office in Uganda, and the Chairperson of UHRC speaking out against torture at the UN Day in Support of Survivors of Torture
A remembrance tree in Arua during the UN Day in Support of Survivors of Torture

ACP James Kusemererwa from the Uganda Police, Hon. Asuman Basalirwa, Bugiri Municipality, Ms Roselyn Karugonjo from Uganda Christian University's School of Law and Ms Sylvia Namubiru, the Executive Director, LASPNET at a public dialogue on 25 June 2019 at Hotel Africana
A community dialogue in Kasubi during the commemoration week

In addition, ACTV commemorated the World Press Freedom Day, Mental Health Day and Women’s Day through engaging in various activities and releasing press statements to affirm its commitment to ensure upholding, protecting and promoting human rights.
WHERE IS THE WILL?

World Press Freedom Day – 3 May 2019

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2019

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) joined the rest of the world by associating herself with the discourse around the challenges facing the media in its contribution to peace and reconciliation processes in Uganda in this year’s commemoration under the theme; “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”.

Safety and security of journalists is key in their contribution to peace and democracy in Uganda. For a democracy to be achieved, there is urgent need for the state to show the will towards guaranteeing the enjoyment of the freedoms enshrined in Article 29 on expression and Article 41 on access to information of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

Uganda celebrates the 2019 World Press Freedom day at a time when the country is witnessing a number of media broadcasting suspensions resulting from alleged breach of minimum broadcasting standards evidenced by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) suspending senior officials working for 7 radio stations and 6 Television stations, Akaborzi FM, Beat FM, Capital FM, CBS FM, Pearl FM, Sapienza FM, Simba FM and Bukeele TV, Kingdom FM, NBS TV, NTV Uganda, BBS TV and Salt TV respectively on 1r May 2010. This is worrying and contravenes Article 29 and 41 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

The value of journalism in a democracy cannot be underrated. Notwithstanding the need to practice the profession in an ethical manner, it is also imperative to note that the curtailment of the underscored freedoms also directly affects the absolute freedom from Torture and cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment or punishment enshrined in Article 24 and made absolute in Article 44 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The full enjoyment of the latter affects the rule of law as much as realisation of a democracy and civic space for journalism to thrive.

In addition, on 5 July 2018 at Mpigi District Council Chambers, during his regional tour to Katonga region comprising Gomba, Butambala and Mpigi Districts, the IGP committed to hold any police officer implicated in torturing suspects and other civilians accountable under the law. Therefore, ACTV calls upon the Uganda Police to respect this freedom when it comes to journalists as they as they provide services to the public.

ACTV participated in World Press Freedom Day and issued a statement.
WHERE IS THE WILL?

Mental Health Day – 10 October 2019

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) joined the rest of the world to commemorate the World Mental Health Day and issued a statement.

Freedom from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment is an absolute right under Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1962, supposed to be enjoyed by all persons including those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. Torture affects an individual both physically and psychologically. Although the physical effects are easily seen and can be treated in a timely manner, the psychological effects are usually not recognized and can stay with the individual for a lifetime. On the other hand, this exposes the victim to severe psychological effects sometimes leading to depression and in some cases, suicide. In 2018, ACTV provided treatment and rehabilitation services to 1070 survivors of torture, of whom approximately 70% presented with mental health challenges. The Centre therefore feels it is duty not only to treat but also to rehabilitate persons with mental health challenges as provided for under Section 6 of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act No 3 of 2012.

As we commemorate the World Mental Health Day 2019, ACTV makes the following recommendations:

a) Treatment and rehabilitation services for torture survivors suffering from psychosocial disabilities should be mainstreamed into the health institutions and the community structures at the grassroots in order to enhance psychological wellbeing of persons living with mental health challenges.

b) Implement General Comment No. 4 on the Minimum Standards on Human and Reproductive Rights in the Fight for Freedom of Victims of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment (Article 5) which provides for rehabilitation of survivors of torture including those with mental health challenges.

c) Ensure that the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment (Article 5) which provides for rehabilitation of survivors of torture including those with mental health challenges.

In conclusion, ACTV wishes the entire country a fruitful World Mental Health Day commemoration 2019 most especially the persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities as we join hands in the promotion of their rights including the right to freedom from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Samuel Herbert Nabunya
Chief Executive Officer

ACTV

To report torture, call: 0909202799
Afroasi Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)
Block No. 09, Nat 113, Nsam Road OFF Turuk Divo, Kampala
P.O. Box 4135, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 256-312-259188/020
P.O. Box 1076, Gulu Tel: 256-392-14787
P.O. Box 1616, Gamba Town
Email: actv@actvuganda.org Web: www.actvuganda.org

Where is the will?
Building linkages at the African Commission

ACTV delivering a statement at the ACHPR in Banjul, Gambia in October 2019

ACTV presented a paper at a side event organised by the Pan African Reparations Initiative (PARI) in Banjul, Gambia. ACTV is a PARI member.
Engagement with Parliament for enforcement of laws and policies

ACTV strengthened its interface with the Parliament of Uganda, advocating for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), the implementation of the PPTA and mainstreaming of indicators into the Health Management Information System. This was done through the Parliamentary Human Rights and Health Committees, as shown below:
ACTV engaging with the Parliamentary Committee on Health to adopt indicators of torture in the HMIS
A client upon arrival at the ACTV after being allegedly tortured

Three weeks after receiving treatment from ACTV

ACTV physiotherapist providing treatment to a survivor of torture during a medical outreach in Karamoja. A corset was provided for the survivor

ACTV staff proving services to a survivor of torture in the community

ACTV receives a donation of prosthetic arms from a well-wisher in support of survivors of torture
ADVOCATING AGAINST TORTURE

The DPP Justice Mike Chibita raising an issue at the ACTV annual Stakeholders meeting

Engagement meeting with MDAs on the effective implementation of the PPTA

A radio talk show on torture, rights and gender in Abim District

SAFE HOUSES AND TORTURE ALLEGATIONS IN UGANDA

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) joins the rest of the Civil Society Organisations in the discourse around safe houses: their existence, legality and the danger they pose to both nationals and non-nationals towards the enjoyment of the Freedom from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment in full realisation of Articles 24 and 44 (a) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

The United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) enacted in 1987 recognises freedom from torture not only as a Human Right but its violation as a crime. Uganda has since then ratified the UNCAT in 1987, domesticiated it in 2013 by enacting the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act No 3 of 2012 and passed the Regulations to the latter of 2017. Therefore, freedom from torture is not only a guaranteed human right with an absolute nature but its violation is a crime in Uganda.

It is upon this ground that ACTV appeals to the State to show the will towards guaranteeing the enjoyment of this freedom and accountability for Torture Prevention by doing the following:

a) Making an inquest into the operations of the alleged safe houses.

b) Uganda Police to investigate all the allegations of Torture voiced by various victims of the said safe houses and produce a report of the findings to the public.

c) The Legislative organ of the State to fast track the Witness Protection Bill of 2014 and revisit the reasons for the delays in denying Ugandans the value and implications of having a law on Witness Protection.

d) The Human Rights Committee of Parliament and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to join the Coalition Against Torture in Uganda with all partners to lobby for the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture of 2005 (OPCAT) by the State in order to allow unlimited access to all places of detention.

e) The Health Committee of Parliament to lobby the Ministry of Health to develop a Policy on Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors and mainstream it across the Regional Health facilities in Uganda.

Notwithstanding the need for the Security agencies to protect their profession in the expected ethical manner in fighting crime, it is also imperative to note that safe houses and their existence directly affect the freedoms enshrined in Article 24 and made absolute in Article 44 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The value of democracy and rule of law cannot be understated in these times as we continue pushing for Torture Prevention and Accountability in its strict sense both as ACTV and as a Coalition Against Torture in Uganda with its partners.

ACTV statement on safe houses and torture in Uganda
CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS CREATION

Training of prison warders in stress management in Kasese district

UPDF training in torture and the law at Entebbe
COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

ACTV staff being trained by IRCT in the effective investigation and documentation of torture using the Istanbul Protocol

ACTV staff attending a training of trainers (ToT) workshop to better deliver on her community approach

School debate on torture in Karamoja, the team that won the debate with the ACTV CEO

A community dialogue in Kaabong district
COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING continues

- ACTV hosting the SGBV Kampala working group meeting
- Networking meeting with Napak district officials
- Networking meeting with Kasese district officials
- ACTV received a delegation from the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission hosted by UHRC on an experience sharing visit. The delegation comprised the Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioners

WHERE IS THE WILL?

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COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING  continues

ACTV is a member of the OMCT Working Group on Torture and Migration in Africa
THANK-YOU NOTES FROM CLIENTS

WHERE IS THE WILL?
LEGAL SUCCESS STORY

Compensation of ACTV client Yahaya Lukwago and 4 Others Vs. A.G. and 3 Others, HCCS No. 226 of 2015 Decision of 20 December 2019
by Justice Ssekaana Musa

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF UGANDA
(CIVIL DIVISION)
CIVIL SUIT NO. 226 OF 2015

1. YAHAYA LUKWAGO
2. ABYFTE ALEX
3. SIMON OKIA
4. EMUTT JOHN MICHAEI
5. WALIMBWA YUSUF

PLAINTIFFS
VERSUS

1. JAMES AISO
2. MOSES ODOTO
3. COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS
4. ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEFENDANTS

BEFORE HON. JUSTICE SSEKAANA MUSA

JUDGMENT

BACKGROUND

The Plaintiffs allege that between 2002 and 2014, they were convicts serving their respective sentences in respective government prisons in Uganda namely: Tarrin Upper prison, Kirinya Government prison and Soroti prison where in they were subjected to intense torture, cruel and inhuman degrading treatment under the supervision of the 1st and 2nd defendants. They claim that as a result of the said torture, the plaintiffs suffered permanent injuries, impaired immobility, inability to work, post traumatic disorders and psychological torture hence this suit seeking for compensatory general and punitive damages.
4.0 CHALLENGES

- “Justice delayed is justice denied”. This related to unprogressive court cases due to endless adjournments. This puts a strain on clients emotionally and affects ACTV financially.
- In the few successful cases, delayed award of compensation has in some instances led to the relapse of clients. Three (3) of the cases that were successfully awarded are not yet compensated. These are:
  - Uganda v. Mooloki Henry CC No. 093 of 2017
  - Jasper Natukunda v. A.G.
- ACTV had to create awareness among the new members of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament about issues of torture to follow through the advocacy work started by the former committee members towards the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).
- Reintegration of survivors of torture without a livelihood component is not sustainable.
- The utilisation of Form 4 in the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act Regulations 2017 has not yet been effected, thus hampering the effective documentation of torture.
- The preference for using the Penal Code Act to prosecute cases as opposed to the PPTA 2012 by state prosecutors.
- The Uganda Human Rights Commission Tribunal not fully constituted since the demise of the Chair, thus cases are not being heard.
- Annual requests for permission to access places of detention delays the provision of services to survivors of torture.
- Limited resources for funding livelihood projects for survivors of torture.
- Access to justice in the Karamoja sub-region is still hampered by the inadequate number of Judicial Officers in the sub-region.
5.0 BEST PRACTICES

- The establishment of national, regional and international linkages; ACTV is currently part of the African OMCT Working Group on Torture and Migration.
- ACTV developed national-level indicators to track the right to rehabilitation.
- The development of an ACTV drug inventory system to track how much is spent on treating survivors of torture; this will clearly show the cost-based analysis of rehabilitating a survivor of torture.
- The development and implementation of the community model which has seen outreach to communities increase in coverage.

6.0 THE WAY FORWARD

- The Uganda Human Rights Commission Tribunal should be fully constituted to ensure that cases are resolved and survivors of torture compensated. The President of Uganda should appoint a substantive Chairperson to replace Mr Medi Kaggwa, who passed away in November 2019.
- Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) should prioritise the implementation of the PPTA 2012 and the Regulations 2017, especially the utilisation of Form 4 for the effective documentation of torture.
- Continued capacity-building for criminal justice actors, especially security agencies, on non-coercive techniques of interrogation and effective documentation of torture.
- The Government of Uganda should expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which would provide for the establishment of a national preventive mechanism to monitor places of detention.
7.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019

2019 INCOME

- **DGF, 1,479,152,872, 41%**
- **Eu, 729,873,814, 20%**
- **DIGNITY, 335,321,938, 9%**
- **FGHR, 507,998,517, 14%**
- **IRCT, 100,570,000, 3%**
- **SRT, 486,000,000, 13%**
2019 EXPENDITURE

- Personnel costs, 1,563,754,887
- Office running, 440,818,241
- Consultancies, 63,408,298
- Governance, 40,415,588
- Capacity building, 218,333,130
- Reporting, 88,646,338
- Treatment and Rehabilitation, 475,699,463
- Networking/Awareness creation, 253,961,150
- Documentation, 70,207,343
## ACTV Staff in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Herbert Nsubuga</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Achan</td>
<td>Head of Finance and Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Nabwire Waswa</td>
<td>Head of Programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Lusinga</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Nakabugo</td>
<td>Programme Manager, Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Okettayot</td>
<td>Programme Manager, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Sulaiman Mpagi</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Robert Rafiki</td>
<td>Medical Doctor, Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ogwal Opio</td>
<td>Medical Coordinator, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila Wakabi Hassan</td>
<td>Mental Health Coordinator, Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Ogwal</td>
<td>Clinical Psychologist, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Isabirye</td>
<td>Counselling Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliet Anango</td>
<td>Legal Officer, Kampala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Ojok Obonyo</td>
<td>Legal Officer, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Avola</td>
<td>Social Worker, Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice Acayo</td>
<td>Social Worker, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apollo Robinson Kinyera</td>
<td>Physiotherapist, Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Olwedo</td>
<td>Physiotherapist, Gulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Namatovu</td>
<td>Research and Documentation Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirya Mukalere Paul</td>
<td>Communication and Advocacy Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACTV Staff in 2019

Geoffrey Ojiambo, Information Technology Officer
Alex Kigoye, Nursing Officer, Kampala
Susan Labeja, Nurse, Gulu
Robinah Nabatanzi, Accounts Assistant, Kampala
Augustine Nkurunziza, Accounts Assistant, Gulu
Peter Opio, Transport Officer, Kampala
Charles Ayella, Driver, Kampala
Benon Kanyanzira, Office Attendant, Kampala
Santos Okaa, Office Attendant, Kampala

Volunteers

Annet Nantume, Nurse, Kampala
Esther Kyakuhaire, Social Worker
Mary Nabwogi, Social Worker
Maureen Nassimbwa, Administration
Edna Atimango, Monitoring and Evaluation, Gulu
Joyce Lakop, Psychologist, Gulu
Nancy Ayebare, Lawyer
Board Members

Board Chair
Mr Livingstone Okello-Okello

Members

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

Secretary

Mr Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
APPRECIATION TO PARTNERS

ACTV extends its sincere gratitude to all its partners who supported the organisation financially and in kind throughout 2019. The achievements highlighted in this report are a result of your dedication to the fight against torture. We appreciate our Development Partners that include the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the European Union (EU), Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT), the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR), DIGNITY, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR). We further appreciate our partners in the public and private domains with whom we collaborate to improve the lives of torture survivors through the referral pathway, the Coalition against Torture, Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Thank you for showing commitment towards realising our vision of a world free from torture.

COALITION AGAINST TORTURE MEMBERS

1. African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) – Chairperson
2. Association of Human Rights Organisations in the Rwenzori Region (AHURIO)
3. Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
4. Chapter Four – Uganda
5. Coalition of Uganda Private School Teachers Association (Coupsta)
6. Foundation of Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
7. Human Rights Centre – Uganda (HRC-U)
8. Human Rights Focus (HURIFO)
9. Human Rights Network – Uganda (HURINET)
10. Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ)
11. Kumi Human Rights Initiative (kuhuri)
12. Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCIL)
14. Refugee Law Project (RLP)
15. The Uganda National Medical Alliance for Prisoners Support (TUNMAPS)
16. Torture Survivors Association – Uganda (TOSA-U)
17. Uganda Prisoners Aid Foundation (UPAF)
18. Women of Uganda (WOU)
19. World Voices Uganda
WHERE IS THE WILL?

WHERE IS THE WILL?