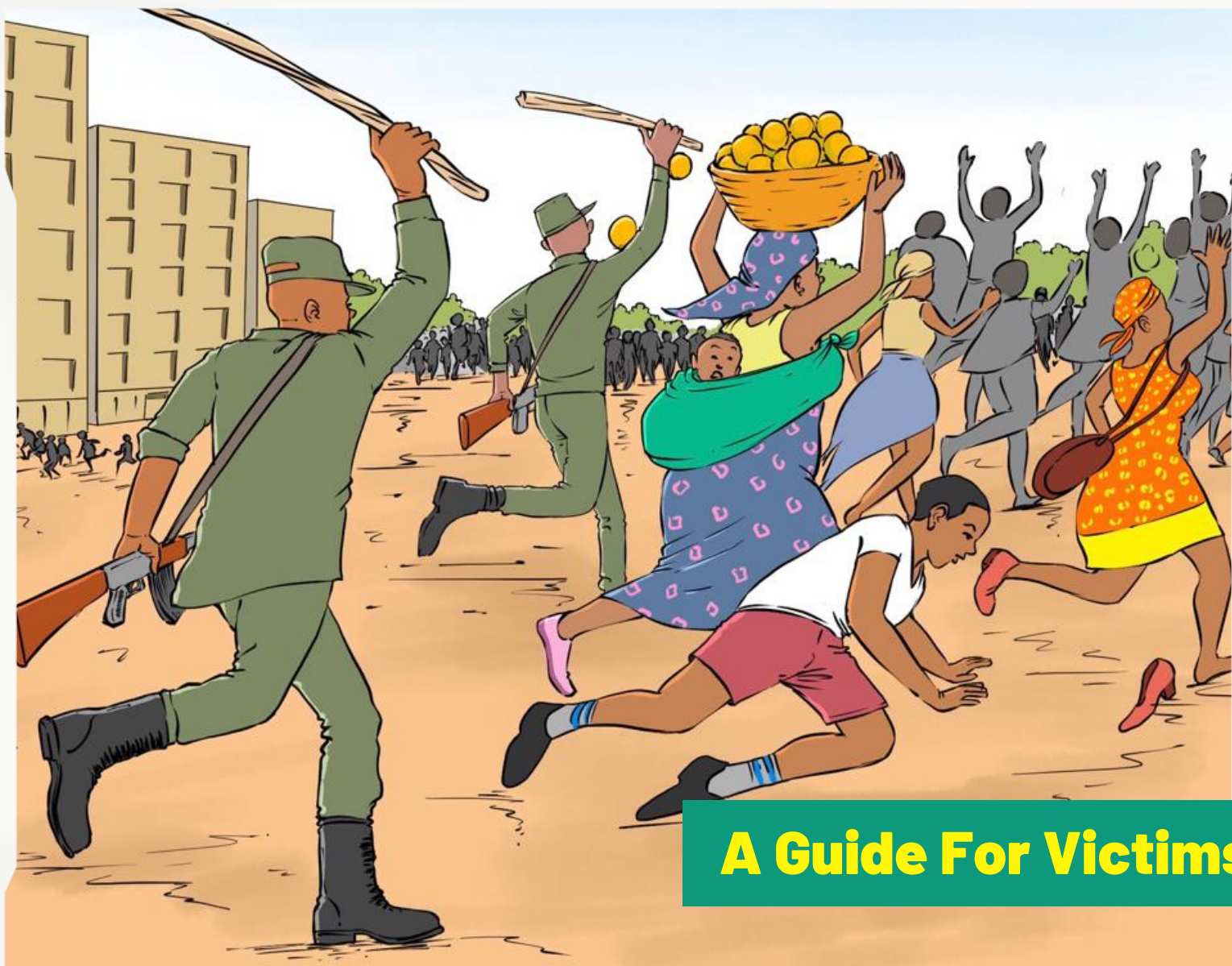


# Have you been Exposed to Violence during the General Election?

Why seek help for documenting and reporting your experience?



**A Guide For Victims**

# WHO CAN USE THIS GUIDE?

This guide is for persons who have been ill-treated by the Police, Army, Residence district commission, Local defense unit, Special police constable, Crime Preventers or private individuals, and would like information on how to report their experience and health consequences. It has been developed in order to assist people in the current context of the Ugandan general election.

Elections are pressured and potentially violent time in any political system. Uganda equally has had a trend of increasing cases of torture and political violence during and post-election period.

If you experience ill-treatment at the hands of security forces or private individuals and you wish to report it to the authorities, African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) are ready to document your experience and health consequences.

You may want to report your experience and health consequences to the authorities now or you may be in doubt and decide on this later.

**Ill-treatment can take many forms such as the ones below:**

Physical violence e.g. beating, kicking, slapping, tying, boxing, burning etc.

Psychological violence e.g. threats, humiliation, intimidation, isolation, enforced disappearance, unlawful detention, blind folding etc.

Exposure to e.g. pepper spray, injecting with unknown substance etc.

**AT ACTV, We are Ready to Document your Experience and Health Consequences Free of Charge**



## **Why is it important to document your experience?**

Having professionals documenting your experience and health consequences may improve your chances in the pursuit of justice – whether through going to court, create political awareness of the problem, or treatment and rehabilitation.

## **We Offer Free Documentation for Torture Victims**

You do not need to know every detail of the law or the processes to effectively do this. Yet, it is important to know that the success of pursuing justice depends on establishing what happened through evidence.



## **What if you are in doubt whether you wish to have your experience and health consequences documented?**

If you are in doubt, you can still contact ACTV and discuss. We can inform you about our procedures and it might be possible to document your experience and health consequences and keep it until you have taken an informed decision.

We can also guide you on whether you should preserve or bring with you any photos, medical reports or any documents from your arrest, if you were arrested.

## **Why is time important if you wish to have your experience and health consequences documented?**

In any case, it is important that you are aware that physical injuries, as for example bruises and wounds, quickly disappear. Your recollection of the events may also become poorer with time.

Therefore, documentation of physical injuries, psychological consequences and testimonies should preferably be done as soon as possible to ensure that the evidence is preserved.



## **How secure is the information you share with us?**

Your information will be documented by professionals and stored safely and will not be shared with any third party without your consent.

## **Are there any potential risks of having my experience documented?**

It is important to understand that your actions may put you at risk of being targeted by the authorities. You may also put other people at risk, if you choose to involve them.

## **What rights and duties do you have?**

**You should never be tortured or ill-treated. This applies in all places, at all times, for all people. This is also your constitutional right.**

**Ugandan law provides for the protection of its citizens from torture and cruel inhuman and degrading treatment (Articles 24 and 44 of the Constitution).**

## Where can you go for further assistance and documentation?

After experiencing ill-treatment, it could only be expected that you are both physically and psychologically affected and might need to seek care. If you need assistance finding medical or psychological support you can contact us, ACTV.

ACTV is the pioneer provider of services to victims of torture and violence 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.

If you would like additional information and guidance on what to do next, you can choose to contact ACTV for further assistance and advice. We are already collecting testimony from people who have been ill-treated by the security forces and private individuals.

## Other Relevant Sources

- Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012; this is the law that protects people from being tortured

([https://actvuganda.org/download/Laws-Of-Uganda/Prevention\\_prohibition\\_of\\_torture\\_act\\_no\\_3\\_of\\_2\\_17440.pdf](https://actvuganda.org/download/Laws-Of-Uganda/Prevention_prohibition_of_torture_act_no_3_of_2_17440.pdf))

- The 101 guide informs you about your rights when engaging with the police.

(Online version: <https://www.dignity.dk/wp-content/uploads/HURINET-101-Things.pdf> - Download the App for Android Phones)

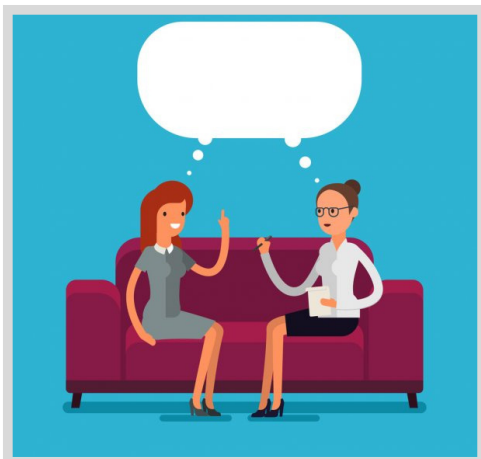
# ACTV Offers the Following Services:



**Effective documentation of torture and violence**



**Medical treatment to include physiotherapy**



**Psychological Counselling**



**Social Care**



**Legal Aid Services**

# ACTV Contacts



AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT  
AND REHABILITATION OF  
TORTURE VICTIMS

## Kampala Office

Block No. 207, Plot No. 2756

Kanyanya Gayaza Rd, just after Gaz  
Petro Station as you head to  
Greenfield Gardens

Tel: 0757177578, 0312263918,  
0800202791

**Email:** [actv@actvuganda.org](mailto:actv@actvuganda.org)

## Gulu Office

Layibi A and B Village

Left Hand Side on Gulu – Kampala  
Road 1/2Km after railway Crossing

Plot 16-18 Olanya Tony Road

Tel: 0757177576, 039174677,  
039833598



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