



HOPE

AFTER TORTURE

SEPTEMBER, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) established in 1993 with a mission to advocate against torture and provide holistic care to survivors of torture and other forms of violence. ACTV has a multidisciplinary team comprising of Lawyers, Medical Doctors, Clinical Psychologists, Physiotherapists, Nurses and Social workers who provide treatment and rehabilitation services including legal advice to torture survivors. ACTV is the only NGO in Uganda that provides no cost holistic care in Uganda to both Nationals and Non-Nationals.

This issue of the success story booklet highlights the reality of torture in the region and Uganda in particular. We share with you the rehabilitation journey that survivors have walked. These stories and the torture undergone are real coupled with the effects of torture.

To those who are survivors of torture, there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. We are here to hold your hand, provide holistic rehabilitation and support you to access justice.

This booklet is also a call to the general public to shun and report torture; the Government of Uganda to implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 (PPTA), which provides for the rehabilitation of torture survivors and holding perpetrators of torture accountable.



Phoebe	Female	34	Widow	Tortured in a safe house ¹
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Before her torture experience, Phoebe used to live a normal and happy life. She was married with two children and owned a retail shop selling shoes. She was a sports person engaged in boat rowing and was a good political activist who would attend numerous television and radio talk shows. She used to head a political youth pressure group under the NRM Political Party whose intention was to fight for justice within the party and the country at large.

On 25th June 2019, the pressure group organized a run titled ***“Run from Captivity”*** and compiled a document to be presented to the British High Commission. Before the run could commence, she received several calls from security agencies cautioning her not to follow through with the activity, to which she responded that they had no right to stop her and would therefore go ahead. On the day of the activity, heavy security was deployed at the starting point of

the run in Mulago and the activity was cancelled. Journalists who had come to cover the procession interviewed her after which she opted to walk back home.

On her way home, a car bypassed her, stopped ahead and someone called out her name. She quickly branched off the road and the car followed her until she was forcefully told to enter. Upon resisting, a man came out and showed her his gun after which she fearfully agreed to enter the car where she found four people consisting of 3 men and 1 woman.

While in the car, Phoebe was sweating and shivering. She thought she was being taken to a police station and tried to make a call but her phone was taken away from her, the battery removed and she was assured that no one would get to know her whereabouts. They put a sack over her head to prevent her from knowing their destination. Upon arrival at an unknown place, she was handed over to a man and woman under strict orders not to be given any



thing to eat for three days. The sack was removed from her head and she was dumped in a dark cold room where she cried out for help to no avail. She heard similar cries from adjacent rooms where people were being tortured. After three days, they opened for her; she was weak, her sight was blurred and she could not identify figures and objects.

Phoebe was interrogated on allegations of treason through the activities of her pressure group. She kept asking for something to eat because she was very hungry and eventually she was given a cup with contents she could not taste. She felt empty, her hands and legs were tied and her chest felt like it was being torn apart. A man who was among the perpetrators slapped her, pierced her with a sharp object but she felt numb because of hunger. Due to the immense pain she fainted and woke up tied up on the floor. She later found out that she had spent 25 days in the dark room; could not tell day from night and was only fed on bread and water. She was tortured every single day; after which she would always be left unconscious on the floor. When she regained consciousness, she would

hear cries of her neighbours being tortured and at times would hear sounds of people taking dead bodies out. During one of her torture sessions, they showed her a video of her father at the police station crying trying to look for her. She was finally released after making a video apologising to the President and the NRM Party Secretariat.

"I would tell that it is now daytime by seeing a small ray of light that would come through the ceiling"

"I had a lot going on in my head because I realized I was never going to be free again"

Because of the gruesome torture experience, Phoebe can no longer engage in the sport that she loved since her hands were paralyzed and she could not even hold a cup. She developed a problem with her back and would experience migraines. In addition, Phoebe is still grappling with the psychological effects of torture, which also affected her self-esteem.

"I contested for Woman Councilor LC 3, but along the way I stopped campaigning because I could not take it anymore; I was uncomfortable by the kind of questions that I would be asked as they would remind me of what I have been through."

Some people would laugh at me and this demoralised me. I would pretend to be strong but after the campaign, I would feel like am torn apart. So I decided to stop campaigning in order to reclaim my peace of mind."

Phoebe was referred to ACTV by Chapter Four Uganda who contacted her after reading about her plight in the Monitor and Observer newspapers. ACTV provided the holistic rehabilitation package to her, that included; medical treatment, physiotherapy, social and psychological counselling.

In addition, Phoebe received social economic support (capital worth one million, five hundred thousand Uganda shillings) which she used to upscale her retail business that is currently doing well. Phoebe expressed her gratitude towards the support of ACTV; she attested that she could now move without crutches due to the intense physiotherapy sessions she has undergone. She further appreciated the mental health sessions.

"I had turned into a cry baby, I can now talk about what

happened to me without crying; I can now realize when someone is going through torture and I speak boldly about it." *"The economic support has given me ownership of the business, before it was a family business but when I was given money I shifted the shop. I can now afford to look after my children since I lost my husband."*

Currently Phoebe is positive that she will completely overcome her trauma with time; she wants to reach a point where she can freely talk about her torture experience without breaking down. For now, she is concentrating on raising her children as she works through her trauma with the psychological counsellor. Her aim is to get better and attain strength to stand for a political office in future.

The ACTV team is friendly, supportive and they do not give up on you; I reached a point when I was tired of the sessions/treatment, but the team kept encouraging me. The team would even call to check on me."

Richard

Male

42

Married

**Tortured at a
Police station**

Richard is married with four children; he was living a good life and used to work as a security guard for a detective company. His family was happy, safe and his children were going to school. In addition to that, he loved his work and used to have many friends.


On 27th November 2017 as he was going back home from work, he met three police men on the way who arrested him. He was taken as a suspect to Jinja road police station and was informed that he would know his charges when he reached the station. Upon arrival, the flying squad picked him up and took him to Nakawa police station where he learned that he was being charged with an offense of theft. He was accused of allegedly stealing items from the store at his place of work. Richard spent several days in Nakawa police station where he was tortured every day (thrice a day); they tied his hands and tortured him in a manner known as the "bible style". He was later

taken to Nakawa Chief Magistrate Court; the complainant did not appear in court, so Richard was remanded to Luzira for three months. The court later released him because the complainant failed to attend the subsequent court sessions.

The devastating torture experience left Richard battling with adverse effects; he could not sit and sleep well, he felt pain in his spinal cord due to the brutal beating on his back. His legs were swollen with wounds and he could not bend or straighten them; he would also urinate on himself due to the failure to control his bladder. Richard says that to date he cannot straighten his fingers.

"I could not even hold money in my hands; I would always reach the shop when the money had slipped through my fingers"

"I would not feel the urge to urinate or control, I would just find when I have urinated on myself"



Richard was referred to ACTV by International Committee of the Red Cross in April 2018. He came with a walking stick which was very painful for him because of the wounds in his hands. He could not stand upright because of the excruciating back pain.

"My legs could not hold the weight of my body and I would immediately crumble back down if I attempted to stand."

Richard received medical services to include; medication, investigations, physiotherapy and subsequent follow-ups. The x-ray conducted found out that he had a crack on his spinal cord; he was given a waist belt to support his back and two walking sticks. He further received psychosocial services to include social counselling and support. With the support of the social work unit, Richard joined a social support group where he received economic empowerment.

"Am so grateful for the group because they have been there for me; my child fell sick and I had no money, I called the group and they gave me UGX 100,000 for treatment".

In addition, Richard received economic support of UGX 720,000= during the lock down period which came at a time when he was in great need. He was not working and did not even have what to eat. He used the money to buy and stock up food for 3 months.

Since receiving treatment, Richard has greatly improved; the wound on his leg recovered and he has significant relief in his back. He stopped using one walking stick in August 2018 and the second one in December 2018. A beaming Richard narrated that he is now completely fine. *"I am standing, I can turn my body and am walking"* An enthusiastic Richard demonstrated.

Currently Richard is staying with his uncle in Kampala to ease his accessibility to ACTV for his review sessions. After treatment, he plans to rejoin his family in the village and continue looking for work so that he can send back his children to school. He thanked ACTV for the great work that they have done in his life.

"People were saying that I was not going to survive and I was going to die; ACTV worked on me and am so grateful to them. They have worked on my body and so many things are

now okay in my body”
“I want to congratulate ACTV for the great work that ”

you are doing in the lives of the people that have been tortured; many people would be dead now if it was not for your help.


John	Male	38	Married	Tortured at a school
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John is a married man with four children and he lives with his family. He used to work, life was good because money was available and he was able to provide for his family. He is a painter who would get big contracts that would give him reasonable pay cheques.

He was awarded a painting contract at a site in Gayaza. On the 9th of March 2018 around 7.30 pm after work, he went out to buy food and airtime with his backpack that had his belongings. As he was passing by a school, two men came out of a nearby bush whom he later recognised as the schools’ security guards and asked him for money. When he told them that he did not have,

they started beating him and when they realised that he had recognised one of them, the beating intensified. They later took him to the school and accused him of stealing paint; they resumed the beating and he started bleeding from the eyes, nose and mouth. They told him to accept the offence so that they can let him go. People gathered around and among them was the School Administrator who ordered them to stop beating him. They checked his bag but did not find any paint. He was made to spend the night in a classroom and was freed the following day.

The severe beating that John received damaged his eardrum and he developed excruciating chest and waist pain. He narrated that he was in so much pain and yet the



treatment that was needed was expensive which he could not afford.

"I was beaten with batons on my head and all over my body; I felt like my ear drum had burst. The guards who had beaten me had been instructed to pay for my treatment but they did not have money."

A friend directed John to the Uganda Human Rights Commission, which referred him to ACTV for treatment. ACTV received him in a dire situation; he was assessed and referred to Victoria hospital for further management. He received specialised treatment for his damaged eardrum and ACTV cleared all the bills. Upon recovery, John was referred to the Social Work Unit where he received social counselling and economic empowerment.

The social work unit forms different social economic groups for survivors of torture and John joined one of them, which he has wholesomely gained from. In addition to the economic empowerment that he received, John started a business for his wife with his savings from the group.

"The business is doing well; currently I have not gotten any jobs that give me money and it is from the business that we are getting something to eat."

John was also trained as a Peer Support Worker, which he was proud of due to the exposure that he has attained from it. He has been able to make friends within his community due to the daily interactions with people as he plays the role of a Peer Support Worker.

Sadly, in January 2020 he was involved in a fatal accident that claimed the life of his daughter. He is however grateful to ACTV that stood with him during that difficult time.

"I was in so much pain but ACTV looked for me, they reached out to me and gave me support and comfort as I mourned my daughter."

The death of his daughter is still fresh in John's mind and he is currently undergoing counselling sessions to help him cope with the loss. He still works as a painter and has hopes of getting bigger contracts so that he can be able to take care of his family and educate his children.

Helen

Female

45

Divorced

**Tortured on the
street**

Helen was born in Arua district and is currently divorced with five children. She is a teacher by profession and has a part-time business. Before her torture experience, Helen was happy and peacefully married, going about her daily routine of work with ease.

On 13th August 2018 while on her way back home from attending a political campaign rally at Arua Hill ground, she was approached by violent youths of the opposition party who were rioting and beating people on the streets of Arua town. She was severely tortured for wearing an NRM t-shirt that allegedly indicated her support for the NRM ruling Party. She was left helpless until some people came and took her to a nearby hospital where she received first aid. On reaching home, the husband being a supporter of the opposition party yelled at her saying it was good she was beaten by the opposition. This led to a bitter misunderstanding between the couple thus they eventually separated.

Helen remained battling with the overwhelming effects of the torture; she could not teach while standing due to severe back pain and her business came to a standstill because she could not easily move. She slipped into depression, lost her appetite and as a result developed ulcers.

"I was very bitter with the father of my children for leaving me and the children just because of political differences."

"I could not fully provide for my children, my teaching salary cannot sustain the family; it was the business supplementing which I was unable to carry out due to back pain."

The team identified Helen through an ACTV community outreach in Arua. She had gone to meet an official at the District Division Head quarters who informed her about the presence of ACTV in the area. She was screened for ACTV eligibility and enrolled for services. She received the holistic care package to include; medical treatment,

physiotherapy, social and psychological counselling within a period of six months.

Currently, Helen is teaching again and she can stand as long as the lesson period requires. Her business is also fully operating and with the help of a loan she acquired, she has been able to keep her children in school. Helen is optimistic about life and she is determined to move on and look after her children.

“All this great progress could not have happened if not because of ACTV, I am so grateful for my life has been renewed, I have hope and am now a normal person again thank you”.

I recommend that you continue with this kind of work in Arua, there are still survivors of torture down there who are not yet aware of ACTV and the work you are doing.

Alfred	Male	58	Married	Tortured at home
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Alfred is married with two wives and 12 children; he currently lives with his two elder sons. He was engaged in farming as his source of livelihood and was able to provide for his family regardless of its large size.

In 2014 Alfred offered some piece of land to a man who had moved into his community with an agreement that he would return it back at the agreed time. However, when it was time to return the land, the man failed to

honor the agreement; he instead informed his son who was in the army and together they planned to intimidate Alfred out of his land. To this effect, soldiers came to his home and he was severely beaten until he was spitting blood. He was taken to the barracks where he spent a night. While there, the torture continued; he was beaten, kicked in the ribs and they poured cold water all over his body until he was released the next morning.

A family member took him to Apac hospital. When the hospital learnt that he was beaten by the army, he was told to get a letter from the police which he failed to do because he was in so much pain and as a result, Alfred could not easily access the desired treatment.

"I was very angry with myself being in that helpless state of life, I felt I wanted to die and give relief to my wives and children from the burden of taking care of me."

Alfred was referred to ACTV by the Uganda Human Rights Commission; he was assessed by the team and it was realised that he had both physical and psycho

logical effects of torture. He received a comprehensive rehabilitation package to include; medical treatment, orthopaedic services, and psychosocial counseling.


"I am so grateful for the services that I received from ACTV especially medical treatment and the psychological counseling. This has brought hope in my life and even to my family members who are my wives and the children"

Alfred's land was taken over by the government and given to a private investor; all the residents in that area were evicted and their houses demolished. However, he managed to acquire land elsewhere to undertake his farming and is happily settled looking after his family.

Vincent	Male	45	Married	Tortured in prison
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Vincent is married with children, and lives with his family in Apac district. He used to be a farmer and a village farmer's trainer which enabled him to provide for his family.

In 2008, his uncle was severely beaten by unknown people, which led to his death. Due to the misunderstandings that he had with his uncle, he was accused of killing him. He was arrested and remanded to prison. One morning as they were digging on the prison farm, one prisoner who had a



similar name like his tried to escape. When the information reached the prison warden, he was called in and they started beating him without listening to his explanation. They kicked and whipped him on the waist; by the time, they realised he was the wrong person he was already unconscious.

Due to the severity of his condition, the prison Nurse could not attend to him and he was referred to Apac hospital where he received treatment. With the support of the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

Vincent was later released and acquitted of all charges. However, his medical condition worsened from home and he became paralysed from the waist downwards.

Vincent was referred to ACTV by the Uganda Human

Rights Commission and at the time of assessment, his physical and mental health were at a critical stage. In addition, his wife and children had left him and he had no one to look after him. He received the ACTV rehabilitation package to include; medical treatment, physiotherapy and psychological counselling. The team was also able to link him back to his family and they have received several family therapy sessions.

"I was already a dead person; my wife left me not only because I was a burden but also because I could not perform my duties as a man. She told me she wanted more children and I was unable to give her the children". "However I am so grateful that my family is back home with me, my wife has been so supportive in my recovery process and we have a baby which shows how greatly I have recovered"

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE LEGAL JOURNEY OF JASPER NATUKUNDA

ACTV defines rehabilitation as holistic care given to torture survivors to enable them improve on their abilities, gain full functionality and thus be able to meet their daily needs. However, many survivors of torture hold the opinion that; complete rehabilitation is inclusive of legal remedies like compensation and prosecution of perpetrators. Such is Natukunda Jasper a client of ACTV in a landmark case; Natukunda Jasper Vs Attorney General & Anor. HCCS No. 01 of 2014.


On the 20th of November, 2018, in the matter of a miscellaneous cause No. 0035 of 2018 arising from HCCS No. 005 of 2015; Natukunda Jasper Vs Attorney General & Anor. Hon. Justice Moses Kazibwe Kawumi awarded Jasper UGX 313,518,400= from the monies appropriated to the Uganda Police Force in the National Treasury for the torture he underwent.

Natukunda Jasper's aspirations were shattered on the

11th of September, 2012 at 10:00am when he joined a group of about 200 people in Rukungiri Municipality, assembled for a purpose of presenting a petition to the Resident District Commissioner about the sorry state of Mitano Bridge.

The procession marched peacefully and unarmed with the petition in hand, the police violently intercepted the procession, gushing tear gas at the demonstrators and battering them with guns and batons. In that scuffle, the police arrested Natukunda Jasper and continued assaulting him and eventually undressed him.

Jasper became unconscious only to find himself in Nyakibale Hospital. The medical practitioners found that he had sustained grave injuries and referred him to Nsambya hospital for further management. . It was later established that Natukunda Jasper had suffered multiple blunt trauma



to the lumbro-sacral region, limbs trauma and acute urinary retention. He began using a trans-urethral catheterisation and suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for which psychiatric attention was needed to.

Under The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012. The Act defines torture as:


“any act or omission, by which severe pain or suffering whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of any person whether a public official or other person acting in an official or private capacity...”

Accordingly, the beating meted on Natukunda Jasper, on the face of it was torture and/or cruel inhuman degrading treatment or punishment, he therefore qualified to receive ACTV holistic care including legal services. Though ACTV was not legally mandated to represent her clients before the courts of law, ACTV engaged an external lawyer to ensure justice for Natukunda Jasper.

Counsel Rwakafuzi of Rwakafuzi & Co. Advocates, a passionate human rights lawyer was given instructions and ACTV funded the legal processes. HCCS NO.1 of 2014 was filed at Kampala Civil Division but was later transferred to High court of Uganda at Kabale because it had the jurisdiction to handle the case.

The matter was handled to its logical conclusion and on 7th of December, 2017 judgement was given in favour of the plaintiff. This meant that the plaintiff had adduced sufficient evidence and had proved his case on the balance of probability. Several declarations and orders were issued by court including;

- a) That the acts of torture occasioned to the plaintiff by police officers at Rukungiri on the 11th of September, 2012 were a violation of his rights against cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment guaranteed by Art. 24 of the constitution.
- b) That the 1st defendant is vicariously liable for the unconstitutional acts of the police officers at Rukungiri carried out on 11th day of September 2012.
- c) An order that the 1st defendant pays the plaintiff gen



eral damages in the sum of UGX 270,000,000= as compensation for the human and degrading treatment he was subjected to and for which he continues to suffer medical complications and the 1st defendant to pay costs of the suit to the plaintiff among others.

When the judgement was delivered, a decree was extracted and a certificate of order against government demanding for the payment of UGX 270,000,000= as compensation and costs to the tune of UGX 43,518,400=.

Thereafter, the Attorney General was served with an order, certificate of taxation and a certificate of order against government. However, the much needed compensation was not received and yet the client's health condition was deteriorating.

The existing government policy is now to make departments meet court awards from their appropriations in the national budget.

The Solicitor General then forwarded the judgement, Decree and certificate of order to the Inspector General of Police directing him to make arrangements to

pay in line with the covenant of decentralisation of payment of court awards and compensation by line ministries.

Subsequently, as a result of the prolonged waiting, Counsel for the Applicant filed Miscellaneous cause him damages of UGX 270,000,000= and costs taxed at UGX 43,518,400= from the monies appropriated to No. 0035 of 2018, in which Natukun da Jasper (Applicant) sought the writ of mandamus to compel the Treasury Officer of Accounts to pay the Uganda Police Force in the National Treasury. On 20th of November, 2018, the application was granted and the ruling made in favour of the Applicant.

The Applicant has received his compensation and is now living his life to the fullest.

Our gratitude is to Rwakafuzi & Co. Advocates to be specific Counsel Ladislaus Rwakafuzi for giving priority to matters of human rights violations and for handling this matter with due diligence. Below is a thank you note from Jasper Natukunda appreciating ACTV for the support over the five-year period.

NATUKUNDA JASPA LAHISI
RWAKABENGO
SOUTHERN DIVISION
RUKUNGIRI MUNICIPALITY
25th /July, 2019

The Chief executive Officer

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

P.O. BOX 6108

KAMPALA

Greetings!

The family of Mr. Natukunda Jaspa would like to express their sincere gratitude towards your continuous support towards Natukunda's medical treatment, counseling, legal services and all the care.

Once again I want to appreciate your continuous support towards my treatment since 2013 up to the time I was referred to Turkey.

I thank God for all your contribution in all ways since 2013 up to the time I was referred to Turkey with much appreciation and I can never thank you enough only God can reward you!!!

As I talk now am out of Turkey with much improvement, waiting for my review on 1st /Sept/2019

Thank you once again for your services and care towards me, may God abundantly bless you.

Yours,



NATUKUNDA JASPA LAHISI

0702686974, 0752999600

Clinics Card No: 04220/2013

Eric	Male	28	Single	Tortured at a Police station
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Eric is my Name and I am a lawyer by profession.

Sometime back about 4 months ago, as part of a legal team that consisted of 7 lawyers we went for fact finding Mission on land evictions in Kiryadongo District. However due to unfavorable circumstances and reasons best known to the Uganda Police, we were arrested and detained for one Night under unhealthy conditions. That detention never left me the same and obviously triggered in me anger and caused me Psychological trauma After weeks later ~~back~~ of KMA who referred us for counselling.

When I reached at ACIV, the reception was warming and after the 1st stage i.e the Screening Stage is when I realized how much I needed the ACIV Services. While at ACIV we were introduced to various topics and I must say that the results have been positive.

At first I felt hesitant and uneasy about discussing prior trauma and the upcoming event that I went through but the idea of group therapy was helpful in overcoming this. Since then there I have been at ACIV, the relationships that I have with other people have improved. I can now relate more with people and freely share my experience without having a negative emotion which used to be the case before ACIV. So, having good relationship with people has now helped me to take care of myself, push my self to achieve more goals and also have high levels of self-esteem.

I have also been able to deal with my old habits especially anger but which is a self-destructive habit. I realized that I can make an adverse situation even worse than already there one.

Lastly, having gone through my Session, it has also changed my attitude towards therapy. I once thought therapy means personal failure or a sign of weakness but I have realized that it's beneficial and for everyone.

Thank ACIV for supporting me through this journey and many thanks to Madam Barker, Madam Leila and Mr. Sika who have been instrumental in taking us through this journey. May God bless you! Mary X Mwas and Mary N. Kar

GROUP PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING APPROACH OF ACTV FOR TORTURE SURVIVORS IN THE PRISON SETTING.

ACTV has had a long standing relationship with the Uganda Prison Services and has provided group psychological counselling to survivors of torture in the prison setting.

This approach was designed to enable torture survivors in the prison setting understand themselves and others; through gaining insight of their emotions, cognitions and behavior. This approach also helps them understand the impact of their general well-being on others, gain insight to improve self-esteem as

well as enhance their awareness on skills for creating and maintaining social connections for social support.

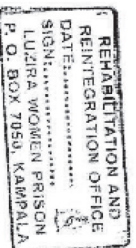
The key issues discussed are; Interpersonal relationships and trust building, Self-esteem and sense of personal responsibility, psychological adaptive mechanisms to prison life, exploration of the torture experience, anger Management, grief & loss, human dignity & value, problem solving & group future plans.

Below are the testimonies of two of the beneficiaries of the group psychological counselling in the prison setting.

23

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT - ACT 3
CHANGED MY LIFE INDEED!

I was arrested on a murder case and taken to Luzira Police station, the police officer who arrested me was very harsh and brutal, he slapped me hard in the rear many times that he stepped on my ear drums. He pinched me with a pair of Scissor and burnt me with paraffin forcing me to acknowledge 'Causing murders of my step daughters. He talked to me in Luganda and Kiswahili rudely threatening further to kill me if I didn't accept the allegations. Though received treatment from Luzira Women Prison Sister Bay, I have improved much after receiving counselling from ACTU classes. I now have selfless mind, have learnt forgiveness and realised my importance to live and hope for a bright future. I hope to get back to my children after life in prison as a good mother who is exemplary and innovative.

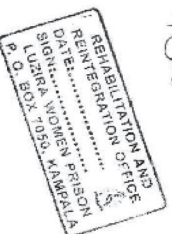


SE

HAVE AFTER TWO COURTSEALING.

I was arrested on mob justice case from Namsang Village in Benin's Police station. Fifteen people were arrested and seven released among whom I had one son and daughter. My daughter was acquitted in the process. However, I have one son in Umuahia plus other colleagues convicted together on the same file. During arrest I was beaten badly and killed and made me suffer from unknown sickness. My son was to meet badly to the extent of pressing his forehead with a scissor forcing him to acknowledge crime. This later made him to be operated from legs hospital.

Thanks to Almighty God for bringing me counselling in my life. I have now settled thoughts and hopeful for a better future. Staying and working with my fellow inmates also are victims of justice has given me courage to face more challenges beyond life in prison. When floods a hard situation, I have learnt to forgive and forget.



SC-7

REHABILITATION AND
REINTEGRATION OFFICE
DATE:.....
LUZENA WOMEN PRISON
SIGN:.....

LOFT LIVES XCTO PROGRAM ~~PROGRESS~~ ~~PROGRESS~~ ~~PROGRESS~~
CHANGED MY WAY OF THINKING
AND TREATED ME INDIVIDUALLY!

I was arrested on a murder case and taken to
Magdalena Police station where I was held of physically,
mentally and psychologically. I feel pain in my
heart, comparing the arrest time because I was
3 months pregnant, on top of that the officer who
arrested me raped me once for times in his office at
night forcing me to acknowledge the murder crime
which I didn't participate in. He threatened me on
the stomach that if it is a painful miscarriage,
there was no proper treatment given to me and
however much I bleed was just taken to count than
to saving Woman Prison! Was not given fair hearing
too much made me loose hope in life.

It's until XCTO ^{Came} ~~interfered~~ in my life and counseled
me now I have realized that I got a reason
to live happy and forget the past.
However much I have been bleeding for three years,
I have got happiness and hope and performance
since the condition is permanent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the cases highlighted above, it is clear that holistic rehabilitation and access to justice is important for survivors to regain functionality. Therefore, we as ACTV recommend the following:-

1. The effective implementation of the PPTA 2012 and its Regulations 2017 which provide for the rehabilitation of survivors of torture. Currently the available health services have not mainstreamed the peculiar needs of survivors of torture. There is need for clear guidelines by Ministry of Health on the provision of professional services to survivors of torture.
2. Timely compensation of survivors of torture in order to facilitate their full recovery. Jasper Natukunda is one of the few survivors who received compensation. However, his journey still took almost five years. The responsible Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) should compensate survivors in a timely manner.
3. That perpetrators should be held criminally liable for their acts through the effective utilisation of the PPTA 2012 and the Human Rights Enforcement Act 2019.
4. Continued provision of psychological services in the prison setting through teleservices since prisons cannot be accessed physically as a result of COVID-19.

CONCLUSION

The PPTA 2012 criminalises the violation of the Right to Freedom from Torture and Cruel, Inhumane, Degrading Treatment or Punishment by punishing either a public official or any other person acting in private capacity. Ugandan law allows an anonymous report of torture and the use of electronic communications as a mode of reporting the crime. Besides, amnesty to any person 'accused' of the crime is denied. The duty a rights holder holds is in reporting the crime or violation to the relevant authority.

Therefore, in order to realise the effective implementation of this law in Uganda, the Human Rights Based Approach principles of Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment and Legality in implementing laws needs to be utilised not only in law enforcement but also in capacity building of state and non-state actors besides awareness creation in the communities. Great thanks to our development partners, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for its technical and financial support.

To Report torture contact:

African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

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