



## **BUKEDI RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (BRUCI)**

### **CIVIC SPACE IN UGANDA**

**Reporting Period: April-June 2023**

#### **1. Context of Uganda.**

In Uganda, the political landscape has not changed over years plus the government too.

Politics of Uganda. Uganda is a presidential republic, in which the President of Uganda is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government business.

The policies regarding the three freedoms have not changed

In Uganda, yes there are the non-state entities like terrorists for example the Lord's Resistance Army, and Allied Democratic Forces, (ADF) rebels in Congo. These have affected the work of the civic space because the areas affected cannot be accessed.

The political context in Uganda is narrowed since the control of all high-level governmental oppositions and decision-making position are all occupied by the ruling party officials who suppress the opposition leaders

#### **2. Incident of human rights violations**

Allied Democratic Forces, (ADF) Attacks in West Uganda

On the night of Friday 16th June 2023, Lhubiriha Secondary School, in Southwestern border town of Mpondwe, Kasese district was attacked by assailants that Ugandan security forces have linked to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan rebel group operating from Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Forty-two (42) people, including 37 students, 4 members of the community, and 1 security guard were killed in the attack, while 6 students were abducted to carry food stolen from the school store, while 8 people remain in critical condition. Twenty students were reportedly hacked with machetes, before the attackers threw a grenade into the dormitory, killing 17 other students, with some bodies burnt beyond recognition. This puts the work of the civil society in the affected area at a very high risk



Figure1: Uganda Army leaders in West Uganda and East parts of Congo

Ugandan Parliament Deputy Speaker on rates of taxes of the civil servants

Rt Honorable Tayebwa Thomas the vice speaker of the parliament of Uganda at the beginning of June 2023 while talking to media in Uganda showed his dissatisfaction on the rates of Pay as You Earn (PAYE) taxes

Uganda has the highest rates on taxes in whole of the East African Community and this highly affects employees' salaries which makes them lose almost 50% of their salaries through government taxation



Figure1: Rt Hon Tayebwa Thomas during one of the Ugandan parliamentary sessions

### **Shooting and Killing of the Lawyer**

Ronnie Mukisa, 45, who was working at IBC Advocates in Namanda Plaza, Kampala was gunned down in the tragic incident that occurred on Tuesday night, 30th May 2023 at Kitiko Birongo, Ndejje Division, Makindye Sebagabo in Wakiso District.

Details showed Ronnie Mukisa, a paralegal killed at his residence on May 30, was likely shot in a money deal gone-bad with a one police officer in Kampala-Uganda, linked to either unequal sharing of proceeds from drug trafficking or alleged cheating of a client by Shs200m in an inflated vehicle pricing.

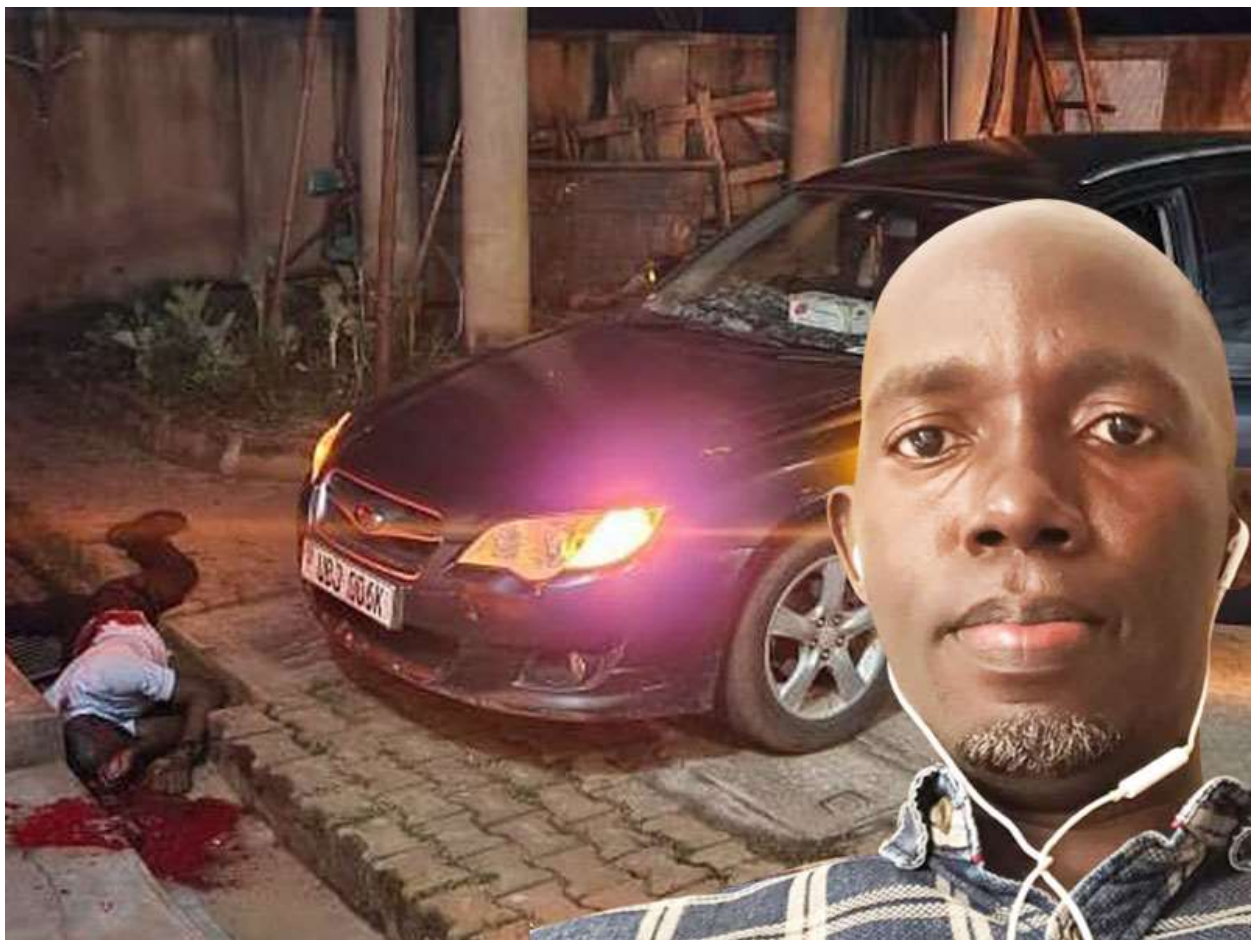


Figure3: The deceased after being shot (inserted is his photo while still alive)

### **USA Imposing restrictions on travels of the Government of Ugandan Officials siding with the Anti-LGBTQI+ act**

Washington on Friday announced it is imposing visa restrictions for Ugandans it accuses of “undermining the democratic process” in Uganda after the enactment of an anti-gay law.

A statement from the State Department did not name any targeted individuals.

It said the U.S. will consider other possible actions “to promote accountability for Ugandan officials and other individuals responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic process in Uganda, abusing human rights, including those of LGBTQI+ persons, or engaging in corrupt practices.



### **3. Suggestions for addressing these violations above.**

- Make relevant linkages with regional and international human rights mechanisms and processes.
- Reprehend and amend the punishment approved in the anti LGBTQI+ act.
- Use the national and regional courts of law to enforce human rights and hold the State accountable.
- Build alliances and bring all relevant stakeholders to the table.
- Communicate with and keep influential decision makers informed about progress made, challenges and opportunities for further advancing the advocacy objective.
- Grant the citizens a fair democracy process that does not involve threats to the opposition leaders.

- Sensitize the security groups for example the police, the army on how to handle the protestors by avoiding brutal handling.
- Follow the rule of law and apply justice to those convicted and charged with violence other kid napping and applying torturing them.
- Grant the journalists their freedom to operate and do their work because they are the eyes and ears of the public.