



BUKEDI RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (BRUCI)

CIVIC SPACE IN UGANDA

Reporting Period: July to September 2023.

1. Context of Uganda.

In Uganda, the political landscape has not changed over years plus the government too. The politics of 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. The non-state entities like terrorists for example the Lord's Resistance Army, and Allied Democratic Forces, and the ADF rebels in Congo have affected the work of the civic space because the

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

Closure of the UN Human Rights Offices

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk expressed deep regret at the closure of his office in Uganda, following the Government's decision not to renew the Host Country Agreement. The office in Kampala officially closed its operations on Saturday 5th August 2023 while the Sub-offices in Gulu and Moroto closed on 30 June and 31 July.

"I regret that our office in Uganda had to close after 18 years, during which we were able to work closely with civil society, people from various walks of life in Uganda, as well as engaging with State institutions for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all Ugandans," said Türk.

The closure of the UN Human Rights office is a big concern to the human rights activists about the human rights situation in Uganda ahead of the 2026 elections, given the increasingly hostile environment in which human rights defenders, civil society actors and journalists are operating.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/08/turk-announces-closure-un-human-rights-office-uganda>

Ugandan Police ban Bobi Wine's opposition rallies



Photo:

NUP leader Robert Kyagulanyi aka Bobi Wine campaigns for LCV Candidate Moses Aguuda in Hoima District on September 11, 2023. PHOTO/HANDOUT

The Ugandan police announced on 6th Wednesday September that they were suspending "until further notice" a nationwide mobilisation campaign launched by the main opposition party, led by Bobi Wine, because of public order problems.

The authorities had authorised this operation, launched on 2 September by the National Unity Platform (NUP), however, they banned it along the way. Bobi Wine told AFP that he intended to continue this campaign, which has given rise to rallies across the country, most recently in Arua (north-west).

According to the Ugandan police, they had noticed that in all the areas where the NUP mobilisation activities have been carried out, there have been disturbances to public order, unnecessary traffic jams, loss of business, and ill-intentioned damage to property.

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/09/14/ugandan-police-ban-bobi-wines-opposition-rallies//>

Uganda experiences terrorism threats;



Photo: A security team at the scene of crime after a controlled-explosion of a bomb outside Rubaga Miracle Centre church in Kampala on September 3,2023. PHOTO / ABUBAKER LUBOWA

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the Rubaga Miracle Centre cathedral after the man tried to enter with an explosive device, said police spokesman Patrick Onyango.

"We carried out a controlled detonation of the improvised explosive device consisting of nails, a motorbike battery, a charger and a telephone handset that was to be used in the attack," he told reporters outside the cathedral.

He said police had tracked the 28-year-old after receiving a tip-off about a possible attack on a place of worship, and found a bomb in his rucksack when he was arrested.