



## **Uganda – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 14 October 2010**

### **Information on country conditions in Uganda in general for its citizens.**

The introductory paragraph of the 2010 *Human Rights Watch* report on Uganda states:

“Impunity, corruption, and the erosion of independent institutions obstruct the protection of human rights in Uganda; government efforts in 2009 to tackle these shortcomings were weak.” (Human Rights Watch (20 January 2010) *World Report 2010 – Uganda*)

The second paragraph of the 2010 *United States Department of State* country report on Uganda states:

“Serious human rights problems in the country included arbitrary and politically motivated killings; vigilante killings; politically motivated abductions; mob and ethnic violence; torture and abuse of suspects and detainees; harsh prison conditions; official impunity; arbitrary and politically motivated arrest and detention; incommunicado and lengthy pretrial detention; restrictions on the right to a fair trial and on freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, and religion; restrictions on opposition parties; electoral irregularities; official corruption; violence and discrimination against women and children, including female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual abuse of children, and the ritual killing of children; trafficking in persons; violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities and homosexuals; restrictions on labor rights; and forced labor, including child labor.” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Uganda*)

In a section headed “Political Rights and Civil Liberties” the 2010 *Freedom House* report on Uganda states:

“Uganda is not an electoral democracy. The single-chamber National Assembly and the powerful president, who faces no term limits, are elected for five-year terms. Of the current legislature's 332 members, 215 are directly elected and 104 are indirectly elected from special interest groups including women, the military, youth, the disabled, and trade unions. Thirteen ex-officio seats are held by cabinet ministers, who are not elected members and do not have voting rights. The National Assembly has asserted some independence, censuring high-level executive officials and exercising oversight to influence a number of government actions and policies. However, there are significant concerns regarding the ability of opposition parties to compete with the ruling NRM. A long-standing ban on political party activity was formally lifted in 2005, but the opposition is still hindered by restrictive party registration requirements, voter and candidate eligibility rules, the use of government resources to support NRM candidates, and paramilitary groups – such as the Kiboko Squad and the Black Mambas – that intimidate voters and

government opponents. Army representatives in the National Assembly have openly campaigned for Museveni. The independence of the electoral commission has also been called into question, but Museveni nevertheless renewed the panel and reappointed its incumbent chairman in August 2009.” (Freedom House (1 June 2010) *Freedom in the World*)

This report also states:

“Although Uganda has certain measures in place to combat corruption, including the 2009 Anti-Corruption Bill and the Anti-Corruption Court, the resources to enforce them are generally lacking. A 2008 National Integrity Survey by the Inspector General of Government (IGG) reported widespread corruption in the public sector. Auditing and procurement agencies, in addition to the prosecution service, are understaffed and underfinanced. In 2008, evidence emerged that leading government officials had pressured the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to pay inflated prices for land purchases; the fund's managing director and his deputy were suspended, and in a February 2009 cabinet reshuffle, the finance minister was demoted due to his connection to the scandal. Uganda was ranked 130 out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index.” (ibid)

In a paragraph headed “Torture and other ill-treatment” the 2010 *Amnesty International* report on Uganda states:

“The government failed to ensure that suspected perpetrators of torture and other ill-treatment by the police and other state security services were brought to justice. Victims and survivors were rarely granted access to justice and legal remedies. Up to 71 per cent of the Uganda Human Rights Commission's compensation awards since 2001 remained unpaid by the government. Most complaints submitted to the Commission by victims of human rights violations related to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.” (Amnesty International (28 May 2010) *Report 2010 – Uganda*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### **References:**

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