

UGANDA ASSESSMENT
April 2001
Country Information and Policy Unit

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I. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information & Policy Unit, Immigration & Nationality Directorate, Home Office, from information obtained from a variety of sources.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to catalogue all human rights violations. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a 6-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom.

1.5 The assessment will be placed on the Internet, <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/>. An electronic copy of the assessment has been made available to the following organisations:

Amnesty International UK

Immigration Advisory Service

Immigration Appellate Authority

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

JUSTICE

Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture

Refugee Council

Refugee Legal Centre

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

II. GEOGRAPHY

2.1 The Republic of Uganda has a total area of 241,139 square kilometres, including 44,081 of inland water, making it slightly smaller than the UK's 244,755 sq. kilometres (figures from the Times Atlas of the World.) 20% of the country is covered by inland water and swamps. It is a land-locked equatorial country in East Africa bordered by Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) to the west, Kenya to the east and Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Victoria to the south. The climate is tropical, with temperatures moderated by the altitude of the country, varying between 15 and 30 degrees centigrade. [1][2][7][77]

Population

2.2 The latest census, conducted in January 1991 enumerated a population of 16,671,705. The latest estimates put the population at 21 million. Average life expectancy in 1990 - 1995 was 45 years according to UN estimates. 50% of the population are under 16 years of age. Demographic patterns in the later 1990's and beyond are expected to be significantly affected by the high incidence of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which by the early 1990's had reportedly reached epidemic proportions in Uganda. However, infection rates (which once were the highest in the world) are now reported to be falling, down from 30% of the population at the highest point in the early 1990s, to 12% currently after a government campaign to increase awareness. [1][7][64c]

2.3 The official language is English and there are many local languages, the most important of which is Luganda. More than 60% of the population follow Christian beliefs, while estimates of the Muslim population vary between 5% and 15%. The capital city is Kampala. [1][38]

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

2.4 Agriculture forms the mainstay of Uganda's economy, providing 45.6% of GDP in the financial year ending 30 June 1996 and employing an estimated 83.3% of the labour force. The principle cash crops are coffee (which provided about 62.5% of export earnings in 1996), cotton, tea and maize. The main subsistence crops are plantains, cassava, sweet potatoes, millet, sorghum, maize, beans, groundnuts and rice. In 1998, foreign investment in Uganda topped \$200 million and now accounts for at least 2% of GDP. [1][61d]

2.5 Between December 1985 and May 1987 the official exchange rate was fixed at US\$1 = 1,400 shillings. In May 1987 a new shilling was introduced equivalent to 100 of the former units. At the same time the currency was devalued by 76.7%, with the exchange rate set at \$1 = 60 new shillings. Further adjustments were implemented in subsequent years. Foreign exchange controls were mostly abolished in 1993. [1][33]

2.6 In April 1998 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) described Uganda's economy as one of the strongest performing in Africa. This was an accomplishment for a country whose real

gross domestic product (GDP) per capita had declined by a full 40% between 1971 and 1986 which was the year Yoweri Museveni came to power. Despite the IMF's commendation, several bank failures from late 1998, a weakening currency and a budgetary deficit equivalent to 6.6% of GDP in 1998/99 indicate that considerable economic reform is still required. Uganda's economy grew by 7.8% in 1999 rising from a low of 5.6% in 1998. Annual GDP is currently \$330 per capita. [7][67e][69]

2.7 The economy grew at a rate of 7% during 1999. The agriculturally based economy continued to rely on coffee as its chief export. Foreign investment slowed amid growing corruption and concerns over regional security in the wake of the country's involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The privatisation process slowed significantly following a series of mismanagement and corruption scandals that led to parliamentary investigations and to the resignation of the Minister of State in charge of the process in late 1998. The financial sector was badly mismanaged and this led to the closure of several banks and a general loss of depositor confidence. The stock exchange remained severely under-used. In August 1999, the government began work on drafting a consumer protection bill intended to address the widely varying standard of goods and services available to "unsophisticated" purchasers. They estimated it would take up to a year for the bill to become law. [60a][69]

2.8 Uganda is rated number twenty-one on the World Bank list of poorest countries, with 56% of the population living on US\$1 or less per day. Unemployment is estimated at up to four million, or 50% of the work force. The minimum legal wage is NUS\$ 600,000 (\$4) per month. Uganda attended a conference convened by the Commonwealth in London on 2–3 August 1999 aimed at alleviating the burden of interest payments on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). Finance Minister Gerald Sendaula said that all the advantages gained by participation in the programme had been negated by a sharp fall in coffee prices. [45][46][60c][61c][69]

2.9 A judicial commission of inquiry into corruption in the police force began operation in May 1999 submitted its report to the Minister of Internal Affairs. During the course of the investigation, the commission uncovered incidents of killings; brutality, theft and robbery by the police in general and by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in particular. The commission's proceedings were open to the public and received extensive press coverage. Although, the report was not made public by the end of 2000, several newspapers carried stories about the report. [69]

2.10 Tourism has begun to pick up again in the latter half of 1999, after declining to virtually zero after the massacre of foreign tourists in Bwindi Forest in April 1999 by the Rwandan Interahamwe and the terrorist bombs which were planted in Kampala in 1998, allegedly by the ADF. [60b]

III. HISTORY

President Obote and Independence

3.1 Uganda developed from the 19th century kingdom of Buganda, based along the northern shore of Lake Victoria. In 1894 Buganda was declared a British Protectorate and subsequently the same status was conferred on the other kingdoms of Bunyoro, Toro, Ankole, and Bugosa but the country was never fully settled. Self-government through a legislative and executive Council was granted in 1961 and the country became independent a year later. The government was led by Dr Milton Obote, leader of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) from 1960 and Prime Minister from 1962. Exactly one year after independence Uganda became a Republic, with Mutesa II Kabaka (King) of Buganda as first President. In February 1966 Obote unseated the Kabaka and in April became Executive President. In September 1967 a new Constitution was introduced, establishing a unitary republic, and Buganda was brought fully under the control of the central government. After an assassination attempt on President Obote all opposition parties were banned. [1][2]

Amin

3.2 President Obote was overthrown in January 1971 by the army led by Maj. Gen. (then Field Marshal) Idi Amin Dada, who assumed full executive powers and suspended political activity. The National Assembly was dissolved in February, when Amin declared himself Head of State, took over legislative powers and suspended parts of the Constitution. In August 1972, Amin, proclaiming an "economic war" to free Uganda from foreign domination, undertook a mass expulsion of Asians (both Ugandan nationals and aliens). [1][2]

3.3 In February 1976 Amin claimed that large areas of western Kenya were historically part of Uganda, and in November 1978 Uganda annexed the Kagera salient from Tanzania. In early 1979 an invasion force comprising Tanzanian troops and the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) formed by Ugandan exiles, gained control of the southern region of Uganda. Amin's forces capitulated, and in April a Tanzanian assault force entered Kampala. The remaining pro-Amin troops were defeated in June. Amin fled and in 1980 took up permanent residence in Saudi Arabia. [1][2]

Obote II

3.4 A provisional government, the National Executive Council (NEC) was established in April 1979 from the ranks of the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF), a coalition of 18 previously exiled groups, with Dr Yusuf Lule as President. Lule was succeeded by Godfrey Binaisa, who now lives in New York, who was in turn overthrown by the Military Commission of the UNLF in May 1980. Parliamentary elections held in December 1980 were contested by four parties and won by the UPC, with Obote who had remained its leader, becoming President for the second time. [1]

3.5 These elections are now widely regarded as having been rigged in the UPC's favour. A small group of guerrillas, the National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Yoweri Museveni refused to accept the result and went into the bush to fight the Obote government. [1]

3.6 Obote was overthrown in a military coup in July 1985, led by Brigadier (later General) Basilio Okello, like Obote an Acholi. A Military Council, headed by Lt Gen Tito Okello the Commander-in-chief of the army, was established to govern the country, pending elections to be held one year later. Though some political parties who had been in opposition to Obote accepted positions on the Military Council the NRA bush war continued with the NRA causing serious disruption in Southern Uganda and Obote's forces committing widespread human rights abuses. [7]

Present Government

3.7 On 26 January 1986 the NRA led by Yoweri Museveni took control of Kampala by force and dissolved the Military Council. On 29 January 1986, Museveni was sworn in as President and in February 1986 he announced the formation of a new cabinet, comprising of mainly members of the NRA and NRM (the political wing of the NRA), but also representatives of other political groups including the Democratic Party (DP), the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), the Federal Democratic Movement (FEDEMO) and three members of the previous administration. A National Resistance Council (NRC) was formed to act in place of a legislature pending the introduction of a new constitution. All activity by political parties was banned in March 1986, although political parties were not proscribed. He began implementation of his "Ten Point Plan" which the NRA had worked on from 1981 to 1986. [1][39][49d]

3.8 A referendum was held on 29 June 2000 on the future of politics in the country - whether to adopt Movement or Multiparty. Under the provision of the Referendum a vote for the movement amounted to a vote in favour of the existing political system and associated restrictions on political activity. Over 9.6 million Ugandans were reported to have registered to vote in the referendum. When polling took place on 29 June 2000 there were no significant reports of violence or intimidation. Official observers declared the voting to be free and fair, but said that the campaign process fell short of providing a 'level playing field'. The Donor Referendum 2000 Group, which included Uganda's 14 main bilateral donors, criticised the limitations placed upon the activities of political parties prior to the referendum. Meanwhile, a Human Rights Watch report said that the referendum was "incompatible with human rights standards". The final result of the referendum was announced on 2 July 2000 – a decisive victory for the Movement system of government. The Electoral Commission reported turnout to have been 51.1%, however, other sources put the figure at around 45%. [54a][64d][82a]

	Votes Cast	% Total
Votes for the Movement System of government	4,322,901	90.7
Votes for the Multi-party System of government	442,823	9.3

There were also 148,800 invalid votes cast, 3% of the ballot, which electoral officials attributed to a lack of civic education and illiteracy. [56][48a][65a]

Resistance committees

3.9 During 1986 the Museveni government developed a nation-wide system of resistance committees at local and district level; their responsibilities were to include the maintenance of security and the elimination of corruption. In May 1986 and June 1986 two commissions of enquiry were appointed to investigate, respectively, allegations of government corruption and violations of human rights perpetrated since independence. As a result of an examination of the police force, more than 80% of its members were dishonourably dismissed in July 1986. [1]

Insurgency

3.10 Widespread disruption was caused in 1987 by a rebellion that had arisen in northern and eastern Uganda in late 1986 by the cultish 'Holy Spirit' movement. Between December 1986 and November 1987 some 5,000 ill-equipped 'Holy Spirit' fighters were reportedly killed in clashes with the NRA. By December 1987 the rebellion had been suppressed and its leader had escaped to Kenya. Surviving members of the movement, comprised mainly of Acholi, later regrouped to what is now the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), aka Kony rebels, which has continued armed attacks in the northern districts of Gulu and Kitgum. The LRA has been guilty of widespread atrocities against the civilian population, including murder, mutilation, rape and child abductions. The LRA are allegedly supported by the Government of Sudan and have bases inside southern Sudan ([see paragraph 6.1](#)). [1]

3.11 During April 1990 the NRA initiated a campaign to eradicate continuing rebel activity in the north and east. By July it was reported that at least 1,500 guerrillas had been killed and more than 1,000 arrested. An Amnesty International report of December 1990 accused the NRA of torturing and summarily executing prisoners during their anti-insurgency operations. [1]

3.12 Following a collapse in the negotiations between the government and the rebel movement LRA in 1994, fighting intensified. From 1994 onwards the government deployed large numbers of security forces in northern Uganda but has so far failed to fully suppress the rebellion. [1]

3.13 From late 1996 the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF as the NRA had become) has fought intermittently with Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in Western Uganda. ADF rebel activity decreased in the latter months of 1997 following the fall of Mobutu in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) on whom they apparently relied for support. There has also been sporadic instability in the extreme northwest (West Nile area) of Uganda. It is thought that a further rebel group, the West Nile Bank Front (WBNF) backed by Sudan, had ceased to operate (some of its followers have joined the LRA), others have surrendered and joined the UPDF, although there have been reports of WBNF activity in 1997, 1998 and 1999. (See **Chapter VI**) [1][6b][36][69]

Amnesties

3.14 In June 1987 the NRC offered an amnesty to all rebels (except those accused of murder or rape). The period of this amnesty has been periodically extended, and widened to subsequent

rebel groups. Many past rebel figures have returned to Uganda, and the government confirmed that the 1987 Amnesty remained valid until the new Amnesty law passed through parliament, although, not having been renewed in law, it was an administrative arrangement rather than a legal one. The debate on the bill began in August 1998 and continued intermittently for over a year. The Bill finally passed into law on January 17th 2000 and was to be in force for 6 months. No formal announcements have been made regarding an extension to the Amnesty Law. The Foreign Office advise that the law is unconditional and open to all levels within the rebel movements. The law allows for extension beyond the initial six-month period, and despite the lack of formal notification, the amnesty has remained in force. It can be extended further as and when necessary. [1][9][25][29][69][70][83]

3.15 President Museveni had initially wanted the Amnesty to apply only to the rank and file but was prevailed upon by parliament to widen the scope to encompass all levels within the rebel movements. There are mixed reports of how the Amnesty is being implemented with The East African newspaper commenting, on the 14th of February 2000, that UPDF commanders in the extreme north "are behaving as though the amnesty does not exist". Implementations of the practical provisions of the act have been slow and it is too soon to assess its effect, especially in the more remote areas of the country. [69][70][72]

3.16 In May 1999, President Museveni made an offer of amnesty to Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army fighters, which was not taken up. He said he had been motivated by the pleas of the people of northern Uganda who were desperate for a solution. There seems, as yet, no indication that Kony will be any more enthusiastic in availing himself of the new Amnesty. In July 2000, former rebels of the Lords Resistance Army 'hanging out' in Nairobi's Uhuru Park explained how they were recruited to fight in places as far away as Angola and Ethiopia and that they were awaiting to take advantage of the amnesty offer. In April 2001, more than 50 Allied Democratic Forces rebels were freed in the first application of the amnesty law ([see paragraph 6.17](#)). [65c][65d][84a]

1989 Elections

3.17 In February 1989 the first national election since 1980 was held. The NRC, hitherto composed solely of Presidential nominees was expanded from 98 to 278 members, to include 210 elected representatives. While 20 ministerial posts were reserved for nominated members of the NRC, 50 were allocated to elected members. In October 1989 (despite opposition from the DP) the NRC approved draft legislation to prolong the government's term of office by five years from January 1990 (when its mandate was due to expire). In March 1990 the NRM extended the national ban on political activity (imposed in March 1986) for a further five years. [1][7]

3.18 In January 1994 the Ugandan National Democratic Alliance (UNDA) and the Ugandan Federal Army (UFA) agreed to suspend their armed struggle under the provisions of a government amnesty, and in March senior members of the Rwenzunuru Kingdom Freedom Movement in the south-west surrendered, although they were later replaced by the ADF and NALU ([see paragraph 6.20](#)). [1][2][4][26][30][31][32]

Constituent Assembly Elections

3.19 On 28 March 1994 elections to the 288-member Constituent Assembly (CA) took place and more than 1,100 candidates contested the 214 elective seats. Although the elections were officially conducted on a non-party basis, NRM members were believed to have secured the majority of votes in the centre, west and south west of the country, whereas UPC and DP members, who advocated an immediate return to multiparty politics, secured the most seats in the north and parts of the east. The Constituent Assembly, which also comprised nominated representatives of the armed forces, political parties, trade unions and youth and disabled organisations, debated and amended the draft Constitution, finally enacting it in September 1995. The Constitution, under whose terms a national referendum on the future return to a multi party system took place on 29 June 2000 ([see paragraph 4.11](#)), was promulgated in October 1995. [1][64d]

Presidential & Legislative Elections

3.20 The country's first ever presidential election took place on 9 May 1996. Museveni won with 74.2% of the votes cast. International observers judged the elections generally reflected the preference of the electorate. Legislative elections took place in June 1996. As with the CA elections they were conducted on a non-party basis, but NRM supporters won a large majority of the seats. Multiparty supporters won seats in the north. Voting took place in June 1996 for local councils. Further local elections were held in November 1997. [1][14a][15]

3.21 Campaigning began in early January 2001 for the presidential elections set for 7 March 2001 in which President Museveni faces his most prominent opponent Kizza Besigye. A doctor who became a guerilla fighter alongside Museveni in the early 1980s. The other main candidates for the presidency were Karuhanga Chapaa, Muhammad Kibirige Mayanja, Francis Bwengye and Aggrey Awori. President Museveni was in power since 1986 and won 70% of the vote in the last presidential elections in 1996. On 2 March 2001, Uganda's electoral commission announced that the date for the elections had to be pushed back by five days to 12 March. The commission said this was done to allow extra time for the display of voters' register and the distribution of voters' cards. The issue of the electoral registers was controversial as there were believed to over a million more people on the rolls than of eligible voting age in the country. In the run up to the elections there were reports of pre election violence. On 8 January 2001 three people were injured when armed men shot at a convoy of vehicles carrying Dr Besigye's supporters on their way back to Rukungiri after attending his nomination in Kampala. A newspaper article on 29 January 2001 stated that Kasese Local Council V chairman Yokasi Bihande accused some UPDF commanders, who were operating in the district, of engaging political campaigns and threatening supporters of some presidential candidates. On 30 January 2001, police recorded 65 election-related offences since the campaign began two weeks previously, stating that most of the friction existed between the Besigye and Museveni camps. [31g][31h][54b][60e][82c][84b]

3.22 On 15 January 2001, police set up a team to fight election-related violence. The day before campaigning began on 11 January 2001, President Museveni's campaign manager in Uganda's central region was shot and killed after attending a strategy meeting. On 19 January 2001, surprise presidential candidate and Bakayimbira dramactors director, Charles James Ssenkubuge released a press statement saying that he is quitting the race for presidency due to

intimidation. He claimed that he had received anonymous phone calls of a threatening nature. His campaign had been dogged by under-funding. On 20 February 2001, Ugandan security agents forcibly arrested a senior aide of Dr Besigye, Major Rabwoni Okwir. This follows the arrest of two of Dr Besigye's prominent allies the previous week. Besigye blamed the arrest on President Museveni whom he said wanted to sabotage the campaigns and continue in office without an election. Major Rabwoni was forcibly arrested by the Military Police at Entebbe Airport just before he and Dr Besigye's campaign team were to board a flight to Adjumani in Northern Uganda. A statement was authored by Rabwoni on 21 February saying that he had withdrawn from presidential candidate Dr Besigye's Task Force, but he later claimed that he was intimidated with death threats to sign the press release withdrawing from the Task Force. Rabwoni was released from custody and taken to his home. A newspaper article dated 28 February 2001, stated that Major Rabwoni Okwir had left Uganda to go into exile in the United Kingdom. Uganda's external donors expressed concerns about reports by local election monitors of increasing violence and intimidation of voters, particularly by government agents. In a statement issued on 20 February 2001 and signed by the Danish Ambassador Flemming Bjork Pedersen, the Post-Referendum Support Group (PRSG) also called for the display of the voters register in public places. The donors urged the Government to uphold the law and ensure impartiality. PRSG members include Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA and UNDP. [31i][31j][31k][50f][50g][65e][85a]

3.23 The text of a report broadcast on Ugandan radio on 17 December 2000 stated that all aspiring candidates are required under section 3 of the Presidential Elections Act Number 17 of 2000, to submit to the commission a certificate issued by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), as evidence of Advanced Level Standard or its equivalent. The commission advises all aspiring candidates to present their academic qualifications to UNEB and obtain a certificate of clearance which would be required by the commission on nomination day. [49e]

3.24 The electoral playing field in Uganda was "definitely not level" and serious human rights concerns in the lead-up to Uganda's presidential elections cast doubt on whether they could be free and fair, the US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated on 4 March 2001. It said that the government of President Museveni was "trying to win this election by bullying the opposition", which had been threatened by violence, arrests and intimidation since campaigning started in January 2001. The NGO Election Monitoring Group-Uganda (NEMGROUP-U) blamed the violence that occurred on 3 March 2001 in Rukungiri town on the Presidential Protection Unit (PPU). The violence was as a result of clashes between the PPU and supporters of Dr Besigye at the instigation of the PPU. The monitors called for the Government to demilitarise the electoral process and immediately withdraw PPU soldiers like Rukungiri where the president is not present and to let the police be on charge. The NEMGROUP-U also asked that the electoral commission to enforce the provisions of section 12(1)(e) of the Electoral Commission Act 1997 which requires it to ensure that the electoral process is conducted under conditions of freedom and fairness. [31l][84b]

3.25 70.3% of eligible voters turned out to vote on 12 March 2001. An excerpt of a report on Ugandan Radio on 12 March, states that voting in most parts of the country was being conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. At midnight on 12 March 2001 top officials of the President Museveni camp celebrated after indications that their candidate was winning in most parts of Uganda. Deputy publicity secretary of Museveni's National Task Force, Ofwono Opondo, said that the most significant aspect of the election was that Besigye had lost in his home subcounty of

Nyakagyeme in Rukungiri district polling only some 2,000 votes against Museveni's 7,000. Ofwono said in the whole country, Museveni lost only Lira, Arua and Gulu districts. The final results were announced at the International Conference Centre on 14 March 2001 by the chairman of the Electoral Commission, Haji Aziz Kasujja. [31m][49f][49g]

The results of the presidential elections on 12 March 2001 were as follows:

Candidate	Votes	%
Lt. Gen Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI	5,123,360	69.3
Dr Kizza BESIGYE	2,250,795	27.8
Other Candidates	210,036	2.9
Total	7,584,191	100.00

[82d][84c][86]

3.26 Following the elections two people were killed and six injured in two explosions in Kampala. One explosion went off at Nakivubo Mews in central Kampala and the second took place on a taxi minibus 100km (60 miles) south west of Kampala. These explosions occurred as President Museveni's supporters were out on the streets of Kampala celebrating his victory and just two hours after President Museveni was declared the winner. Two men were arrested in connection with the explosions. On 20 March 2001, defeated presidential candidate Dr Besigye was summoned to CID police headquarters to explain comments he had made, which were allegedly uttered with seditious intent. As a result, a travel ban was directed by the Head of Military Intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel Noble Mayombo, who said the move was necessary following the bomb blasts which, he said, could be linked to politicians unhappy with the election results. A senior government official said that the reason for the ban was that Besigye was going to South Africa to meet with Rwandan President Kagame who was due to arrive there on the same day. Earlier in March 2001, Uganda declared Rwanda a hostile nation. This move was instigated because Uganda feared Rwanda, who was once the government's staunchest ally, was funding Dr Besigye's bid for presidency. [82d][82e][87]

3.27 Dr Kizza Besigye, who finished second in the presidential elections, challenged the results. He challenged both President Museveni and the Electoral Commission over the alleged irregularities and alleged rigging of the final results. The hearing in the Supreme Court opened on 5 April 2001 and was expected to reach their judgement within a month. About 2 weeks after the start of the hearing the Supreme Court threw out Besigye's petition. The court's five judges ruled by a majority of 3-2 that, although there had been irregularities in the poll, these had not substantially affected its outcome. [66s][66t]

IV INSTRUMENTS OF THE STATE

SECURITY SITUATION

4.1 Since January 1986 the internal security situation has much improved, especially in Kampala and the south, although many weapons remain in private hands and lawlessness is rife. The army has found it difficult to establish its authority in the north. There continues to be sporadic lawlessness in the Karamoja region due to traditional cattle-rustling activities and the wide availability of arms. In August 1999, the UPDF reported that they had found the bodies of at least 140 people, including 70 children, close to the borders with Sudan and Kenya in the remote northeastern region. They blamed the Karamojong, backed by 500 Turkana tribesmen from just over the border in Kenya. The UPDF have been ordered to shoot on sight any armed Karamojong warriors found "loitering" by the highway. In September 1999 the UPDF, on a pacification mission in the area, interrupted a gun battle between rival factions of the Karamojong and opened fire on both sides. Unconfirmed reports estimated "hundreds" of warriors were killed. The ADF, who are located in the west of the country, traditionally operated across the border from bases in the DRC until 1997 when the newly-established Kabila government gave the UPDF access to the bases. The government announced in August 1998 that they had sent troops across the border in the DRC not to join the fighting in the rebellion there, but merely to establish a buffer zone along the border to prevent raids by the ADF. The government of the DRC has now begun action in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague claiming that Uganda is in the DRC illegally and has caused harm to DRC citizens by their actions ([see also paragraph 5.4](#)). [11][26][28a][62][66a][66b][69]

4.2 There were no confirmed reports in 1999 of politically motivated killings by government forces, but the security forces and the police do still commit extrajudicial killings. Neither were there reports of politically motivated disappearances, due to action by government forces. A number of Muslims believed to be missing in 1999 were released. In the course of official operations, police, UPDF, LDU and DMI personnel sometimes used excessive force, resulting in deaths. On 19 January 2000, UPDF soldiers killed two LRA rebels wounded in an unsuccessful attack on the Paloga trading centre in Gulu district. By the end of 2000 there were no reports of any action taken against the officer who ordered the killings. On 28 January 2000, UPDF and police in the Kampala suburb of Kabalagala, killed six persons after they allegedly robbed bus passengers of money and property and shot the driver. At the end of 2000, there were no reports of any action taken against the UPDF and police officers involved. [69]

4.3 Unlike 1999, there were no reports that security officials mistreated Muslims or that Muslims suspected of being ADF rebel collaborators or involved in terrorist activities died as a result of torture by DMI officials. On 8 November 2000, there were reports from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that UPDF soldiers allegedly shot and killed nine persons at a wedding party in Northern Kivu Province, DRC. The soldiers believed the village to be sympathetic to the Mai Mai. The attack reportedly followed violent clashes between UPDF and Mai Mai forces in the surrounding area. Government cases against two UPDF soldiers accused of killing five youths in Fort Portal, Kabarole district in 1999, were still pending at the end of 2000. The two soldiers were on remand in Katojo prison facing murder charges; the twelve other soldiers involved in the incident were investigated and cleared of wrongdoing. [69]

4.4 The police occasionally treat criminals in a degrading and inhumane manner. The Government investigated some cases of abuse, and tried and punished some offenders. In May 1999 the Government launched a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into police corruption. The commission probed a wide range of police abuses, including abuses committed by senior police

officials. The inquiry resulted in the arrests of several police officers on charges of abuse, rape, extortion and robbery including a police officer accused of raping a 16 year old girl. On 19 May 2000, the independent judicial commission of inquiry submitted its report to the Minister of Internal Affairs. During the course of the investigation, the commission uncovered incidents of killings, brutality, theft and robbery by police in general, and by the CID in particular. The commission's proceedings were open to the public and received extensive press coverage. The report was still not made public by the end of 2000, although several newspapers carried stories about the report. In January 2001, the Inspector-General of police admitted the presence of corrupt officers in the Uganda Police Force and warned the concerned officers that if caught they will be dealt with firmly. [66g][69a]

4.5 During 2000, vigilante justice was a problem. Authorities rarely prosecuted persons engaged in mob violence, which frequently resulted in death. Most mob attacks resulted from petty crimes. There were numerous instances in which mobs beat to death or doused with petrol and then burned to death petty theft suspects. These attacks were often motivated by widespread distrust of the justice system. The mobs also engaged in stonings, beatings and other forms of mistreatment, such as tying suspects' wrists and ankles behind their backs, stripping suspects of their clothes and parading them through the streets, or forcing them to hop on the sides of their ankles. Vigilantes also have stripped prostitutes who dress "indecently" or "provocatively". In October 2000, an angry mob lynched a man in south-west Uganda after he hacked to death three children and injured four others. Residents in Ntungamo village clubbed and stoned Wilson Owele after he attacked the children. The three children who died were aged five and six. After the attack by the mob, Owele was rushed to hospital where he died a few hours later. In December 2000, a man suspected of breaking into a house and a shop where he stole drinks, rice, cooking oil and buns was lynched by a mob in Fort Portal town just after being released from Katojo prison where he had been remanded on previous charges of theft. [31n][65f][69a]

4.6 In April 1999, 8 foreign tourists, including 4 British nationals, were massacred by Rwandan Interahamwe guerrillas whilst holidaying in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest close to the Rwandan border. They are reported to have separated the tourists into 2 groups - French speakers, who were released and English speakers, who were killed. [63]

Uganda/Sudan Border

4.7 In February 1997 an Ugandan national was killed when three Sudanese aircraft dropped bombs in Moyo district, in northwest Uganda. In December 1999 the Governments of Sudan and Uganda signed an accord brokered by the Carter Centre agreeing to cease supporting rebel groups and to return abductees. On 24 May 2000, in the course of his campaign meetings, in the run up to the Referendum, President Museveni referred to the agreement signed with Sudan to disarm and disband armed opposition groups based in each other's countries. He said that Uganda had fulfilled its part of the bargain by releasing all Sudanese POWs but is still waiting for the Sudanese government to stop LRA leader Joseph Kony using bases in southern Sudan. The President added that if the Sudanese failed to stop LRA activities within their country, Ugandan forces would pursue rebels into Sudan. Museveni also announced that forces in Gulu and Kitgum districts would be increased while government negotiations continue to dislodge Kony from Sudan. [17][22][49a][50b][69]

THE CONSTITUTION

4.8 A draft Constitution was prepared by a constitutional commission appointed in 1989 and presented to government in December 1992. The draft was published in March 1993, and in the following month, the NRC passed legislation authorising the establishment of a Constituent Assembly, (CA). Following these elections, the newly elected members of the CA debated and amended the draft constitution and it was finally enacted in September 1995 and promulgated on 8 October 1995 ([See paragraph 3.19](#)). [18]

4.9 The Constitution confers fundamental human rights and freedoms on every person in Uganda including equal protection under the law, equality between men and women in all aspects of life and guarantees the enjoyment of individual rights without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, social standing or political opinion, and without interference with the rights of others. [18]

4.10 In addition to the protection for those accused of crimes, individual freedoms include freedom of speech, expression, and the press and other media; freedom of thought, conscience and belief, including academic freedom; freedom to practice any religion and freedom of peaceful assembly, association and movement. [18]

4.11 The Government of Uganda set up a Constitutional Review Commission in February 2001. The Commission have a wide remit to consider including decentralisation; the relative powers of the executive, the judiciary and the legislative; the electoral system; the scope for federalism and the role of traditional leaders. The commission is due to report its findings within 18 months. [50h]

Political Parties

4.12 President Yoweri Museveni, elected to a 5-year term in 1996 under the 1995 Constitution continued to dominate the Government. The Constitution formally extended the one-party movement form of government for 5 years and severely restricted political activities. The Parliament acted with increasing independence and assertiveness during 1999, although Movement supporters remained in control of the legislative branch. The government held a referendum on 29 June 2000 to determine the future direction of politics in Uganda, which confirmed the Movement in power ([see section 3.19](#)). The Referendum Bill passed through Parliament in July 1999, had been attacked by both the UPC and the DP who saw it as a stratagem to turn Uganda permanently into a one-party state. On 10 June 2000 the UPC lawyer, Peter Walubiri, announced a series of new measures to defy and resist government restrictions on political activity. Speaking on behalf of UPC leader (and former Ugandan President) Dr Milton Obote, currently in exile in Zambia, Walubiri addressed party leaders and supporters at Uganda House in Kampala. Measures are to include plans to launch a nation-wide recruitment campaign and to issue membership cards. Party members were told to begin open political activities at all costs, including opening branch offices, holding delegate conferences and addressing public rallies. [50e][61e][64d][69]

THE JUDICIARY

4.13 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary. The President has extensive legal powers that influence the exercise of independence. The President nominates, for the approval of Parliament, members of the Judicial Service Commission, which makes recommendations on appointments to the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. The lower courts remained understaffed and weak. [69]

4.14 The highest court in Uganda is the Supreme Court, followed by (in descending order) the Court of Appeal (which also functions as the Constitutional Court for cases of first instance involving constitutional issues), the High Court, the Chief Magistrate's court, and local council (LC) level 3 (subcounty) courts, LC 2 level (parish), and LC level 1 (village) courts. A minimum of six justices may sit on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal or Constitutional Court. However, bribery and corruption are widespread amongst officers of the lower courts and the LCs have been described as the most corrupt apparatus of the state. There is also a military court system. [67a][69]

4.15 The courts were impaired by a 4-year civil service hiring freeze, which relaxed in 1998. The average time in pre-trial detention is from 2 to 3 years. The civilian judicial system contains procedural safeguards, including the granting of bail and the right of appeal to higher courts; however, an inadequate system of judicial administration and a lack of resources, resulting in a serious backlog of cases, have circumscribed the right to a fair trial for many years. For example, a woman was released from custody by the High Court in June 1999 after having been imprisoned since 1991 without trial. She was accused of murdering her husband, but whenever she was scheduled to appear in court, no representative from the Prosecutor's office ever appeared, so she was remanded on each occasion. [60d][69]

4.16 Many defendants cannot afford legal representation. The Constitution requires that the government provides counsel for defendants accused of capital offences, but there is rarely enough money to retain adequate representation. The Uganda Law Society (ULS) operates Legal Aid clinics in four regional offices. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiatives practice public-interest law from offices in Kampala. [69]

4.17 In July 2000 President Museveni commuted the sentences of 13 prisoners on death row to life imprisonment. Uganda still retains the death penalty and at the end of 1999 it was reported that 269 prisoners, including 150 soldiers, were on death row. The last executions in Uganda took place on 29 April 1999 when 28 men (26 convicted of murder and two of aggravated robbery) were hanged. Prior to April 1999 there have been no executions in Uganda since 1996. In December 1999 the Ugandan Cabinet rejected recommendations by the Law Reform Commission to end the death penalty for rapists and defilers. [9][22][23]

Treason

4.18 The government continued to arrest people on treason charges, especially captured rebel fighters, in numbers greater than the judicial system could manage. In the past, numerous human rights abuses were committed in connection with treason cases, including political detention, detention without charge, detention in unregistered and unofficial places of remand, and mistreatment, including torture. At the end of 1999, prison officials put the number of those on remand on the charge of treason at 226, none of whom were children. The Government released

treason convicts and suspects under the terms of the Amnesty Act signed by President Museveni in January 2000. [69]

MILITARY SERVICE

4.19 There is no military conscription in Uganda. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) is under full civilian control. The recruitment criteria of a minimum age of 18, recommended by the local council structure, medically fit and educationally literate. However one should be aware that the real picture is slightly different. There have been several reports from concerned parents of forced recruitment. This may be due to the massive levels of recruitment since the start of the conflict with the DRC and also high levels of unemployment making the army a relatively attractive option for out of work youngsters. [14b][69]

SECURITY FORCES

4.20 The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) is the key security force. The Constitution provides for civilian control of the UPDF, with the President designated as commander in chief. The UPDF was more active, in part due to the continued instability in the north and west but mostly because of the country's involvement in the conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). UPDF soldiers and members of the local defence units (LDU) assist the police in rural areas, although the LDU's continued to operate without a legal mandate. [69]

4.21 War broke out in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in August 1998, Congolese Tutsis as well as the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda all relied on the Rwandan military presence for protection against hostile armed groups operating out of the eastern part of the DRC. These groups included, among others, the Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF). In the ensuing war, elements of the armed forces of Rwanda and Uganda operated inside the DRC in support of the Rally for the Congolese Democracy (RCD) and the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC). It was reported, in May 2000, renewed fighting broke out between Uganda and Rwanda who are supposed allies in the fight against President Kabila's government. The two allies have never agreed on strategy –with Uganda saying that Rwanda wants to install a 'puppet regime' in the DRC. By the middle of May 2000 the leaders of both countries met in an attempt to heal the rift. A communique issued at the end of the talks said that Uganda and Rwanda have pledged to forge ahead with their declaration, made on 8 May 2000, to demilitarise the town of Kisangani and remove troops from each other's borders. On 31 August 2000, it was reported that Congolese warriors had attacked the Ugandan customs border post. The UPDF rounded up over 40 attackers whose motives are unclear according to security forces. This incident caused fear and uncertainty among Ugandans along the border. There were allegations of human rights violations during fighting between UPDF and Rwandan army troops in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in May and June 2000. Credible sources from the DRC claim that Rwandan and Ugandan troops raped many women and shot persons during extensive fighting in the city. There was widespread reporting throughout 2000 of killings and other human rights abuses by both pro-DRC and anti-DRC government forces, including the UPDF in the conflict in the DRC. There were report that both Ugandan and Rwandan forces used landmines; however, there were no reports of any deaths or injuries as a result of such landmines. [24][34][57][69]

4.22 The government is also tackling corruption and inefficiency in the army - soldiers who ran away from an ADF attack on Kichwamba Technical Institute in June 1998 in which at least 45 people died and over 100 were abducted, have been court martialled. The UPDF have established a special pay unit to curb fraud and corrupt practices, they will be in charge of procurement of goods and supplies. President Museveni estimated that \$4.8 million US was lost annually through fraud in salaries and food supplies by one division alone. In addition, the government has raised the pay of soldiers by 5% to discourage pilfering. [20][28a][40a][40b][66d]

4.23 The Internal Security Organisation (ISO) remains under the authority of the President and although primarily an intelligence-gathering organisation the ISO also has the power to arrest and detain civilians. The Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) comes under control of the UPDF and also takes an active part in anti-terrorist activities. It has been accused of serious human rights abuses. The Ugandan police have now established their first dedicated anti-terrorist squad following bomb blasts in Kampala in early April 1998 called the National Task Force Against Terrorism. Overall, however, the most recent figures available indicate a drop in the number of serious crimes, including murder and armed robbery. [64b][64f][69]

4.24 Although reported to be declining, fraud continues in the armed services. It was reported in August 1999 that food rations purchased from South Africa and intended for Ugandan troops serving in the DRC were well past their sell-by date and therefore unsafe. Additionally, six MIG-21 fighters purchased recently from an unspecified vendor for over \$500,000 each were found to be outdated and in need of overhaul. [61a]

4.25 The Constitution prohibits “any form of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;” however, security forces commonly beat and sometimes tortured criminal suspects, often to force confessions. Although in 1999, UPDF forces in the north on occasion beat and abused civilians there were no reports of such abuse during 2000. On 18 February 2000, a police constable in Mukono district, allegedly tortured two civilians and demanded money in order to release them from detention. In March 2000, a police constable was arrested. At the end of 2000 the constable was still in detention on charges of unlawfully detaining civilians and disobeying orders. In February 2000, a businessman Charles Mpunga accused Major Kakoozza Mutale, a presidential adviser on political affairs, of detaining and torturing him at Mbyua military barracks in January 2000. In July 2000, the UHRC tribunal ruled that there was enough evidence to proceed with the case against Mutale; the UHRC charged and found Mutale guilty of torture and illegal imprisonment. Mutale appealed to the High Court, claiming that the UHRC lacked jurisdiction. His case was still pending at the end of 2000. On 18 March 2000, the UPDF arrested the UPDF reserve force commander for Tororo district for torturing civilians and beating two police officers on 16 March 2000. At the end of 2000, the commander remained in detention pending a court-martial. [69]

4.26 In May 1999, the government launched a Judicial Commission of Enquiry into police corruption, which is still sitting. Their investigation uncovered a wide range of abuses by the police and has lead to the arrest of several police officers on charges of abuse, rape, extortion and robbery, including one officer charged with raping a 16 year old girl. The proceedings were open to the public and extensively reported in the press [\(See section 4.4\)](#) [69a]

4.27 On 11 May 1999, a newspaper published a photograph of a naked woman being held down by a group of men in military uniforms while they shaved her head. The local press contained highly inflammatory and contradictory reports, one claimed that the woman had been arrested for shoplifting, another that she was being forced to take part in a voodoo ritual. One Kandida Lakony came forward and claimed to be the woman in the picture and that UPDF soldiers in Gulu were responsible, adding that she had been forced to remain naked in a cell for two days. Army officers confirmed it was normal practice to hold women naked and to shave their heads with blunt razors as punishment. However, in October 1999, a court rejected her claims and sentenced her to 12 months imprisonment for giving false information to the police. On 29 June 2000, Kandida Lakony was released from Luzira prison after serving her sentence for giving false information regarding the newspaper photograph. [69a][69b]

PRISONS

4.28 No accurate estimates are available on the number of deaths in detention due to the harsh conditions and lack of medical care, although such deaths have occurred. The UHRC reported severely inadequate medical services, severely unhygienic conditions, and a situation of “semi-starvation” among prisoners in many prisons. Of a group of 30 persons arrested for treason in 1986 and held in Luzira prison, 29 have died of various diseases including malaria, meningitis and cholera. The harsh conditions largely result from the Government’s seriously inadequate funding of prison facilities. The central prison system continued to work with NGO’s and the donor community to improve prison buildings, water and sanitation systems, food and uniforms. Progress has been marginal. [69a]

4.29 There were no developments in the investigation into the June 1998 death of Matia Mulama and inmate of Buikwe prison who reportedly was found dead after having been tortured by the chief warden. In April 1999 a court in Masindi heard that five inmates died in detention. On 6 August 2000, armed police suspected to be rebels attacked Malukuhu Government Prison in Mbale and abducted 139 prisoners. A prison warder on guard when the attack happened said that the attackers cut the prison fence and locks. All inmates from 2 of the prison wards were abducted. It was reported on 9 August 2000 that a joint Uganda army and police force rescued 14 of the prisoners. A police spokesman, Eric Naigambi, said that a number of the prisoners had escaped from their captors and reported to the authorities in Mbale. [31f][69a]

4.30 Efforts have been made by the Ugandan government to reform the prison system. In May 2000, President Museveni signed the Community Service Act, designed to reduce prison congestion by allowing minor offenders to do community service instead of being imprisoned; however implementation of the act had not begun by the end of 2000 due to insufficient funding. On 13 July 2000, President Museveni pardoned and released 522 prisoners from Luzira prison on humanitarian grounds. In an Ugandan radio broadcast on 3 February 2001, reporting a press release by the commissioner of prisons, President Museveni had pardoned 473 convicted prisoners. These included, among others, 21 terminally ill prisoners, 22 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers not convicted of capital offences and 18 not convicted of capital offences aged 60 years and above. Most prisons grow maize, millet and other crops but the UHRC accused prison farms of overworking and underpaying prisoners, most of whom earn only Ush 1

per day a rate established in the early 1960's. The law provides for access to prisoners by their families, ignorance of this right and fear of prison authorities often limit family visits. The UHRC reported that it had received allegations that officers in charge of police cells sometimes demanded bribes. [66h][69a]

4.31 Prison conditions come closest to meeting minimum international standards in Kampala, where prisons provide medical care, running water and sanitation; however these prisons are among the most overcrowded. According to a New Vision article published on 16 December 2000, Uganda's prisons currently hold around 17,000 prisoners. Luzira Upper Prison was meant to hold 624 prisoners but there are 1,851 inmates including 238 convicts on death row. The article claims that the government needs 14m dollars to repair the overcrowded maximum security prison and 13 others around Uganda. Pre-trial detainees comprise nearly three quarters of the prison population. The average time in pre-trial detention is 2-3 years. Pre trial detainees are held in both central prisons and local government-run prisons. Congestion and delays in the legal system have resulted in an increasing number of detainees each year; however the number of criminal cases pending before the High Court decreased from 1,500 in 1999 to 143 in 2000. A census of the central prison population conducted in 1999 indicated that at least one-sixth of the inmates were being detained beyond constitutional limits. The UHRC heard several cases during 2000 brought by prisoners challenging the length of their detention, and it was investigating a complaint from prisoners in Bugungu in Mukono district. In November 1999, more than 400 prisoners held on charges of treason without trial since 1997 staged a protest at Luzira prison. The prisoners refused to return to their cells until they received assurances from the Director of Public Prosecutions that their cases would be brought to court; all 400 prisoners were released by the end of 2000. There were no reports of detentions of civilians in military barracks, and following pressure from local NGOs and media, the Government closed all unofficial, unregistered places of remand. [66i][69a]

4.32 Female prisoners have segregated wings with female staff in most prisons. Rape is not generally a problem but they share the same sub-standard facilities as their male counterparts. Juveniles are often incarcerated with adults due to lack of space. The government maintains one juvenile prison and 4 lower-security remand homes. The remand home in Kampala was designed for 45 inmates and now holds 120 children. School and health facilities in all 5 juvenile institutions are now defunct. [69a]

HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE

4.33 Uganda has been struck by the AIDS epidemic. AIDS is now the leading specific cause of death among adults, although the infection rate has dropped radically from 30% of the adult population to 12% after an intensive education campaign by the government. Treatment of AIDS in Uganda is comparable to any other African country and there are a number of highly qualified HIV specialists from the Medical Research Council working there. All the major anti-viral drugs, such as AZT, 3TC and Saquinavir, are freely available at highly subsidised prices, making Uganda one of the cheapest places in the world to obtain them. Tuberculosis and malaria are the next most frequent causes of death. Among children, the main killers are malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Inadequate family planning services mean that pregnancy related health problems are serious and Uganda's maternal mortality rate is over 12 times higher than the norm for developed countries. In August 2000 President Museveni told a conference in Maputo that politicians including heads of state should become more involved in the campaign against

Aids, because they had a better chance than the ordinary health officials of putting the message across to the public. The President has urged African countries to use more educational programmes and radio broadcasts in the fight against Aids. He said radio was an important weapon in spreading information about Aids and had been used very successfully in Uganda together with special initiatives in schools for those who have little chance to listen to the radio or read a newspaper. In October 2000, the Ugandan Health Ministry issued a report which said more than 800,000 Ugandans have died of AIDS so far and nearly one and a half million (over 7%) carry the HIV virus. But the report said that the rate of infection was declining, particularly among young people. [10a][10b][11][64c][68]

4.34 In September 2000, the town of Gulu in northern Uganda, was struck by the Ebola virus (haemorrhagic fever) leaving 149 dead out of 357 reported cases. The virus had spread to Mbarara, in south west Uganda, and Masindi, just south of Gulu. The WHO Country Representative for Uganda, Dr Walker, said that the mortality rate was low and credit should go to the national task force for putting up the idea of active searches for potential cases. In November 2000, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) sent a team to assist in containing the outbreak. At the end of November 2000 the number of Ebola cases began to fall and the WHO reported that the epidemic had been contained. [84d][84e]

4.35 Uganda is at the forefront of African countries in the treatment and prevention of AIDS. The DFID Health and Population adviser based in Kampala confirmed that all the drugs available under the National Health Service, in the United Kingdom, are also obtainable locally, and most are also available at a reduced price through UN funded projects and from bilateral AIDS donor funded programmes. AIDS can be and is treated locally in Uganda. In December 2000, Ugandan radio reported that HIV and AIDS in urban areas had dropped by 30%. Also in December 2000, the Bill Gates Foundation donated US\$15.3m (over sh27b) to Uganda for the implementation of national population programmes focussing on adolescents and HIV/AIDS. In December 2000, the Government of Uganda signed an agreement with two US based drug manufacturers to reduce the prices of two new anti-AIDS drugs, crixivan and stockrin, by 70% and 50% respectively. [47b][61f][61g][66j]

EDUCATION

4.36 The Universal Primary Education (UPE) program continued to expand its reach. The program is intended to provide education through seventh grade for a maximum of four children per family. The UPE program remains only partially implemented due to strained finances, instability in some areas, infrastructure problems and inadequate teacher training. Although the UPE program makes education more accessible financially, parents must still pay for books, uniforms and some school costs. Approximately 93% of primary school-age children are enrolled in school. Since the implementation of UPE, primary school enrolment has increased from 2.2 million to 6.5 million in 1999. Girls and boys have equal access to education and lower grades are divided almost evenly by sex; however, the proportion of girls in higher school grades remains low. Only 51% of adult females are literate compared with 75% of adult males. [69a]

4.37 The Finance Minister, Gerald Ssendawula, announced that government sponsorship of university education would end in 2001 and that they were currently considering several proposals to reorganise radically the way university students are selected, on the grounds that children from wealthier families who attended good schools dominated the selection process. The Minister for Higher Education, Dr Abel Rwendeire also drew attention to the lack of

graduates in "useful" subjects such as medicine and engineering, as opposed to the social sciences and said the government was considering withdrawing sponsorship from the latter. [61b][61h][67f]

4.38 The average rate of adult illiteracy according to 1995 UNESCO estimates was 38.2%, although the government estimated at the end of 1998, that the overall illiteracy rate had fallen by 22% over the last few years because of the UPE program. Addressing a crowd of former and current students at Lumumba and Mary Stuart Halls in January 2001, president Museveni revealed that the government intends to build secondary schools in each of the 920 sub-counties, by the year 2003. [7][55]

4.39 Makerere University is situated in the capital Kampala and there is also a university of science and technology at Mbarara. A small Islamic University is sited in Mbale. There are also several Christian universities: the Ugandan Christian University, which is close to Makerere and with which it shares several theological courses; a Roman Catholic campus at Nkozi in Masaka District; a Seventh Day Adventist campus near Entebbe. More universities are planned, such as the one at Kasanga near Kampala, and Namasagali in Kampala which received its licence in September 1998. [7][31b[52][53]

4.40 The Ugandan government is considering setting up a national council to monitor and harmonise the widely differing standards in tertiary education throughout the country. A total of 20,000 students compete for available places each year but only 10 to 15% of them can be accommodated in existing institutions. This has led to a proliferation of private establishments, over which the government has no jurisdiction. The state universities have also started taking "private" students at vastly inflated fees. The new council would have the power to revoke the licence of any university which did not meet the required standard, in facilities and accommodation as well as the academic field. [55]

4.41 Political education and military science courses known as "Chaka Mchaka" were suspended prior to the June 2000 Referendum on political systems but resumed in August 2000. These courses are criticised as indoctrination in Movement political philosophy. There continued to be reports that the techniques used in some of the courses included intimidation and physical and mental abuse. There were also no reports that some of the instructors demanded payment for the courses and that persons were coerced to them. [69a]

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

A. INTRODUCTION

Pre - 1986

5.1 In January 1971, while Obote was out of the country, Amin seized power. In February 1971 Amin declared himself head of state. Amin consolidated his military position by massacring troops and police (particularly those of Langi and Acholi tribes) who had support for

the Obote regime. Attacks on the Langi and Acholi tribes were perpetrated by the army between late 1976 and early 1977. In February 1977, after protesting at the massacres, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda and two government ministers were murdered. [7]

Obote II

5.2 Obote's second period of government began in mid-December 1980. The election of Obote's government did not bring military or political stability to Uganda. Dissatisfaction with the conduct and outcome of the elections caused several factions to initiate guerilla operations. In March 1983, during a Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) campaign to combat the National Resistance Army (NRA) and its supporters, attacks on refugee camps resulted in deaths of hundreds of civilians by security forces. [7]

Museveni's Government

5.3 Since taking power in 1986 President Museveni's National Resistance Movement (NRM) continued to govern through what it called the "movement" or "no-party" system of government, justifying its restrictions on political participation as essential to prevent a return to Uganda's violent past. Violent opposition groups of several years standing fought in the north and the west of the country, and renewed rebel activity emerged in eastern Uganda. These groups, particularly the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the west, continued to carry out brutal assaults on civilians, brutalising, killing, looting and abducting adults and children alike. The Ugandan army was also responsible for serious abuses against civilians in areas of conflict, for which individual soldiers were rarely held to account. [35][80]

5.4 Museveni inherited a country where 1 million had been killed by war, 2 million uprooted as refugees, 500,000 seriously injured and the economy in ruins. Considerable progress has been made in restoring peace across Uganda and in rebuilding infrastructure shattered by civil war. Rebel attacks continue to be a major problem for President Museveni's government. Three main rebel groups are involved; the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which operates in the north with Sudanese support, the West Nile Bank Front (WNBF), based in the far northwest, and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), from the Ruwenzori mountains on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. The LRA under the leadership of Joseph Kony, is the longest-running insurgent organisation, with links back to the resistance against President Museveni in northern Uganda during the years after 1986. [81]

5.5 The future of the Movement system in Uganda seems secure, as there was a decisive victory for the Movement system of government in the referendum held on 29 June 2000 ([see section 4.11](#)) [61e]

5.6 Progress has been made with economic reforms since 1986. The government has consistently promoted a free-market approach and many institutional barriers to profitable business have been removed. Corruption remains endemic and legal redress is a long and painful process. Public expenditure is under control and well allocated. [81]

REFUGEES

5.7 There are no laws that provide for the granting of refugee and asylum status in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; however, the Government does grant such status in practice. The Government co-operates with the Office of the UN Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with other humanitarian organisations in assisting refugees. The Government has continued to provide first asylum as well as land for temporary resettlement to citizens from neighbouring countries, extending this practice to approximately 214,000 refugees during 2000, including Sudanese, Congolese, Rwandans and Somalis. The majority of refugees continue to be from southern Sudan. Unlike 1999, there were no reports of the forced return of persons to a country where they feared persecution. [69a]

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

5.8 Numerous human rights groups operate in Uganda. Among them are The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative; a chapter of FIDA; the Prisoners' Aid Foundation, which monitors prison conditions; the National Organisation of Civic Education and Election Monitoring, which deals with problems related to civil society and political rights; Human Rights Focus, based in the northern town of Gulu; the National Association of Women's Organisations of Uganda (NAWOU), an umbrella group; the International Federation of Human Rights; and the Human Rights and Peace Centre, based at Makerere University. These groups operate without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. The Constitution established the Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) as a permanent independent body with quasijudicial powers. Under the Constitution the UHRC can subpoena information and order the release of detainees and the payment of compensation for abuses ([see section 5.14](#)). [69a]

5.9 HURINET, a human rights network and an umbrella organisation for nine human rights organisations active in the country, also continued to be active. The Government allowed visits by international human rights NGO's including Amnesty International and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). The Government also co-operated with the UNHCR. Government officials were generally co-operative and responsive to NGO views. They frequently attended conferences and seminars hosted by NGO'S on social problems. The government also continued to co-operate with NGO's on legal and prison reforms. [69a]

B. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

5.10 The war in northern Uganda is in its fifteenth year. The districts of Gulu and Kitgum, home of the Acholi ethnic group, have been ravaged. According to the UN there are approximately 610,000 people who were internally displaced by the end of November 2000. The rural economy is greatly reduced. In 1997 Amnesty International published a report on human rights abuses against children by the LRA, one of the parties to this war. However, human rights abuses against children by the LRA are only part of the dynamic of war in northern

Uganda. The control of civilian population is a strategic issue for the government's Uganda Peoples' Defence Force (UPDF) as well as the LRA. This put civilians of all ages at the heart of the conflict, rendering them especially vulnerable to human rights abuse on both sides. Largely obscured by the scale of LRA violence is a pattern of human rights violations involving UPDF soldiers. Since 1996 Amnesty International has documented scores of killings, dozens of rapes and hundreds of beatings. There is a general problem of impunity for soldiers who have committed serious crimes against civilians. While many have been arrested and charged, few have been tried. The reasons for this are a series of institutional failures in the administration of justice. [43][44][79][88]

5.11 The increased monitoring activity of the human rights community is at least partly due to the work of the governmental human rights commission, which has demonstrated that the government is willing to allow some monitoring of sensitive human rights issues such as abuses by the army and security organisations. The UPDF was also responsible for serious human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture and summary executions. In February 1999, the badly mutilated body of Patrick L Ocan was found by relatives near Gulu, he was bound at the hands and feet. Ocan was reportedly seen in UPDF custody days before his death, appeared to have been castrated and had several stabwounds and a gunshot wound to the head. There was neither investigation nor action taken. Unlike 1999 there were no reports that security officials mistreated Muslims or that Muslims suspected of being ADF rebel collaborators or involved in terrorist activities died as a result of torture by DMI officials. In May 1999 the Government launched a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into police corruption. The commission probed a wide range of police abuses, including abuses committed by senior police officials. The inquiry resulted in the arrests of several police officers on charges of abuse, rape, extortion and robbery including a police officer accused of raping a 16 year old girl. In February 1999, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), an independent local human rights organisation began an investigation into allegations that two policemen, Moses Lutaya and Ephraim Magala, were tortured by their superiors for stealing bananas while on duty. Subsequently the two police officers were compensated by the district administration with approximately \$750 (1.26 million shillings) and were reinstated in their jobs. The senior officers were transferred but no additional action was taken against them. In conjunction with the UHRC, the police force continued a training program for police officials in order to gain respect for internationally recognised human rights standards. [69a][80]

5.12 International observers agree that the human rights situation in Uganda is not only better now than under the regimes of the 1970s and early 1980s but has also improved significantly since the early years of the NRM government, although there is still a long way to go. [14a][69a]

5.13 There is also widespread agreement that Uganda has an increasingly forceful, democratically elected Parliament in which "opposition" voices are widely heard; a lively and pretty much free press; an independent judiciary; that there is no systematic persecution based on political beliefs or tribal origin etc and that large numbers of political exiles have returned to Uganda in recent years to live and do so free from persecution. The new Amnesty came into force for all members of rebel groups on the 17th of January 2000. [14a][70]

Uganda Human Rights Commission.

5.14 The Constitution established the UHRC as a permanent independent body with quasi-judicial powers. Under the Constitution, the UHRC may subpoena information and order the release of detainees and the payment of compensation for abuses. The UHRC Human Rights Court continued to function, and received 1,108 complaints during 2000, including ones in which the accused were senior government leaders and military and police officials. Of these complaints, 654 were resolved; 202 were referred to the criminal courts; 344 were referred to other bodies, such as the Inspector General of Government, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Public Service; 27 were dismissed because they occurred before 1995; 33 were found not to be human rights violations; and 48 were resolved through mediation and intervention. At year's end, 59 cases were under review and 395 still were pending. The UHRC does not have the power to intervene in cases pending before a court. The UHRC inspected numerous detention facilities and publicly reported its findings. On 9 March 2000, the UHRC released its 1998 report. The report cited abuses by security organs and condemned police corruption and inefficiency; it noted instances of denial of the right to assembly, and criticised involvement in the DRC. The President appoints the UHRC's eight-member board. [69a]

C. SPECIFIC GROUPS

5.15 Approximately 40 African ethnic groups constitute the vast majority of the population of Uganda, with a tiny percentage of Asians and Europeans. Asians, expelled from Uganda under the Amin regime have continued to return to Uganda following President's Museveni's formal invitation in May 1991. [16]

5.16 There is a major ethnic division between Bantu groups, who live mainly in the south and Nilotic groups who live mainly in the north. The main Bantu groups which make up about two thirds of the population are the Ganda, (Baganda, the largest tribe with 16% of the population), Soga (8%), Nyoro, Nkole (Banyankole 8%), Toro, Chiga (Kiga), Gisu, Gwere and Nyole (Banyuri). The West Nile tribes have only 6% of the population and are divided into the Lugbara, Alur and Madi tribes plus the smaller Kakwa. This smaller ethnic group ruled the country from 1971 - 1979. [16]

5.17 Ethnic divisions between Bantu-speaking peoples in the south and Nilotic speakers in the north have been aggravated by civil conflict since Uganda's independence. However, only a few minority populations have truly suffered discrimination, such as the Pygmies and the Bakonjo of the Rwenzori mountains, who were once slaves within the traditional Kingdoms, and the Karamajong, independent cattle herders in eastern Uganda, whom other Ugandans consider to be violent and underdeveloped. None of these groups participate fully in Ugandan society, government or educational institutions. [3][19]

5.18 The principle Nilotic groups are the Acholi, Langi, Karamojong, Teso, Madi and Kakwa. In the early years of independence there was an important community of about 70,000 Asians of Indian and Pakistani origin and about 10,000 Europeans. However, since the expulsion of "non citizens" (as they were described by the Amin government) in 1972, both these groups have fallen to negligible sizes. The most widely spoken indigenous language is Luganda (the language of Baganda) although English and Swahili are widely used as common languages. [11]

ACHOLI

5.19 The Acholi account for around 4.6% of Uganda's population. They live primarily in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum, in northern Uganda where communications are poor and villages isolated. [11]

5.20 The Acholi dominated the officer corps of the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) which was the government army between 1979 and 1986. The UNLA had an appalling human rights record and in particular targeted the population of the Luwero Triangle, northwest of Kampala, who had voted against the UPC in the 1980 elections. It is reported that when Museveni took control there was resentment among the NRA because of the atrocities committed by the UNLA in the Luwero Triangle. [21]

5.21 Thousands of Acholi soldiers fled home to the North. However, their activities in Luwero had alienated them from their compatriots who believed that the returning soldiers had brought *cen* (the revengeful spirits of those killed by the soldiers) down on the region although it was not the actual killings that agitated the *cen*, but the fact that the soldiers had failed to observe the traditional purifying rituals (known as *Mato Oput*) followed by warriors after a slaying. In pre-colonial times a warrior would bring home the head of a dead foe as evidence of his deeds then spend several days in seclusion until he was purified by the ritual and the spirit of his victim pacified by a sacrifice and sent away. The warrior then received a *moi-name* as a sign of his bravery and new, higher, social status. [58][59]

5.22 Even during the First and Second World Wars, when many Acholi served in the King's African Rifles, they would bring home mementoes of enemies they had killed, such as a uniform button or cap badge to use during the purification rituals, but the confusion of the civil war, coupled with the shame felt at their actions, meant that many were unwilling or unable to undergo the ritual and remained unpurified. This, in turn, brought the rage of the unpacified spirits of their victims down on the whole community. The elders regarded the historical fall of the Acholi, the loss of state power, AIDS, the growing internal conflicts and the increasing use of witchcraft as a sign of condemnation resulting from transgression against the moral order. Thus when Alice Lakwena launched the Holy Spirit Movement (which later became the Lord's Resistance Army) and invented a ritual of purification which cleansed her soldiers from witchcraft and the *cen*, she achieved what the elders had been unable to - she reintegrated and rehabilitated her soldiers [\(see also paragraph 6.1\)](#) [58]

5.23 Initially, Alice and the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) were seen as the salvation of the Acholi as she led her troops into battle against the NRM and achieved many early victories. However, as her demands on her adherents became more complex and bizarre and her victories fewer, her power waned and she fled into exile in Kenya, where she has remained to date. Her mantle was assumed by a cousin, Joseph Kony, under disputed circumstances. He presided over a dramatic shift in the character of the movement, effectively marginalising it, and taking a polarised position against those Acholi who did not actively support him. He also renamed the HSM The Lord's Resistance Army [\(see also paragraph 6.1\)](#). [59]

5.24 The LRA regularly targets Acholi for their reluctance to support the LRA against the government. The Acholi have become soft targets for the LRA and are frequently victims of

serious atrocities. The UHRC opened an investigation into a 1998 incident in which UPDF forces, while combating suspected LRA rebels, reportedly killed 30 Acholi children abducted by the LRA in Ogok village, Kitgum district. Increased attacks by LRA rebels and Karamajong warriors have caused many Acholis to leave their homes for urban centres, displaced camps and villages guarded by the UPDF. [5][69]

5.25 There is no credible evidence to suggest that the Acholi people support the LRA or actively fight against the UPDF. Thousands of Acholi people have sought protection from the UPDF against the attacks by the LRA. The government has responded by setting up "protected villages" which are guarded by UPDF forces. Whilst there have been reports of criticism of the UPDF for the sometimes heavy handed way in which they operate in protecting the population, there is little evidence to dispute that the "protected village" tactic has resulted in fewer attacks and abductions of civilians, although they do generate problems of their own, such as preventing farmers from tending their land or planting crops. [14a][51]

5.26 There is no credible evidence to suggest that the government persecutes the Acholi people or that UPDF personnel routinely target Acholi people as being rebels or rebel sympathisers. There are Acholi living in Kampala, a multi-ethnic city, and in all areas of Uganda. All citizens, including Acholi, are free to reside anywhere they wish and there is no formal obligation to register with the local authorities. All citizens, including Acholi, are entitled to vote and the local elections that took place in Acholi early in 1998, as well as in the rest of the country, have been accepted as free and fair. There are a number of Acholi MPs, some of whom are outspoken critics of the government, such as Norbert Mao and Ronald Reagan Okumu (sic). Both are part of an informal parliamentary group of Acholi MPs who operate without restriction. None of these MPs have claimed that their activities have been restricted by the state because they are Acholi. [14a][47a]

5.27 The Commander of 4 Division of the UPDF, who are responsible for security in northern Uganda, including the fight against the LRA, estimated recently that 40% of his soldiers are ethnic Acholi and while it is true that few officers are Acholi, there is no bar to them entering the service. There is no evidence to suggest that the Acholi are systematically denied access to education or medical services although attacks by the LRA on schools and hospitals, for example, can interrupt the delivery of such services. Nor is there evidence to suggest that the Acholi are singled out for questioning about terrorism. In Acholiland it is obvious that investigations into acts of terrorism by the security forces will naturally involve interviewing Acholi, but it should be noted that the Acholi are predominantly the victims of LRA terrorism. There is also the view held by some Acholi and some sympathisers outside the country, that they are unfairly targeted by the government or tainted by the activities of the LRA, who are, of course, virtually all Acholi. A full examination of the conflict in northern Uganda and the position of the Acholi is contained in "The Bending of the Spears", which is attached as source. The continued instability in the north led to violations of the rights of some Acholi. Most violations of Acholi rights resulted from LRA actions. [47a][51][69a]

CHILDREN

5.28 The government has demonstrated a commitment to improving children's welfare. The Universal Primary Education (UPE) program continued to expand its reach. In July 2000 President Museveni disclosed that over one million pupils would sit for the Primary Leaving

Exams (PLE) in the year 2003 compared to the current number 280,000. He went on to say that that this has been made possible by the implementation of the universal primary education programme. The government has not yet implemented effectively the 1996 Children's Statute, which outlines broad protection for children. Government efforts to enforce the statute's provisions were hampered by the large proportion of the population that is below the age of 18, manpower and fiscal constraints on the judiciary, and cultural norms. The law stipulates parents' responsibilities and provides extensive protection for children in a wide variety of areas, including financial support, foster care placement, adoption, determination of parentage and treatment of children charged with offences. It also contains provisions on the rights of the child, including a provision that a child shall not be prepared to work or take part in any activity, whether for pay or not, that is likely to injure the child's health, education, or mental, physical, or moral development. However the government has been unable to enforce prohibitions on child labour, particularly in the informal sector. [6a][31e][69a]

5.29 Child abuse remains a serious problem, particularly the rape of young girls (known as "defilement"). Many of these incidents are never reported, especially if the perpetrator is a teacher, neighbour or family member as is often the case. During 2000, there were 4,209 reported cases of defilement, an increase from 2,637 in 1999; 2,410 of the cases were investigated, and 2,317 arrests resulted from such investigations. Increasing numbers of accusations reached the courts, although neither conviction nor punishment was common. The most severe penalty allowed under the law for rape is death, although that has never been meted out to a convicted rapist. The most common outcome is some form of payment to the girl's family, often as little as a goat, which ends the matter. However, a High Court judge, in 1999, set a precedent when he sentenced a man who had abducted a 16 year old girl and held her for 2 days, raping her 16 times, to 21 years in prison. There is now an organisation which monitors child abuse across the whole of Africa, African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), although they are relatively powerless in the face of either traditional beliefs or greed on the part of the children's families. Defilement applies to all sexual contact outside marriage involving females under 18, regardless of consent or the age of the perpetrator. The marriage of young girls by parental arrangement is common, especially in rural areas. In a statement on 29 May 2000, the Kampala office of Amnesty International accused the UPDF of recruiting minors into its ranks. The human rights group reported the presence of children at an army camp in Yumbe in the northwest of the country wearing military uniform and receiving money. Amnesty called for the camp to be disbanded, the children to be returned to their parents or guardians and for parliament to table a resolution prohibiting the government and other forces from using children as soldiers. The UPDF response to these allegations is not currently known. The UPDF detained child soldiers at Gulu military barracks for several months. In 2000, there were unconfirmed reports that the military used children to help find LRA landmines and arms caches. Uganda was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Children. [50c][67b][69a]

5.30 The Government of Uganda has paid particular attention to issues of child welfare because of the perceived threat and impact of the AIDS pandemic. Uganda now had developed an advanced legal framework within the children's statute that protects the rights of children. The children's statute inter alia, provides protection for children against defilement, sexual and commercial exploitation and child abuse. Children's property and inheritance rights are protected as they have been seriously threatened as a result of the AIDS pandemic. New sentencing procedures for juveniles have been introduced and corporal punishment is no longer used. [3]

5.31 There are over 1.7 million AIDS orphans in Uganda as defined having lost one or more parent. The large number of orphaned children resulted from previous civil wars, the internal displacement of persons, and HIV/AIDS. There are a significant number of child headed households where children as young as twelve take responsibility for the other siblings. AIDS orphans are cared for within the community and a network of Government Community workers support and supervise this system. [3][69a]

5.32 Many schools still use corporal punishment, although the government banned its use on secondary students in 1997. In June 1999, a fourteen-year-old student died at Kibuli hospital in Kampala after a beating by the school's director, Hamidulah Llukwago. The case is still under investigation. The government did not release details of the investigation of a 1996 case in which a teacher in Masaka beat to death a fifteen-year-old student. It is unknown if the investigation has been completed; however it is likely that it has been suspended. [69a]

5.33 The government has banned the activities of migrant witchdoctors after numerous cases of alleged child sacrifice and abuse, which the police are apparently unwilling to investigate. Ritual murders of children remained a problem in 2000. On 17 August 2000, police arrested Peter Ssempugu on suspicion that he beheaded a 15 year old girl in Busiro County on 20 July 2000. In December 2000, a 13 year old girl reportedly escaped after she was drugged and abducted for ritual sacrifice. [67g][69]

WOMEN

5.34 Violence against women, including rape, remained common. In 1998 alone, a total of 608 rape cases, all female victims, were reported to police headquarters in Kampala. According to UN statistics, 31% of women have experienced domestic violence. Some men of the Karamojong ethnic group in the north-eastern section of the country continued their cultural practice of claiming unmarried women as wives by raping them. Between February 2000 and July 2000, Karamojong warriors raped approximately 20 women during raids on neighbouring districts in the north-east. Police has trained community liaison officers to conduct seminars and workshops to help stop brutal acts. There are no laws that specifically protect women from battery, although there is a general law concerning assault. Law enforcement officials, reflecting general public opinion, continued to view wife beating as a husband's prerogative and rarely intervened in cases of domestic violence. Women remained more likely to sue for divorce than to file assault charges against their husbands. [67c][69a]

5.35 Traditional and widespread discrimination against women continues, especially in rural areas, despite constitutional provisions to the contrary. Many customary laws discriminate against women in the areas of adoption, marriage, divorce and inheritance. For example, female police officers must obtain the consent of the Police Inspector General before getting married, whilst their male counterparts do not. In June 1999 The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Gerald Ssendaula called for effective family planning control to control the high population growth in the country, saying that Uganda cannot sustain a very large population resulting from large families. He also suggested that families should be limited to four children. [64e][69a]

5.36 There are active women's rights groups, including Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Action for Development, the National Association of Women Judges (NAJW), Akina Mama Wa Afrika, the Forum for Women Democracy and National Association of Women's Organisations of Uganda (NAWOU), which promotes greater awareness of the rights of women and children. [69a]

5.37 FIDA is in the final year of a three-year project to draft proposed reforms of outdated and discriminatory laws, and the NAWJ continues to disseminate its guidebook on women's rights and options concerning domestic violence to women throughout the country. [69]

5.38 Law enforcement officials, in common with most of the population, continue to view wife beating as the proper prerogative of a husband and are reluctant to intervene. Women are unlikely to institute legal action against their husbands whilst still married. Polygyny is legal under both customary and Islamic law and a wife has no legal right to prevent her husband from taking more wives. Men often "inherit" the widows of a deceased brother. The divorce laws set a higher evidentiary standard for women than men. Women do most of the agricultural work but own only 7% of the agricultural land. There are limits on a married woman's ability to travel abroad with her children. [69a]

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

5.39 Female genital mutilation, which is widely condemned by international health experts as damaging to both physical and psychological health, is practised only by the Sabiny tribe, located in the highly rural Kapchorwa district in the east, and by the Pokot tribe (also known as the Upe), which spans the remote north-eastern border with Kenya. There are approximately 10,000 Sabiny and approximately 20,000 Upe who live in the country. Among the Sabiny, initiation ceremonies involving FGM have been carried out every 2 years. Such a ceremony was held in 1998. An NGO based in Kapchorwa registered 965 females who were subjected to FGM in 1998. In December 2000, there were reports that approximately 121 Pokot girls and 621 Sabiny women and girls, a decrease of 223 from 1998, had been circumcised during the biannual ceremony. An international human rights NGO offered cattle, goats and money for scholarships to Sabiny parents who do not allow their daughters to be circumcised during the ceremony in 2000. There is no law against the practice, but government and women's groups working with the U.N. Population Fund continue to carry out a program to combat the practice through education. The program has received strong government support and some support from local Kapchorwa leaders. The program emphasises close co-operation with traditional authority figures and peer counselling. Significant press attention to these ongoing efforts brought public attention to the problem throughout the year. [69a]

DISABILITIES

5.40 The Constitution provides that persons with disabilities have "a right to respect and human dignity" and requires that authorities take appropriate measures "to ensure that they realise their full mental and physical potential"; however, despite this provision, there is no statutory requirement for government services or facilities, such as accessibility of buildings for the disabled. Most buildings have one storey, but in larger towns with multi-storey

buildings, there are often no elevators; even where they do exist, they rarely are reliable. Widespread discrimination by society and employers limits job and educational opportunities for those with physical disabilities. In 1998 the Government appointed a Minister of State for Disabled Persons. A Department for Disabled Persons also exists under the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development; however, these bodies and positions have little funding to undertake or support any initiatives. Five seats are reserved in Parliament for the disabled. [69a]

HOMOSEXUALS

5.41 In September 1999 President Museveni called for the arrest of homosexual individuals who engaged in "abominable acts", 2 weeks after a rumoured "wedding" between two men. Subsequently, the two men were called in by the police for questioning. Police arrested and detained at least one person during the year because of sexual orientation, although the charges eventually were dismissed. Under the Ugandan Penal Code homosexuality is illegal for men the law is more open to interpretation in respect for lesbian relationships though may be provided for under section S.140(a) that stipulates a person who "has carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature" is guilty of an offence. The maximum penalty for homosexuals in Uganda is life imprisonment. In practice a spokesman for the UHRC confirmed that there is very little evidence of persecution or prosecution of homosexuals in Uganda. There is no evidence that following President Museveni's comments in September 1999 has had a negative impact on the treatment of homosexuals by the courts or the population as a whole. President Museveni's remarks were however reported to have prompted a number of Ugandans, fearing arrest, to leave the country. During the following two months President Museveni tempered his original comments saying that gays and lesbians were free to live out their sexual orientation in Uganda as long as they did it quietly. The likelihood of homosexuals returning to Uganda facing persecution would therefore be very small. A 1999 survey showed that only 14% of the population wanted homosexuality legalised while the rest opted for punishments ranging from death or castration to up to 7 years in prison. Gay activists in Kampala have formed a civil rights association for the first time and are planning to launch their own radio station. In a report on Ugandan radio on 3 February 2001, the Church of Uganda House of Bishops has advised the government to reject the establishment and registration of a homosexual and lesbian group called Integrity Uganda Chapter. The House of Bishops said that this organisation is an unbiblical and inhuman movement and that the organisation is a move by gays and lesbians from the United States who want to establish themselves in the African continent using Kampala as their base. [12][22][66k][69b][71a][71b][71c]

D OTHER ISSUES

RELIGION

5.42 The Constitution protects freedom of religion, and the government generally respects this right in practice. There is no state religion. Mosques operate freely, Koranic schools are common, and Muslims occupy positions of authority in local and central government. Permits

are necessary for the construction of facilities, including religious facilities. There were no reports that the Government refused to grant such permits to any religious organisation. In the wake of the discoveries in March, April and May 2000 that over 1,000 citizens had been killed by members of a religious group, several religious organisations were disbanded forcibly ([see section 5.47](#)). In early April 2000, following allegations that the church allowed youths to engage in sexual relationships, the deputy resident district commissioner closed the Revival Pentecostal Church in Nseko village, Kasangati. In mid-April 2000, police in Kasese district banned the activities of a church group based in Hima public school, Busongora. On 19 May 2000, the Bushenyi resident district commissioner ordered the closure of the Church of the Servants of the Eucharist Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which allegedly was operating in the guise of a vocational school. Unlike 1999, there were no reports that security officials harassed or detained Muslims. [13][69a]

5.43 Following the 16 March 2000 murders of more than 500 Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God followers and the discovery of mass graves of approximately 500 other on properties in Kanungu belonging to the group, the Government launched investigations of numerous religious groups. Three groups were forcibly disbanded and one religious leader was arrested. Some local governments have restricted the hours of operations of religious organisations that are viewed as cults, for example, prohibiting night-time prayer meetings. The Government largely has ignored calls for these churches to be closed down and their followers returned to mainstream churches. [69a]

5.44 Permits are necessary for the construction of facilities, including religious facilities. There were no reports that the government refused such permits to any religious organisation. [69a]

5.45 Prisoners are given the opportunity to pray on the day appropriate to their faith. Muslim prisoners are usually released from work duties during the month of Ramadan. However, in 1998 approximately 100 Muslim men were detained and tortured, on suspicion that they supported rebel groups. There was no clear indication that religion was the sole factor in their arrest. Many of those detained were released, but the whereabouts of some were unknown. The release of 53 Tabliq treason suspects in March 2000 and 28 in June 2000 resolved the issue of the whereabouts of unaccounted Muslim prisoners. [69a]

MOVEMENT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

5.46 On 17 March 2000 several hundred members of The Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God were burnt to death at the sect's headquarters in Kanungu in southwest Uganda. The incident was initially treated as a mass suicide, however as further bodies of cult members were found buried in the gardens and beneath the floorboards of houses used by the sect it became clear that cult members had been massacred. On 28 July 2000 the police announced that most of the hundreds of people who died at Kanungu, whose bodies had been found in buried pits had been poisoned to death. Hundreds of bodies were discovered in various places in the country including Kampala where the cult had branches. [64a][73]

5.47 A wealthy Catholic businessman, Joseph Kibwetere, who was referred to as Jesus by some of his followers, led the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God. Within the sect there was a strict hierarchy, with divisions between the leaders, the 12 'apostles' and sect followers. Many sect members, the majority of whom were women and children, lived on communes in Kanungu and Rugazi. They lived a strictly regulated life in which food and sleep were in short supply, there was a vow of silence, and sign language was the only form of communication permitted. Children were forbidden from attending school, modern medicine was strongly discouraged, and followers were urged to sell their property and give their money to the cult. When local officials tried to ban the cult sect leaders appealed to the District Government HQ and were given a licence to preach. The group was also granted charitable status. Police are now investigating claims that the sect had friends in high places. [73][74][76]

5.48 Credonia Mwerinde, a former prostitute who reportedly founded the sect in the late 1980's (some reports say it was not established until 1994), warned followers that the world was about to end, but said her followers would enter an ark and be saved. The sect had been predicting that the world would end on 31 December 1999. When the end did not come, sect leaders rescheduled the date for the end of June. However Father Dominic Kataribabo, one of the 12 'apostles', talked of another date - 17 March 2000. On this date sect members entered their church in Kanungu. The doors were locked and the windows boarded and nailed shut from the outside. Villagers said there was a huge explosion at about 10.00am followed by the screams of people beating on the wooden windows. A lack of forensic expertise means it may be impossible to establish how many people perished in the fire. By 28 July 2000 the death toll from the fire was put at 500. Local officials said it was not known whether any of the cult leaders died with their followers or whether any survivors had fled. [64a][73][75][76]

5.49 Investigations following the fire led to mass graves of sect being discovered on the property of various members of the sect, including the homes of Father Kataribabo in Rugazi and Joseph Nyamwinda in Bushenyi District. On 31 March 2000 police arrested Robert Mutazindwa, an assistant resident district commissioner who was formally in charge of Kanungu. This was the first arrest made in connection with the deaths. President Museveni accused district and regional officials of suppressing intelligence reports on the activities of the cult and said he had heard reports that the official arrested was a cult member. By 1 April 2000 a total of 389 bodies had been found; all bodies exhumed had been killed within a period of two months. This lends weight to the theory that sect leaders decided to kill their members after their prediction that the world would end in 2000 failed to materialise. In a telephone interview on 28 July 2000, Police Spokesman Asuman Mugenyi said that the death toll in the cult killings registered at 778. However, the motive behind the massacre remained unknown in early April 2000. Speculation has included a financial scam, pressure on the cult to return members' property, and a fanatical belief. [73][76]

5.50 On 2 April 2000 a prayer meeting was held in Kanungu for victims of the cult. Vice-President Dr Kazibwe who was in attendance said there was "overwhelming evidence" that what happened in Kanungu and other locations were "callous, well-orchestrated mass murders, perpetrated by a network of diabolical, malevolent criminals masquerading as holy and religious people". She also stated that the total number of dead at Kanungu and other sites would surpass 1,000. Dr Kazibwe apologised on behalf of the government for the fact that the cult's activities had escaped the scrutiny of senior officials, she said that those at a lower level who had failed to pass on information or take action would be punished. The Catholic Archbishop of western Uganda said he was not convinced that sect leader, Joseph Kibwetere was dead. On 1 April

2000, police dispersed an alleged cult gathering in Kikandwa, Mubende district, on suspicion that Joseph Kibwetere was hiding in the crowd. [69a][74]

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

5.51 The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and the government generally respects these rights; however, there were instances where the government infringed on these rights. Police at times harassed journalists by holding them at police stations for several hours of questioning. On 23 May 2000, two Monitor reporters were briefly detained and questioned by the police after writing stories that speculated about government links to the Kanungu cult massacre. In December 2000, the Government temporarily banned the regular opinion columns of four journalists with the government-owned New Vision newspaper due to past commentary critical of the Government; the columns of three journalists were reinstated 3 weeks later. The fourth journalist transferred to another newspaper. Three editors of the Monitor newspaper were arrested in 1999 and charged with sedition and publication of false news in connection with a case in which a woman, Kandida Lakony, claimed to have been abused by the UPDF ([see section 4.26](#)). [69a]

5.52 A considerable degree of academic freedom exists at the two public and six private universities, with no government interference in teaching, research, or publication. Students and faculty have sponsored wide-ranging political debates in open fora on campus. Political education and military science courses known as “Chaka Mchaka” continued during 2000 except prior to the June 2000 referendum. ([see section 4.40](#)) [69a]

5.53 The New Vision a government-funded daily newspaper with a daily circulation of 35,000 (and up to 10 readers sharing a copy), continued to play a major role in the media. This news source was of a high quality and sometimes contained reports critical of the Government. [69a]

MEDIA FREEDOM

5.54 The Constitution provides for freedom of the press, and the government generally respected these rights, however, there were instances when the government infringed on these rights. A correspondent for the New Vision newspaper was arrested in April 1999 after filing a story on corruption in Bugiri district. On 22 June 1999 the news editor of the privately owned Simba radio was detained and questioned for 4 hours by police and Internal Security Organisation operatives after the station published stories on the murder of three Makerere students. In November 1999 the police detained and questioned the editor of the Monitor and two reporters after the Monitor published a story alleging that Angolan insurgent leader Jonas Savimbi had visited the country. The Government controls one television station and Radio Uganda, the radio station with the largest audience. At the end of 2000, there were more than 19 radio stations throughout the country. There are five local television stations and more than a dozen private television stations available via satellite. The number of independent media broadcast sources increased during 2000. Several media outlets broadcast daily political talk shows in several languages, often very critical of the government and individual officials, including the President. There was no censorship of these programmes. [69a][69b]

5.55 The media are generally free and outspoken, with widespread availability of privately owned publications. The independent Monitor newspaper, with a daily circulation of 22,000, demonstrated strong and consistent independence. The East African, a Nairobi, Kenya-based weekly publication that provides extensive reporting on the country, continued to circulate without government interference. The editor of the Crusader, an independent newspaper that went bankrupt, was detained in 1998 and charged with “promoting sectarianism”, following the publication of reports critical of some government policies in the President’s home tribal area of Ankole. The government subsequently withdrew the charges against him. [69a][69b]

5.56 Uncensored Internet access is widely available through three commercial service providers in major cities, although its price was prohibitive for all but the most affluent non-institutional users. There are now over a dozen cyber cafes in Kampala and other cities and several NGOs offer Internet access. [69a]

5.57 The Press and Media law, which took effect in 1995, requires journalists to be licensed and to meet certain standards, including a university degree. The Law provides for a Media Council that can suspend newspapers and deny access to state information. Government officials do not enforce the law vigorously. In the 3 years since its enactment its provisions have not been used against any journalist. [69a]

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

5.58 The Constitution provides for some degree of freedom of assembly for non-political groups, however, the government restricts the right in practice. The Constitution bans political parties from holding national conventions, issuing platforms, endorsing candidates or opening branch offices outside the capital until 2000. Although the ban was intended to be replaced following the referendum, new legislation that would regulate political party activities had not been enacted by the end of 2000. The Constitution also forbids other activities that would interfere with the movement system, an elastic provision that the Government, in the past, has interpreted adversely to the detriment of political groups’ interests. The referendum on multi-party democracy took place in June 2000 ([see section 4.11](#)). [69a]

5.59 Police denied permission to hold public rallies to several non-Movement groups. On 3 June 2000, police in Gulu prevented a meeting of the Uganda Youth Congress, the youth wing of the Uganda People’s Congress. On 25 June, police beat and arrested 11 Makerere University students after they disrupted a referendum rally held by the President. They were subsequently charged with misconduct and alarming the President and released on bail. Their case was still on going at the end of 2000. [69a]

5.60 On 31 March 2000, police and military police forcibly dispersed a rally in Mbarara held by Nasser Sebagala, a possible candidate for the presidential elections. On 1 April 2000, Sebagala held another rally without police interference. However, later in April Sebagala was banned from holding further rallies in accord with regulations banning all presidential campaign rallies until legislation governing the presidential elections was promulgated. On 28 November 2000, Parliament passed the Presidential Elections Bill which was signed by the President on 13 December 2000. [69a]

5.61 NGO's are required to register with the Non-Governmental Organisations Board, which includes representation from the Ministry of Internal affairs as well as other ministries. The government generally approves NGO registration. On 26 May 2000, the Government registered the Uganda National NGO Forum, a broad consortium of domestic and international NGO's that had previously been refused registration for several years. [69a]

5.62 The Constitution confirms the right to strike but government policy requires that labour and management make "every effort" to reconcile labour disputes before resorting to strike action. On 24 January 2000, 3,000 workers at the Century Bottling Company went on strike over non-payment of salaries and poor working conditions. They returned to work the following day after reaching an agreement with management. On January 2000, employees of Ugma Engineering Cooperation went on strike over non-payment of salaries but ended their strike after management agreed to pay them. On 10 February 2000, clearing and forwarding agents on Malaba, the main entry point for goods from Kenya, went on strike in protest against corruption on the part of customs officials. They returned to work the following day after senior revenue authority officials promised to address their concerns. Labour unions freely exercised the right to affiliate with and participate in regional and international labour organisations. The government respects the right to form unions. However, although the right to form or join unions extends to all workers, including civil servants, in reality certain "essential" government employees, including the police, the army, permanent secretaries in the ministries, heads of departments and state-owned enterprises, school heads and other management-level officials are not permitted to do so. The Government has failed to enforce the rights of some employees to join unions in newly privatised industries and factories. Organised labour has three reserved parliamentary seats. [69a]

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

5.63 Ugandans are free to emigrate and travel abroad. The Constitution provides for the freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration and repatriation and the government respects this right in practice. A married woman needs to obtain her husband's signature on her passport application if children are to travel on the same passport. [69a]

INTERNAL FLIGHT

5.64 There are no restrictions on internal flight within Uganda. The situation in the north of the country demonstrates this clearly. During the conflict with the LRA, some Acholi fled rebel attacks and sought safety near army barracks. There were also reports that government forces used threats to compel citizens to leave their homes and move to areas under government protection. By February 1998 up to 300,000 Acholi people were displaced, some having fled to protected villages within their own tribal area, some to refugee camps and main towns and others have left the north altogether. At the end of 2000 approximately 610,000 citizens remained displaced internally by violence in the north and east. [14a][69][83]

VI REBEL MOVEMENTS

THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA)

6.1 The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) originally had a Christian basis although there have been unsubstantiated rumours that its current leader, Joseph Kony, a cousin of the founder, may have converted to Islam in Sudan. It is an offshoot of the Uganda People's Defence Army, which signed a peace agreement with the government in 1988. The LRA is active in northern Uganda, specifically the districts of Gulu and Kitgum and is said to be the most brutal rebel group in sub-Saharan Africa. Their favoured method of recruitment is to abduct local children, which means mostly Acholi, brutalise them then force the boys to join their ranks and the girls to serve either as prostitutes or 'wives' for the officers. One boy who escaped estimated that he had been forced to kill over 300 people. [\(see also paragraph 5.22\)](#) [4][5][27]

6.2 Rebel activity in the north of Uganda has been active since President Museveni took power in 1986 when Alice Auma (also known as 'Lakwena' - Acholi for 'messenger') created a force which became known as the Holy Spirit Movement. It was based on the powerful combination of local ideas about the spirit world and Christian beliefs and Auma mobilised deserting soldiers from the UPDA, Acholi and Langi citizens to fight against the government. She attracted many followers because her group offered her own design of cleansing rituals which would stand in place of the traditional *Mato Oput* (in which a warrior is cleansed after combat and simultaneously pacifies the spirits of his victims). The returning soldiers were unable to complete *Mato Oput* as a token of the victim is needed (anything from a severed head to a tunic button will serve) and they had been forced into committing such numerous atrocities that obtaining and preserving individual relics was completely impossible. [5][58][59][78]

6.3 The absence of the cleansing rituals agitated the *cen* (the vengeful spirits of the slain), which in turn led to a torrent of misfortune descending on the Acholi, such as AIDS and the loss of their power and status in the country. It was into this vein that Alice tapped. In November 1987 her forces were comprehensively defeated and she fled into exile, but a charismatic cousin, Joseph Kony, emerged to take the leadership under disputed circumstances. He presided over a dramatic change in the character of the movement, marginalising it and ranging it against not only the government but also those Acholi who did not actively support him. He also renamed the group The Lord's Resistance Army and introduced the policy of child-abduction. [58][59]

6.4 The LRA is believed to be backed by the Sudanese Government as a direct response to the perceived backing by the Ugandan Government of Sudanese rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) based in southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government supplies military equipment and a safe haven for the LRA and in return uses the LRA as a militia group to fight the SPLA and destabilise Uganda. Kony has recently appointed a London-based spokeswoman for the group, Josephine Apira. [5][67h]

Aims of the LRA

6.5 The LRA appears to have no political aims beyond opposition to Museveni but they are conducting a vicious campaign of terror to punish the local Acholi population for failing to

support their cause. This includes massacres of whole villages, the abduction of children who are then forced to fight with the LRA, ambushing vehicles, laying of mines and looting shops. [2]

6.6 The methods used to punish the Acholi are particularly brutal, effectively spreading terror and damaging any kind of normal life. Up until March 1999 nearly 50% of the population of Gulu and Kitgum (approximately 400,000 people) had been forced to flee their homes ([see section 5.10](#)). The worst affected area is Gulu, where approximately 80% of the population are displaced. Numerous attacks and abductions occurred in December 1998 and January 1999. During the rest of 1999 there was cautious optimism in the districts of Gulu and Kitgum as the level of LRA activity was low. However, this positive trend turned in the beginning of 2000, when renewed LRA attacks forced people to return to Internally Displaced Persons' camps. Displaced persons are unable to cultivate their lands and so rely heavily on food from international relief organisations. Relief activities were brought to a near halt because of the renewed attacks in January 2000. Schools are a favourite target of the LRA, which means that education of children is almost non-existent. The security situation remained unstable during the first half of 2000, and the United Nations reported that nearly the entire population of Gulu had sought refuge in camps or urban centres. [5][69a][78][79]

6.7 The LRA abducted civilians for training as guerrillas and most of the victims were children and young adults whom the LRA terrorised into virtual slavery as guards labourers, soldiers and as sex slaves. As many as 5,000 Ugandan children abducted by the LRA were held in the southern part of Sudan. In the past years, the LRA have sold and traded some children, mostly girls, or provided them as gifts to arms dealers in Sudan. In December 1999 in Nairobi, Kenya, the governments of both Sudan and Uganda signed an accord agreeing to cease supporting rebel groups and to return abductees. [69a][78]

6.8 In advance of President Museveni's referendum campaign visit to Gulu and Kitgum on 24 May 2000, LRA rebels were reported to have abducted some 200 children aged between 8 and 15. As the children were taken across into Sudan a fresh infiltration of 100 rebels crossed into Uganda in an attempt to divert the attention of the UPDF. On 23 May 2000 it was reported that the UPDF had killed 16 rebels and captured a further 5 during operations in the region. The same day 36 children rescued from the rebels were handed over to aid organisations. In June 2000 the UPDF were reported to have intercepted a group of LRA rebels and most of those held by the LRA were rescued. In the course of his campaign meetings on 24 May 2000 President Museveni referred to the agreement signed with Sudan in December 1999 to disarm and disband armed opposition groups based in each other's countries. He said that Uganda fulfilled its part of the bargain by releasing all Sudanese POWs but still waiting for the Sudanese government to stop LRA leader Joseph Kony using bases in southern Sudan. The President added that if the Sudanese failed to stop LRA activities within their country, Ugandan forces would pursue rebels into Sudan. President Museveni also announced that forces in Gulu and Kitgum districts would be increased while government negotiations continue to dislodge Kony from Sudan. On 17 September 2000, during an international conference in Winnipeg, Canada, Sudan and Uganda signed an accord that could lead to the release of an estimated 6,000 children abducted by the LRA. Correspondents said that it was unclear whether the agreement will be more successful than the agreement signed by Sudan and Uganda in December 1999. [22][31d][49a][49b][50a][50b]

6.9 Early in October 2000, Ugandan officials said that rebels in the north had killed at least 8 people in a series of attacks in the Gulu area. The local council chairman, Walter Ochora, said

that the rebels then attacked people near Gulu Cathedral, before attacking a nearby village where they also abducted a boy. In early November 2000, the UPDF killed two rebels after the rebels had moved out of their hideouts in the bush looking for food. A report in the Ugandan newspaper, The New Nation, on 10 November 2000 and the minister of Northern Uganda reconstruction Programme, Mr Omwony Ojwok stated that the government was prepared to talk with Joseph Kony. He said that the government was trying hard to normalise relations with the Sudanese government and that Uganda had already freed captured Sudanese soldiers and was waiting for the Sudanese to set free Ugandan children abducted by the rebels. The UPDF killed 5 more rebels in December 2000, as they were fleeing from the army. In a raid at the beginning of February 2001, it was reported that 10 rebels from the LRA attacked the town of Kitgum, robbing homes and kidnapping children. The rebels abducted 7 children. In March 2001, more than sixty children abducted as schoolchildren by the LRA were flown home after escaping from their captors – 24 are still under the age of 18. A BBC correspondent on Uganda said that at least ten thousand children have been abducted by the LRA over the past six years. [28b][66l][66m][85b][89a][89b]

UPDF reception of LRA adherents

6.10 LRA soldiers who are captured by the UPDF or who surrender to them are often abducted children of varying ages who have been forced to fight for the LRA. Many of the children have been subjected to serious abuse and brutality and it is recognised that this often leads to their own brutality when fighting for the LRA. The UPDF has since 1995 handed captured or surrendered LRA child soldiers over to two non-governmental organisations; The World Vision Uganda and Gulu support for Children Organisation, (GUSCO), where they receive psycho-social counselling, therapy and vocational training if appropriate. [5][27]

6.11 Despite official policy, in a minority of cases UPDF soldiers have taken a more aggressive line with reporting children, effectively holding them in detention and on occasion, ill treating them. [5]

6.12 The UHRC opened an investigation into a 1998 incident in which UPDF forces, while combating suspected LRA rebels, reportedly killed 30 Acholi children abducted by the LRA in Ogok village in the Kitgum District. [69a]

ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES (ADF)

6.13 The ADF is led by a Muslim, Jamir Mukulu and operates in western Uganda. Historically it has used Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) territory for its bases. However the ADF was initially severely crippled by the establishment of Laurent Kabila's government in the DRC in May 1997 (now under threat from an internal rebellion which subsequently drew in neighbouring countries) and by its subsequent provision to the UPDF of access to rebel bases in the DRC. [2][4][26]

6.14 It has been reported that The United Arab Emirates is the ADF's main arms supplier. Iran, another Islamic State, is also supplying arms to the ADF via an Islamic foundation based in South Africa. In western Uganda, the ADF continued their abusive campaign in the Rwenzori mountain region, brutalising and killing civilians and looting. Hundreds of civilians were killed

in ADF raids and ambushes on unprotected civilian homes throughout 1999. Some of those killed by the ADF were mutilated, sometimes by beheading. Civilians, both adults and children, have been abducted during ADF raids to serve as porters or for forced recruitment into the rebel army. International aid agencies, including the World Food Program, Madecins Sans Frontieres and Action Aid were repeatedly forced to suspend their life-sustaining humanitarian activities in western Uganda due to security threats. As a result of this the local population suffered from shortages of food, medicine and shelter. There were repeated outbreaks of cholera caused by poor sanitation and overcrowded living conditions in displaced persons camps. [80]

6.15 In July 1999, The Monitor newspaper estimated that 1500 of 2000 ADF rebels had been killed, leaving only 500 in hiding in the Rwenzori mountains and in August 1999 they are alleged to have written to the UPDF Commander in the region asking for peace talks, saying they were tired of fighting. The UPDF have guaranteed their negotiators' safety but remain sceptical as to the real intentions of the group. However, there have been attacks during the first half of 2000 that has caused increased displacement especially around the Rwenzori region. On 17 May 2000 UPDF forces in the DRC captured Ali Bwambale Mulima the secretary general of the ADF along with three other rebels. Mulima was later reported as saying ADF rebels are criminals begging for forgiveness. He also said the ADF had received arms and US\$20,000 from DRC and Sudan in October 1999. Bwambale also claimed that local support for the ADF was not as much as people think. In mid-June 2000 the UPDF were reported to have killed 12 ADF rebels and rescued 13 civilians during the clashes on the DRC border. Also in mid-June 2000 three suspected ADF co-ordinators in Masindi district, north west of the country, were arrested. [31c][49c][50d][66e][67d][78]

6.16 In October 2000, security officials in Kasese said that at least 70 former ADF rebels had surrendered while others had been captured by the authorities. However, at the end of October 2000, the ADF rebels struck a village in Kiboga district (western Uganda) and killed five people. In November 2000, five people were killed and 12 children were abducted by the ADF in an attack on Kibale. The 13th Battalion, seized an assortment of guns and live ammunition in an operation carried out on 12 November 2000 at Nyabirongo. An ADF commander together with four of his colleagues were captured by the UPDF on 18 November 2000. On 29 November 2000, fifty children aged two to 17 who were abducted by the ADF were rescued by the UPDF. The ADF ex-chief of staff, Christopher Tushabe, said that 43 rebels and captives had also surrendered. On 28 December 2000, the UPDF killed a commander and 35 rebels of the ADF in Kamwenge district. More guns, grenades and ammunition were seized. It was reported on 3 January 2001 that the UPDF had killed the Army Commander of the ADF, Henry Matovu Birungi, alias Cobra, along with 45 of his rebels when the UPDF attacked their camp in Kitagwenda on 26 December 2000. Cobra's death now leaves only two commanders, Sula Birungi and Tiger Isabirye. [28c][61i][64g][66n][66o][66p][66q][66r]

6.17 In a message delivered on 5 February 2001, by former ADF rebel, Zarome Bwambale to Zedekiya Karokora, District Commissioner of Kasese, he states that at least 30 rebels said that 'they want clearance for them to surrender. They also want to be reassured that their lives are safe'. According to a Reuters news article on 2 April 2001, 53 rebels from the ADF have been freed in the first application of the Amnesty Law ([see paragraph 3.16](#)) which was enacted more than one year ago. [65d][87f]

WEST NILE BANK FRONT (WNBF)

6.18 The West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) rebel movement operates from Sudanese bases and are supported by the Government of Sudan. Their new leader is said to be Moses Chaku, a former captain of the Ugandan Army. In September 1998, The Monitor newspaper in Kampala reported that the WNBF were active and had abducted c.220 people since August 1998 and killed several others in the Arua area. However, in 2000 there were no reports of new attacks by the WNBF. [36][69a][80]

UGANDA NATIONAL RESCUE FRONT (UNRF II)

6.19 The United National Rescue Front II operates from Sudanese bases and are also supported by the Government of Sudan. In mid-January 1999 the UNRF (II) had killed 7 people and abducted 56 civilians, mostly school children, in an attack in Arua district. It has been reported that the UNRF (II) have split into two factions, the original led by Juma Oris and the breakaway group by Ali Bamuzes. There were no credible reports that UNRF II was responsible for the death of civilians during 2000. [36][69a]

NATIONAL ARMY/UNION FOR THE LIBERATION OF UGANDA (NALU/NULU)

6.20 NALU was based in western Uganda, the home area of its leader, Amon Bazira, who was killed in mysterious circumstances in Kenya in 1993. Its aims were unclear and most of its operations were aimed against the local peasant population. It faded from view in 1994 and was thought defunct, most of the members having been absorbed into the ADF. However, they re-emerged in 1997 under the leadership of one Jafari K Salimu and issued both a manifesto dedicated to overthrowing the government and an invitation to President Museveni to meet them. It is still unclear whether the President ever received the invitation. [30][31][32]

6.21 They have threatened further atrocities against both Ugandans and nationals of western countries that have supported President Museveni. They also claimed responsibility for the massacre of 8 tourists on a gorilla-watching holiday in the southwest of the country in March. However, informed sources have attributed that attack to the Hutu Interahamwe, who crossed the nearby border from Rwanda. NALU repeatedly claimed responsibility for bomb attacks that occurred in or around Kampala since 1997 in which at least fifty-five people lost their lives. [65b][80]

Miscellaneous New Groups

CAMP

6.22 Otherwise known as the Citizens Army for Multiparty Politics. Originally led by Brigadier Smith Opon Acak, who had been Obote's army chief of staff. He was shot by the UPDF in July 1999 when they raided his camp near the town of Lira in northern Uganda. Of the 43 others present, 4 were captured and the others escaped. There were no confirmed reports that CAMP was responsible for the death of any civilian in 2000. [66f][69]

6.23 A new group of Kenyan refugees opposed to the Kenyan government has been operating in the Nakivale refugee camp in Uganda, led by Kenyan Lt. Raphael Osumba. Name or aims not known. [66c]

Prominent People

ALI Brig. Moses

Current Minister of Internal Affairs and Second Prime Minister. Charged with plotting terrorist action in April 1990. Acquitted of these charges but found guilty in January 1991 of illegally possessing ammunition. He is currently Minister of the Interior after a cabinet reshuffle in which he swapped jobs with Rugomayo.

AMIN DADA Idi

Maj. Gen. (later field Marshall), led coup to overthrow Obote in January 1971.

AMIN Taban

Son of Idi. Currently commanding a unit of Ugandan rebels deployed in eastern DRC and recently named Chief of Staff of the ADF.

APIRA Josephine

London-based spokeswoman of the LRA

BINAISA Godfrey

Successor to Lule as President of NEC from June 1979 - May 1980.

KAYIIRA Andrew

Minister of Energy and leader of UFM, charged with treason in October 1986 (charges withdrawn Feb 1987), murdered in March 1987 by unknown assailants.

LULE Dr Yusuf

President of NEC from April - June 1979.

MUSEVENI Yoweri

President of NRM Government from 1986 to present.

MUSOKE Kintu

Succeeded Adyebo as Prime Minister in

November 1994.

MUTESA II

Kabaka (King) of Buganda, first president of Republic of Uganda.

OBOTE Milton

Leader of Uganda People's Congress (UPC) from 1960 and Prime Minister from 1962. Returned to office in December 1980 until July 1985.

OKELLO Basilio

Brigadier - succeeded Obote in military coup in July 1985.

OKELLO Lt.Gen.Tito

Headed Military Council established in July 1985.

ORIS Juma

Leader of West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs under Amin government.

SALEH Salim

Maj. Gen. - younger brother of President Museveni - overseeing the Defence Ministry, until sacked for corruption in 1999.

SSEMOGERERE Paul

Chairman of DP - won 23.7% of votes in May 1996 elections.

SSEMUJU Herman

"President General" of the National Freedom Party (NFP). Generally considered not to be a serious political figure. Had to withdraw from 1996 Presidential election through lack of support. Often claims to have foiled assassination attempts. Now President of new rebel group, the UFF/A (see below).

[6c][6d][37][41][42][55]

Annex B

Political Parties

Political parties were ordered to suspend active operations, although not formally banned, in March 1986. A referendum on the future restoration of a plural political system is scheduled to take place in 2000.

Main parties

National Resistance Movement (NRM)

Founded in 1981 as the political wing of the guerrilla National Resistance Army in opposition to the Obote (UPC) Government. The NRM assumed power in 1986 and is the dominant force with the present government.

Democratic Party (DP)

Founded in 1954 and led by Paul Ssemogerere. Main opposition party to UPC Government in early 1980's. Under Museveni's NRM-dominated government the DP has gravitated towards an UPC alliance. The UYD (Uganda Young Democrats) is the youth wing.

Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM)

Co-founded by Museveni in 1980, is now led by Jaberu Ssali. Initially the movement dissolved when Museveni left to form his own NRM but re-emerged following the NRM's successes in 1986. Several of its members have ministerial positions.

Uganda People's Congress (UPC)

Formed following independence in 1960, led by Milton Obote (in exile). The UPC was the ruling party from 1962 until 1971 and from 1980 until 1985. UPC members are represented within the present government. A more progressive, anti-Obote group within the UPC have split under the leadership of Celia Ogwal.

Other parties include:**Conservative Party (CP)**

Founded in 1979 .

Bazzukulu ba Buganda (Grandchildren of Buganda)

Bagandan separatist movement.

Buganda Youth Movement

Formed in 1994 and seeks autonomy for Buganda, led by Stanley Kato.

Movement for New Democracy in Uganda

Formed in 1994 to campaign for a multi-party political system. Headed by Dan Okello-Ogwang and based in Zambia.

National Freedom Party

Formed in 1995 by Herman Ssemuju, an eccentric not generally considered to be a serious political figure. The NFP has no agenda, no resources and a negligible following.

Nationalist Liberal Party (NLP)

Formed in 1984 by a breakaway faction of the democratic party and led by Tiberio Okeny.

Uganda Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Formed in 1987 as a grouping of anti-government elements and led by Apollo Kironde.

Uganda Islamic Revolutionary Party (UIRP)

Formed in 1993 to promote Ugandan Muslim rights.

Uganda National Unity Movement

An anti-government formation led by Alhaji Suleiman Ssalongo.

Uganda People's Democratic Movement (UPDM)

Formed in 1986 by disparate anti-Museveni forces active mainly in the north and northeast of the country: signed a peace agreement with the Government in 1990.

Forum for Multi-Party Democracy

Headed by Jesse Mashate.

Uganda Independence Revolutionary Movement

Formed in 1989 and led by Maj. Okello Kolo.

Uganda Progressive Union (UPU)

Led by Alfred Banya.

[7][8][41][42][55]

Rebel Movements

LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA)

Led by Joseph Kony, a rebel guerrilla group claiming to be fighting a "holy war" against the government.

ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES (ADF)

Led by Jamir Mukulu, the group operates in western Uganda.

WEST NILE BANK FRONT (WNBF)

Operates in far north-western Uganda. The WNBF's agenda is unclear.

UGANDA FREEDOM FRONT/ARMY

Launched in London in February 1999 by Herman Ssemuju, disgraced and exiled eccentric lawyer/politician and former leader of the National Freedom Party. Specific aims as yet unclear.

UNRFII

An offshoot of WNBF with similar hazy objectives.

[7] [8] [41] [42] [55]

Chronology

9 OCTOBER 1962	Becomes Independent member of the Commonwealth, led by Milton Obote.
9 OCTOBER 1963	Uganda becomes Republic of Uganda.
FEBRUARY 1966	Obote leads successful coup against Kabaka (King) of Buganda.
APRIL 1966	Obote becomes executive President.
SEPTEMBER 1967	New Constitution introduced; establishes unitary Republic and Buganda region brought under control of central government.
DECEMBER 1969	Assassination attempt on Obote: all opposition parties banned.
JANUARY 1971	Obote overthrown by army - led by Maj. Gen. Idi Amin Dada who assumes full executive powers and suspends political activity.
FEBRUARY 1971	National Assembly dissolved, Amin declares himself Head of State, takes over legislative powers and suspends political activity. Obote flees to Tanzania.
AUGUST 1972	Amin declares "economic war" - mass expulsion of non-citizen Asians from Uganda.
FEBRUARY 1976	Amin declares large areas of Western Kenya are historically part of Uganda.
FEBRUARY 1977	Anglican Archbishop of Uganda and two government Ministers murdered.
NOVEMBER 1978	Uganda annexes the Kagera Salient from Tanzania.
EARLY 1979	Invasion force comprising Tanzanian troops and Uganda national Liberation army (UNLA) gain control of southern region of Uganda.
APRIL 1979	Amin's forces capitulate - Tanzanian assault force enters Kampala.
JUNE 1979	Remaining pro-Amin troops defeated, Amin flees

	to Libya.
APRIL 1979	Provisional government - National executive Council established from ranks of Uganda National Liberation front (UNLF) - President is Dr Lule.
JUNE 1979	Lule resigns after attempted cabinet reshuffle - succeeded by Binaisa.
MAY 1980	Binaisa overthrown by Military Commission of UNLF.
DECEMBER 1980	Parliamentary elections contested by four parties and won by UPC with Obote becoming President for second time. Defeated parties complain of gross malpractice by UPC supporters.
JUNE 1981	Tanzanian troops withdraw from Uganda.
JANUARY 1982	Ugandan Popular Front formed to co-ordinate from abroad activities of the main opposition groups in exile; Uganda freedom Movement (UFM), Uganda National Rescue Front and the National Resistance Movement (NRM, led by Lule) and its military wing National Resistance Army (NRA, led by Museveni).
MARCH 1983	Massacres at refugee camps - 100,000 people displaced. Fighting between UNLA and NRA. NRA deny any involvement in massacres.
JULY 1985	Obote overthrown in military coup. Military Council, headed by Lt. Gen. Tito Okello established to lead country pending election in one year's time. In following months, opposition groups to Obote (except NRM & NRA) reach agreement with new regime and accept positions on Military Council. Amnesty declared for exiles who supported Amin.
AUGUST 1985	NRA (led by Museveni) enter negotiations with government whilst simultaneously conducting military campaign to overthrow Okello.
DECEMBER 1985	NRA and Okello government sign peace agreement - but terms not implemented.
26 JAN 1986	NRA takes control of Kampala by force and

	dissolves Military Council.
29 JAN 1986	Museveni sworn in as President.
FEBRUARY 1986	Museveni announces formation of new cabinet, mainly NRA and NRM and other representatives of DP, UPC, UFM and FEDEMO. National Resistance Council (NRC) formed.
MARCH 1986	All activity by political parties banned but not proscribed.
MAY & JUNE 1986	Two commissions of enquiry appointed to investigate, respectively allegations of government corruption and violations of human rights since independence.
MAY 1986	Uganda People's Democratic Movement (UPDM) formed.
JULY 1986	80% of police force dishonourably dismissed following examination.
DECEMBER 1986	Disruption in northern and eastern Uganda by cult 'Holy Spirit'. Between December 1986 and November 1987, 5,000 Holy Spirit fighters killed by NRA. Cult suppressed by December 1987 and its leader escaped to Kenya. Remaining force regroupes and forms Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).
MARCH 1987	Andrew Kaiya murdered, UFM withdraw support for Government.
JUNE 1987	NRC offers Amnesty to rebels, except those accused of rape or murder.
AUGUST 1987	UPDM join with a faction of FEDEMO and another opposition group - UNF to seek alliance and overthrow Museveni.
EARLY 1988	Amnesty extended to rebel groups - 30,000 rebels surrender by mid April 1988.
FEBRUARY 1989	First National elections since 1980 held. Museveni appointed a Constitutional Commission to assess public opinion on Uganda's political future and to draft new Constitution.
OCTOBER 1989	NRC approved draft legislation to extend

	Governments term of office by five years from January 1990.
MARCH 1990	Ban on political parties extended for a further five years.
JULY 1990	Leader of UPDM - Eric Otema Allimadi signs peace agreement with Government.
JANUARY 1991	Prime Minister since 1986, Samsen Kisekka replaced by George Adyebo.
APRIL 1991	NRA launch campaign to eradicate rebel activity in the north and east.
MAY 1991	Museveni formally invites all former expelled Asians to return.
MARCH 1993	Draft Constitution published.
APRIL 1993	NRC passes legislation authorising establishment of Constituent Assembly (CA).
JULY 1993	Constitutional Amendment: abolition of traditional rulers revoked.
SEPTEMBER 1993	Nine army officers (arrested and detained between 1988 & 1990 and detained without trial) released.
JANUARY 1994	UNDA & UFA agree to suspend their armed struggle, under the provision of government amnesty.
JANUARY 1994	Intensified guerrilla activity by LRA following breakdown of Government negotiations.
MARCH 1994	Surrender of senior members of Rwenzunuru Kingdom Freedom Movement in southwest and signified end of conflict dating from Independence.
28 MARCH 1994	Elections to 288 member Constituent Assembly
OCTOBER 1995	Constitution promulgated.
9 MAY 1996	Presidential election - Museveni takes 74.2% of votes.
JUNE 1996	Legislative elections held and Local council elections held - to replace resistance committees.
JULY 1996	Museveni appoints 57 member government.

FEBRUARY 1997	Industrial Court uphold a 1993 pay increase award to employees of foreign- owned banks.
MARCH 1997	Local Government Bill passed through Parliament.
APRIL 1997	Constitutional Court rules unanimously against the government in case of Major General David Tinyefuza.
AUGUST 1997	Military authorities grant the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) access to military places of detention. Implementation of Children Statute begins.
NOVEMBER 1997	Local Government elections begin - due to be completed by end of first half 1998.
Early 1998	Ugandan troops are deployed in eastern DRC to counter the ADF threat but the DRC government claim they are supporting the rebellion
AUGUST 1998	In August 1998 Uganda entered the DRC conflict providing military support to the rebel force - Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD).
17 JANUARY 2000	New Amnesty Law came into effect and is open to all levels within the rebel movements.
29 JUNE 2000	A Referendum was held on the future of politics in Uganda.
2 JULY 2000	The final result of the Referendum was announced and there was a decisive victory for the Movement system of government.

Glossary

ADF	ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES
CA	CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
CAMP	CAMPAIGN FOR MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY
DP	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (FORMERLY ZAIRE)
FEDEMO	FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
FGM	FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
FIDA	UGANDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS
GDP	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
IC	INDUSTRIAL COURT
ICRC	INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
ISO	INTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
LC 3	LOCAL COUNCIL - SUBCOUNTY
LC 2	LOCAL COUNCIL - PARISH
LC 1	LOCAL COUNCIL - VILLAGE
LDU	LOCAL DEFENCE UNIT
LRA	LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY
NALU/NULU	NATIONAL ARMY (UNION) FOR THE LIBERATION OF UGANDA
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION
NRA	NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY
NRC	NATIONAL RESISTANCE COUNCIL
NRM	NATIONAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
NUSh	NEW UGANDAN SHILLING
SPLA	SUDANESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY
UFA	UGANDAN FEDERAL ARMY
UFF/A	UGANDA FREEDOM FRONT/ARMY (NEW GROUP IN 1999)
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNDA	UGANDAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
UNHCR	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
UNLA	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY
UNLF	UGANDA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT
UPC	UGANDA PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
UPDA	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE ARMY
UPDF	UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE
UPDM	UGANDAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
UPFM	UGANDA PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT
UNRF II	UGANDA NATIONAL RESCUE FRONT
US	UNITED STATES
Ush	UGANDAN SHILLING
WBNF	WEST BANK NILE FRONT

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