

LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK (LASPNET)

A CALL TO THE PUBLIC TO REGISTER COMPLAINTS AND REQUEST FOR LEGAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS, ILLEGAL DETENTIONS AND / OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD

The Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) is a National Member based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established in 2004 to provide strategic linkages and a collaborative framework for the various non-state Legal Aid Service Providers (LASPs) in Uganda. Currently, the Network is coordinating 54 organizations spread in 80 districts in Uganda and providing legal aid services to the poor and vulnerable.

LASPNET has observed with concern a spike in the number of kidnaps; arbitrary arrests; illegal detentions and enforced disappearances of innocent civilians especially during the ongoing election period. According to the Daily Monitor dated 29th December 2020 on page 7, it was reported that dozens of people were arrested and detained in unknown places. In addition, and according to Africa News of 4th January 2020, it was revealed that several persons have been kidnapped and others whisked away by security agencies and non-uniformed personnel to the different destinations unknown to the public.

A few cited cases include; **Hajji Asuman Ssemakula's** case the FDC Chairperson for Busega who was secretly abducted by non-uniformed armed men from his home; **Mr. Godfrey Zake Kasoma's** case who was allegedly arrested by armed men along Entebbe road as well as **Mr. Justin Juuko's** case, an Ex-International Boxer who was arbitrarily arrested, detained and only released on 31st December 2020 after spending 19 days in custody among others. Similarly, the media has been awash with gruesome pictures of some of the victims of these unlawful acts who have allegedly been subjected to torture while others are languishing in detention facilities.

LASPNET notes that all these actions are unlawful and contravene key International and Regional Human Rights Instruments as well various provisions of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda as amended

specifically Articles (23) on the right to personal liberty; Article 24 which prohibits torture cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; Article (28) on the right to a fair trial and Article (22) on the right to life. The affected victims are advised that they have redress under Article 23 (7); Article (50) of the Constitution and under Section (9) of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019.

Therefore, LASPNET together with its member organizations hereby informs the **GENERAL PUBLIC** especially the affected victims of such incidences of unlawful arrests; detentions; kidnaps and enforced disappearances to report to the nearest Police posts, open complaints for investigations and seek legal support by contacting LASPNET and the Legal Aid Service Providers using Toll Free Lines.

PLEASE NOTE: A team of Legal Rapid response lawyers coordinated by LASPNET is on standby to assist you seek legal redress.

The Toll Free Lines are provided below:

No	Organization	Abbreviation	Toll Free/Hot Lines
1.	Legal Aid Service Providers' Network	LASPNET	0800100155
2.	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers	FIDA	0800111511
3.	Uganda Law Society	ULS	0800100150/0800100151
4.	Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS	UGANET	0800333123
5.	Justice Centers Uganda	JCU	0800100210/0800100219

6.	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative	FHRI	0800100016
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In addition, you can reach out to the different Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Institutions listed below:

7.	Judiciary		0800111900
8.	Professional Standards Unit		0800300119
9.	Uganda Police Force		0800199990
10.	Uganda Human Rights Commission		0800100766

We further call upon the security agencies to exercise **RESTRAINT, ACT LAWFULLY and RESPECT DUE PROCESS WHEN ARRESTING SUSPECTS AND UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW** by ensuring that the rights of Ugandans are respected.

LASPNET AND ITS MEMBERS COMMIT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING ALL VICTIMS OF INJUSTICES TO ACCESS JUSTICE.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY
MANAGEMENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT;
LASPNET AT PLOT 10, BLOCK 75 OFF BALINTUMA
ROAD, MENGO. AFTER MRI CENTER
P.O. BOX 8488, KAMPALA-UGANDA
EMAIL: secretariat@laspnet.org**

TEL: +039 (0)3513733
TEL: +256 (0)752 981357