

Statement on the Recent Offensive in Rwenzori Region

Women for Uganda

2nd December 2016 at Kampala.

We women from the Women's Movement representing individuals and organizations gathered here today the 2nd day of December 2016, are deeply concerned about the offensive that occurred at the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu Palace in Kasese District on Sunday 27th November 2016 where over 50 people were killed in an exchange between the police, army and the royal guards of the Kingdom and 139 guards arrested and detained at Kasese Police Station according to statements made by the Rwenzori East police spokesperson Mansur Suwed and as reported in the Mass Media.

Aware there could have been disagreements and efforts to resolve these misunderstandings, we women are deeply concerned about the manner in which the actions were undertaken and the use of excessive power and the disregard for the presumption of innocence and wish to express shock at the inhuman and degrading treatment of the suspects, women and men who appeared tied and naked at the scene of the incident.

We therefore make the following clerical call;

1. All parties concerned should retreat to finding long term solutions that address the root causes of the conflict to ensure a win-win situation.
2. We call upon government to provide a full account of the occurrence and the explanation to Ugandans and restrain from future similar occurrences in any part of the Country.
3. Accelerate implementation of past inquiries including the Ministerial Commission that was set up in 2005 (Kajura Commission) which among others recommended setting up a truth and reconciliation commission; comprehensive resettlement of the different tribes

4. Expedite the process of having a national dialogue to resolve historical contentious issue between the state cultural institutions and the citizenry.
5. We demand that Women must be part of this dialogue as provided for by the UN Resolution 1325 and the Uganda National Action Plan on Resolution 1325.
6. Human Rights Commission to immediately institute a human rights assessment of the situation and human rights concerns rising and undertake a process of resolving the impasse.
7. Expeditiously subject all suspects to the due process that adheres to laws of Uganda.
8. We urge the Uganda Police, Uganda Peoples Defense Forces and the royal guards of the Mumbere to restrain from using excessive force and bring individual perpetrators to book.
9. We call upon citizens to remain calm in the aftermath and ensure peace and security prevails and not to escalate the occurrence in the spirit of restoring peace and security.

As women of Uganda, using our voices we continue to call for peace and unity acknowledging the fact that when there is conflict it is women and girls who carry the burden of rape, defilement, unwanted pregnancies and the aftermath of conflict including providing for their families, looking after orphans, the sick and the disabled among others. No better words sum up our call as the Women than those embedded in our National Anthem

**UNITED FREE FOR LIBERTY TOGETHER WE ALWAYS
STAND.
FOR GOD AND MY
COUNTRY**

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