



Date: December 7th, 2017

There is urgent need to expand the Death Sentence Punishment Grounds to other Sectors in Uganda such as to the situation of Refugees who are sentence to death by the Refugee Regime: We all stand for the Abolition of all forms of Death Sentence in Uganda.

Today Friday December 8th, 2017 is the International Day of Actions against Death Sentence as a Capital Punishment. We join the whole to “Say no to the death sentence, guided by our reason and conscience we come in solidarity with all those across the world who are waiting for their time to face this inhuman and degrading treatment not because they are innocent but because life is sacred and the culture of killing is an old practice which should be strongly resisted by the current modern generation.

At the National level Uganda is estimated having more than 420 people on a death sentence row, as is still among the nations which are keeping its own people on the death sentence row, we are looking forward to celebrate on that day when all **forms of death sentences** will be abolished in Uganda,

But much as more efforts have been put on legal and institutionalized death sentence committed by states after a Court prosecution either through a fair or unfair hearing, we have not yet paid so much attention on similar actions which can be described as death sentence by different institutions against vulnerable social groups of people at different levels both at community, national, regional and international levels.

As society here in Uganda we have not only witnessed by we have also death sentences against women and young girls to die of unsafe abortion, we have remained silent on deaths caused during accidents by Motorcyclists commonly known as Boda-Bodas, we have refused to pass laws and put in place practices which will favor the education of children whose parents cannot afford 40,000 Ug Sh per term and above all we have not yet done enough to end poverty, all these and many others consume do consume innocent lives. Beyond that our Health Center Units are described as Death Sentence Chambers where many patients go to meet death and we live with it every day.

It is through this logic of broader advocacy to the end of all forms of death sentence that here in Uganda; we have paid a particular attention on the situation of refugees who are exposed to different forms of sentences which similar to capital punishment by the very institutions mandated to save their lives.

In Uganda the welfare of Refugees is under the mandate of both the government through the Office of the Prime Minister Department of Refugees (OPM- DoR) and the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and together with their implementing partners they form the Refugee Regime.

In many occasions the refugee regime has decided rightly or wrongly that a certain category of refugees may have access to adequate medical treatment through private health Centers. Once such a decision is made at the expense of the refugee regime it brings hope to the sick person and the family is psychologically stable that the patient will be fully treated.

Some times the Refugee Regime has decided rightly or wrongly and in full conscience knowing all the challenges faced by public health centers, that refugees have medical services in poorly facilitated government health centers at the cost of refugees losing their lives. And some times they have decided to remain indifferent to refugees who die from their homes because they have no access to medical treatment.

While we have no data of refugees who have died when being treated in private health centers because the figures are too small due to better services offered in private health centers, the information of refugees who have died this year alone can cause alarm. Refugees who have died from Public Health Centers which many refugees refer to now as “**abattoir**” and every refugee who is sent to the public health center must make his/her “**personal will**” before leaving his or her place of residence. For this year 2017 alone both the organization “United Association for Peace and Development and the Congolese Refugee Community in Uganda have indicated that more than 97 refugees have died in public health centers in Kampala alone due to poor treatment while the same organizations indicate that only 3 refugees have received treatment from Public Health Centers and recovered, discrimination and lack of medicine, language barrier, doctors who are not sure of what they are treating, and lack of equipment are among the challenges faced by refugees. This number may be high if all cases were recorded.

Due to the lack of faith in the public health centers this year 2017 information we collected from refugees indicated that there have been cases of refugees who died from their homes especially in Kisenyi, Katwe and Nsambya.

The practice to order sick refugees to get services only in Public Health Centers is mainly an arbitrary decision made by the refugee regime and has no legal basis in line with the current legal policies governing refugees in Uganda. From different offices which offer services to refugees each single day they have to make decisions about which refugees should go to public hospitals and those who will go to private hospitals here in Uganda and those who they should just ignore. The barbaric ground on which decisions are taken not only because refugees are not allowed to defend themselves but also not even given the opportunity to appeal against the decision and this is in violation of recognized universal human rights. And yet such a decision is linked to someone's life. Such decisions are another form of a death sentence.

In order to back and argue why the refugee regime maintains such a death sentence against refugees it argues about criteria, and limited resources which are viewed by many refugees as

lame excuses. And yet we wonder if there is a criteria in order to save life and how can they claim about funding yet their money is handled in secrecy.

Whereas those who are on death row in prisons have gone through such established state brutality and which is being now contested by the current generation. The society has remain silence and paid little attention to the consequences of cruel decisions made by those who suppose to protect refugees in Uganda, who have turned their offices as “*prosecution chambers*” and have set up meetings which are more of tribunals where refugees are sentenced to death and not invited to the hearing.

Looking into the situation of refugees and the situation, in which they have lost their lives, we the organization Foundation People for Peace and Defense of Human Rights we call for the following:

As part of Uganda Society we strongly “**say NO to all forms of Death Sentence**” in our communities, in Uganda, in the region and in the world and we call upon all actors especially concerned governments to abolish all forms of death sentence,

We call upon all the actors from the Civil Society and the Non-Government organizations, the Development Partners and the whole society to holistically look expand Death Sentence to the above refugee situation and to other similar situations in which human beings are forced to die as above mentioned,

We call upon the Refugee Regime to urgently abolish all these forms of death sentence in which refugees have lost their lives in Uganda by using responsibly and fairly the already available resources,

We call upon the Ugandan society and people to be conscious about the support of each person to ensure the protection of refugees while in Uganda, and not leave it to the good or bad will of the refugee regime alone,

Done in Kampala,

December 8th, 2017

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