



Freedom of Expression

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 40TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS IN UGANDA

INTRODUCTION:

This document contains recommendations excerpted from the joint report submitted to the UN Universal Periodic Review 40th Session of the UPR Working Group submitted on 15th July 2021 by Civicus, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Justice Access Point (JAP) and African Institute of Investigative Journalism (AIJ). The recommendations herewith seek to address concerns relating to freedom of expression and attacks on journalists in Uganda.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Thoroughly investigate threats, torture and other inhumane and degrading treatment committed against journalists and attacks on media houses, bring to justice those responsible and guarantee reparations to the victims.
2. Stop imposing bans on social media and desist from shutting down the internet at politically critical moments and allow citizens their rights to access online platforms.
3. Refrain from issuing impromptu bans on independent radio stations and media agencies when they broadcast views of members of the political opposition and opinions that differ from those of the government.
4. Review restrictive provisions of the Penal Code that are used to target journalists and ensure they are in line with Uganda's human rights obligations.
5. Annul the requirements imposed by the UCC on social media users to register and for online publishers to pay annual registration fees and guarantee a more enabling environment for the respect of online freedoms.
6. Extend a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

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