





ANNUAL REPORT 202-23



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# **ABOUT JUSTICE ACCESS POINT**



#### VISION

A society where every citizen is able to access and benefit from Justice.



#### **MISSION**

A one stop Justice center of excellence, enabling citizens and citizen organizations in fragile and post-conflict communities in Uganda to effectively and efficiently access and utilize the available justice mechanisms and meet their just needs.



#### **CORE VALUES**

- Participation
- Accountability
- Non-discrimination
- Dignity of the persons



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Justice Access Point acknowledges the financial and technical support of its development partners and funders including CIVICUS, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), CIVICUS, Open Society Foundation (OSF), USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity (CSSA), East West Management Institute (EWMI), International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) ,the Board of directors, Management and staff of JAP towards the implementation of its work during the course of the year. In the same vein, JAP acknowledges with appreciation the contribution of the different civil society organizations and MDAs that have variably participated in its work.



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ABOL	JT JUSTICE ACCESS POINT	2
ACKN	NOWLEDGEMENT	3
ACRO	DNYMS	6
CHAI	RPERSON'S REMARKS	7
MESS	SAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	8
EXEC	CUTIVE SUMMARY	9
INTR	ODUCTION	11
PROG	GRAMMING AREA 1: HUMAN RIGHTS & RULE OF LAW	11
1.1	Enhancing civil society capacity for effective engagement of public assemblies in Uganda project	11
1.2	The Civilian Oversight of an Accountable Security Sector Project in Uganda:	14
PROG	GRAMMING AREA 2: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM, HATE  SPEECH & ATROCITY PREVENTION	17
2.1	Radicalization of the youth survivors of terrorism & countering terrorism in Uganda project	17
2.2	The role & responsibilities of private sector actors in the Transitional Justice processes phase II projects (funded by ICSC)	17
PROG	GRAMMING AREA 3: STATELESSNESS	18
PROG	GRAMMING AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND STRENGTH	19
4.1	Staff training and development	19
4.2	Systems improvement	19
4.3	Collaborative agreements and Memorandum of Understandings	20
4.4	Staff Recruitment	20



4.5 The Annual General Meeting
4.6 Institutional assessments and Audits
CONCLUSION:
APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2021- 202424
PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 202326
List of Tables
Table 1: Staff training and development19
Table 2: Recruitment of staff
Table 3: New JAP Board Members 2023 to 202520



## **ACRONYMS**

CSSA USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity

**CSO** Civil Society Organisation

**EWMI** East West Management Institute

**GPPAC** Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict

ICNL International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

ICSC International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

JAP Justice Access Point

**OSF** Open Society Foundation

**UHCR** Uganda Human Rights Commission

**UPDF** Uganda Peoples Defence Force

**UPF** Uganda Police Force

**UPR** Universal Periodic Review



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**



I am pleased to commend this annual report for your attention and perusal. This report is a succinct account of the work that JAP accomplished during the year ended 30th June 2023. JAP posited significant milestones which we are happy to share with you in this report. Notably, JAP supported the establishment of strategic networks and collaboration with strategic partners including civil society, MDAs and the academia all of which have generated the needed synergy, energy and resources to deliver key results. Therefore, as we celebrate our achievements, we appreciate the contribution of staff, management, the board of Directors of JAP, the donors and other strategic partners for their inspiring encouragement, unflagging efforts, unfailing support, and genial accompaniment in the implementation of the work of JAP during the course of the year.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am happy to present to you the JAP annual report the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. During the year, we have accomplished a number of achievements. We built the capacity of the different stakeholders on a host of themes including atrocity prevention, countering hate speech and violent extremism, Human rights and Rule of law as well as countering statelessness in Uganda. Additionally, we created platforms, facilitated engagements between state and non-state actors; developed tools and supported civil society to monitor human rights; and generated knowledge materials for awareness creation.

These achievements would not have been realized without the support, efforts and commitments of the different persons and institutions especially our strategic partners who have journeyed with us in the implementation of our annual work plan. The wise leadership and stewardship of the JAP board of directors has been instrumental in the success realized by the organisation. We also salute the staff and management of JAP for the indefatigable spirit, creative potential, and impassioned fight to promote human rights, rule of law and counter atrocity crimes and related exigencies in an increasingly challenging operating environment. We are therefore indebted to you all.



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report covers activities undertaken by Justice Access Point for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The report focuses on the outcomes, achievements, challenges, and lessons learnt during the course of implementing its projects within the ambit of its programming areas: Human rights & Rule of law; Countering violent extremism & Hate speech; Atrocity prevention; and countering Statelessness.

#### The achievements registered during the year included:

- Developed a range of tools to aid civil society and other stakeholders to monitor public assemblies, police stations and trial of errant police officers in the police disciplinary courts and utilized the tools to monitoring policing. The tools are open for the general public usage;
- 2. Drafted an Independent Police Oversight Bill and undertook an analysis of selected legislations including the Police Act 1994 and a brief synopsis of the rulings on trial of civilians in military courts in Uganda to support the different stakeholders in advocating for conducive legislation to facilitate accountability in the security sector;
- 3. Developed a number of knowledge products including info graphics, short videos, posters and flyers for awareness creation on issues of human rights, rule of law, statelessness, atrocity prevention and violent extremism as well as hate speech in Uganda;
- 4. Facilitated spaces and dialogues between civil society, Uganda Police force and Uganda Human Rights Commission among other national key players to discuss issues of concerns in the management of public assemblies, security sector reform and accountability resulting in the mooting of key recommendations for the improvement and reform of the Uganda Police Force;
- 5. JAP entered into funding agreements with Open Society Foundation, International coalition on sites of conscience, International coalition on sites of conscience, USAID/CSSA; and Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda Human Rights Commission; and
- 6. Received constructive strategic and operational support from the Uganda Police Force during the course of implementation of the police visitation week, monitoring of the police



disciplinary courts and monitoring of the public assemblies in Uganda which enabled us to access requisite data.

- 7. JAP Produced a number of strategic advocacy documents including a periodic status report compiled and utilized by stakeholders in discourse on effective public assemblies' management in Uganda; a legal analysis report of the Police Act 1994 and a brief synopsis of the rulings on trial of civilians in military courts in Uganda; and a report containing the analysis of the draft transitional justice bill, 2019 with a lens for accountability of business sector complicity in gross and serious human rights violations in Uganda.
- 8. The Production of a documentary entitled: Between the rock and the hard place: the survivors of terrorism counter-terrorism survivors stories was produced and shared with the different stakeholders thereby generating debate on the issue.

# During the implementation of the annual work plan, a number of challenges were encountered including:

- 1. The organization's scope of work was constrained owing to financial limitations especially occasioned linked to shrinking civic space for the CSOs;
- 2. The mooting of a private member's bill to provide for independent police oversight was affected by government decision to merge some of the existing agencies and not allow the creation of any more government agencies, commissions or authorities;
- 3. The requirement imposed on NGOs to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with the different local governments where they intend to operate was burdensome and slowed down outreach activities in outlying districts.





## INTRODUCTION

This report covers activities undertaken by Justice Access Point for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The report focuses on the outcomes, achievements and challenges encountered during the course of implementing annual work plan for the ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

#### PROGRAMMING AREA 1: HUMAN RIGHTS & RULE OF LAW

Under the Human Rights and Rule of Law program, JAP conducted numerous activities to underscored human rights:

# 1.1 Enhancing civil society capacity for effective engagement of public assemblies in Uganda project.

Between 1st April to 31st September 2022, JAP implemented a series of activities aimed at popularizing and incentivizing the utilization of the existing international, regional and domestic tools to monitor public assemblies in Uganda. These include the development of the standardized tool for monitoring public assemblies, trained over 40 stakeholders across the country in the utilization of the tool, monitored public assemblies in different parts of the country, compiled a periodic status report on the public assemblies in Uganda, convened a stakeholder's platform of over 50 participants across the country involving Civil society actors, representatives from national institutions including the Uganda Human Rights commission and Uganda Police force to discuss the status report and brainstorm on the key issues for engagement on public assemblies in Uganda, produced and disseminated pocket size guide book on the management of public assemblies in Uganda.

#### **Project Outcomes:**

- Knowledge products to support awareness creation on the management of public assemblies were made available and for use by the different stakeholders;
- A periodic status report was compiled and utilized by stakeholders in discourse on effective public assemblies' management in Uganda;
- Renewed engagement and collaboration between CSOs, UPF and UHRC on matters of public assemblies;
- Comprehensive Standardized tool for monitoring public assemblies in Uganda.





The launch of the knowledge products and training on the utilization of the comprehensive standardized monitoring tool held on 21st July 2022 at Africana Hotel











CSO-Police dialogue on management of public assemblies in Uganda organized by JAP on 21st September 2022 at Unik hotel with support from CSSA/USAID



#### 1.2 The Civilian Oversight of an Accountable Security Sector Project in Uganda:

During the reporting period, JAP embarked on a project 'to strengthen civilian oversight of the police to ensure a more accountable security sector in Uganda. The project commenced with an activation meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 of 30 participants dawned from civil society, senior representatives from Uganda Police force, Uganda Human rights commission (UHRC) and Law Reform Commission (LRC) and was followed up with a series of other interventions during the course of the year.

Activities implemented include among others the drafting of the Private Member's bill for independent police oversight, analysis of the Police Act 1994, synopsis of the court decisions on trial of civilians in military court; developed knowledge products for awareness creation on human rights and policing, established a national working group on civilian oversight of 15 members drawn from civil society and national institutions include UHRC, UPF among others , developed a tool for monitoring the state of policing in Uganda and conducted research and a countrywide police visitation campaign national wide.

#### **Project outcomes:**

- A zero draft of the Private Member's bill for independent police oversight developed;
- A draft copy of the analysis of the Police Act 1994 and a brief synopsis of the rulings on trial of civilians in military courts in Uganda;
- A copy of the monitoring tool on police station visits and trial of errant police officers in the police disciplinary courts;
- Developed knowledge materials including poster and flyers on the security sector project.











CSO members and representatives from national institutions including the UPF, LRC and UHRC during an activation meeting for the civilian oversight & security sector reform project held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at Hotel Africana.





Radio Talk show held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 by JAP in collaboration with UHRC and UPF on the theme of police accountability and responsiveness.



# PROGRAMMING AREA 2: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM, HATE SPEECH & ATROCITY PREVENTION

# 2.1 Radicalization of the youth survivors of terrorism & countering terrorism in Uganda project

During the course of the year, JAP implemented a project on the de-radicalization of the youth survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism through narration and memorization of their experiences for accountability and healing in Uganda. The project documented the narratives of the youth survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism in Uganda as a resource for memorization and advocacy; engaged key stake holders in the quest to address the challenges faced by youth survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism in Uganda; and disseminated the narratives of the youth survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism to stakeholders within the country and the ECA region.

#### **Project Out come**

- Survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism operations were provided with safety valve to share their experiences as part of healing and de-radicalization intervention;
- A documentary entitled: Between the rock and the hard place: the survivors of terrorism counter-terrorism survivors stories was produced and shared with the different stakeholders thereby generating debate on the issue. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxnVmFREJ-o;
- Key stakeholders committed and coalesced into a collaborative framework to pursue the concerns of the survivors of terrorism and counter terrorism operations.

# 2.2 The role & responsibilities of private sector actors in the Transitional Justice processes phase II projects (funded by ICSC)

During the course of the year, JAP under took an analysis of the draft Transitional Justice bill 2019 to determine the extent to which the proposed legislation would enable to address gross human rights violations perpetrated by the private sector actors in the Ugandan Context.

The approach involved conducting a mapping of key stakeholders, a desk review process, and a consultative meeting with 33 stakeholders including members of the academia, and CSO leaders. The views that emerged from the consultative process pointed to the need for the Transitional Justice Mechanism to provide for comprehensive reparation from both government and business entities where they are at fault, the need to expressly name the violations the commission would investigate, the need for truth-telling, the need for the Transitional justice process not be pegged to the northern conflict per se, and the need to cover serious business related violations(extractive industry and human trafficking as that is the area where there has been the greatest impact).



#### **Project outcomes:**

• A report containing the analysis of the Draft Transitional Justice Bill, 2019 with a lens for accountability of business sector complicity in gross and serious human rights violations in Uganda was produced and made available to the public.

#### PROGRAMMING AREA 3: STATELESSNESS

In order to raise the profile of the issue of statelessness faced by some ethnic groups in Uganda, JAP advocated for the State ratification of the 1961 convention on the reduction of statelessness during the UN Universal Periodic Review 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle- Uganda on 13<sup>th</sup> June–8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 by developing knowledge product's and sharing with stakeholders at national regional and international levels on the various social media platforms.

JAP was privileged to have two (2) of its staff to undertake an online course on Statelessness by SANREMO Institute from 24<sup>th</sup> October until 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022. And through its membership collaboration with International Coalition of Sites of Conscience JAP secured an internship programme with the University of New Castle to offer a virtual intern under the statelessness programming area.

JAP is currently undertaking a resource mobilization campaign to enable the implementation of the project to address the challenges faced by stateless persons in Uganda. JAP has further entered into a memorandum of understanding with new castle university to host a virtual intern to undertake some activities on statelessness.

#### **Project outcomes:**

- Advocacy tool kit on statelessness produced;
- Strategic Executive advocacy opportunities created for the Bakingwe and Bugaboo.



#### PROGRAMMING AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND STRENGTH

JAP undertook a numbers of steps to strengthen its capacity to deliver on its interventions. These included among others securing opportunities for staff to build their capacity through training, systems improvement, resource mobilization, recruitment of additional staff and oversight through governance meetings and financial audit.

#### 4.1 Staff training and development

JAP sourced and secured a number of training opportunities for its staff in a number of areas (see table 1).

Table 1: Staff training and development

No	Training	Staff trained	Dates
1	Corporate Accountability and	Ndifuna Mohammed	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
	Transitional Justice in Africa	Nalwoga Zam	
2	Police Integrity Course Level	Ndifuna Mohammed	July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June
	1 and 2 conducted by DCAF Geneva Centre for Security Sector	Nalwoga Zam	2023
	Governance	Emmanuel Mugisha	
3	Guinea IV-Intergenerational story telling Workshop Conducted by the International Coalition on Sites of Conscience.	Ndifuna Mohammed	22 <sup>nd</sup> August – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022
4	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Online Course on Statelessness	Namitego Timothy Aliza Hanifa	24 <sup>th</sup> October - 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
5	Utilizing the atrocity prevention lens in the Universal Periodic Review	Ndifuna Mohammed Nalwoga Zam	31st October – 11th November 2022
6	Use of Force and Private Security Providers conducted by DCAF Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance	Ndifuna Mohammed	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2022

#### 4.2 Systems improvement

During the year, JAP secured and installed IBM SPSS Statistics to support the organization's research work and Data Point-360 accounting software to automate its financial and human resources management records management.



#### 4.3 Collaborative agreements and Memorandum of Understandings

During the course of the year JAP entered into collaborative agreements with Open society to support accountability and security sector reform, Newcastle University and the International coalition on sites of conscience to host an intern, International coalition on sites of conscience to review the draft National Transitional Justice Bill 2019, USAID/CSSA to build the capacity of civil society to monitor public assemblies in Uganda.

#### 4.4 Staff Recruitment

JAP recruited additional staff to support in the execution of its operations and programmes (see table 2 for details).

Table 2: Recruitment of staff

No	Name	Designation	Department
1	Emmanuel Mugisha	Project Officer Security	Human rights & rule of
		Reform Project	Law Programme
2	Timothy Namitego	Legal and Project Associate	Programme
3	Lule Kenneth Muyinza	Volunteer Programmes	JAP Programmes
4	Sarah Naikoba	Administrative Assistant	Finance & Administration
5	Mehmet Oruc Sebih	Intern	Countering violent extremism & hate speech

#### 4.5 The Annual General Meeting

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, JAP conducted it's an Annual General Meeting were a new board was elected. Members of the new board are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: New JAP Board Members 2023 to 2025

No	Name	Position
1	Prof. Wilson Muyinda Mande	Chairperson
2	Owor Onyango	Vice Chairperson
3	Kasiira Baghereka Haluuna	Secretary
4	Elizabeth Nakabanda	Treasurer
5	Moses Matovu	Board Member



#### 4.6 Institutional assessments and Audits

A global audit for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was conducted by Izimba & company certified public accountants of uganda whose opinion gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity and its surplus cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Financial reporting standards.

#### THE ACHIEVEMENTS REGISTERED

- 1. Developed a range of tools to aid civil society and other stakeholders to monitor public assemblies, police stations and trial of errant police officers in the police disciplinary courts and utilized the tools to monitoring policing. The tools are open for the general public usage;
- Drafted an Independent Police Oversight Bill and undertook an analysis of selected legislations including the Police Act 1994 and a brief synopsis of the rulings on trial of civilians in military courts in Uganda to support the different stakeholders in advocating for conducive legislation to facilitate accountability in the security sector;
- 3. Developed a number of knowledge products including info graphics, short videos, posters and flyers for awareness creation on issues of human rights, rule of law, statelessness, atrocity prevention and violent extremism as well as hate speech in Uganda;
- 4. Facilitated spaces and dialogues between civil society, Uganda Police force and Uganda Human Rights Commission among other national key players to discuss issues of concerns in the management of public assemblies, security sector reform and accountability resulting in the mooting of key recommendations for the improvement and reform of the Uganda Police Force:
- 5. JAP entered into funding agreements with Open Society Foundation, International coalition on sites of conscience, International coalition on sites of conscience, USAID/CSSA; and Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda Human Rights Commission; and
- Received constructive strategic and operational support from the Uganda Police Force during the course of implementation of the police visitation week, monitoring of the police disciplinary courts and monitoring of the public assemblies in Uganda which enabled us to access requisite data;
- 7. JAP Produced a number of strategic advocacy documents including a periodic status report compiled and utilized by stakeholders in discourse on effective public assemblies' management in Uganda; a legal analysis report of the Police Act 1994 and a brief synopsis of the rulings on trial of civilians in military courts in Uganda; and a report containing the analysis of the



- draft transitional justice bill, 2019 with a lens for accountability of business sector complicity in gross and serious human rights violations in Uganda;
- 8. The Production of a documentary entitled: Between the rock and the hard place: the survivors of terrorism counter-terrorism survivors stories was produced and shared with the different stakeholders thereby generating debate on the issue.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

The organization's scope of work was constrained owing to financial limitations especially occasioned by the shrinking civic space for the CSOs in the country;

The mooting of a private member's bill to provide for independent police oversight was affected by government decision to merge some of the existing agencies and not allow the creation of any more government agencies, commissions or authorities;

The requirement imposed on NGOs to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with the different local governments where they intend to operate was burdensome and slowed down outreach activities in outlying districts.

#### STAFFING AT JAP



Mohammed Ndifuna Executive Director



Zam Nalwoga
Director of Programmes



Mugisha Emmanuel Project Officer



Timothy Namitego Legal & Research Officer



**Gerald Nandagala** Accountant



Sarah Naikoba Administrative Assistant



**Lule Kenneth Muyinza** Volunteer Programmes



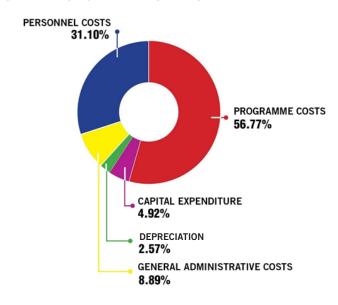
Mehmet Oruc Sebih Intern



# **CONCLUSION:**

The report presented the length and breadth of the work of JAP accomplished during the course of the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It highlighted the intervention undertaken under the auspices of its programmes, the outcomes, the achievements and challenges encountered

FIGURE 1: SUMMARY OF JAP FINANCIAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023



#### Key:

Activity	Amount in Ugandan Shillings
Programme costs	126, 879,890
Capital Expenditure	11, 000, 000
Depreciation costs	6,026, 040
General administrative costs	19, 723, 490
Personnel Costs	70,855,110



#### APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2021- 2024

No	Program- ming area	Strategic Objective	Strategic Actions
1	Atrocity Preven- tion	To empower key stakehold- ers to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes in Uganda	<ul> <li>University outreach on prevention of atrocity crimes, conflict resolution and peace building</li> <li>Development of IEC materials (eg posters, comic books, podcasts, flyers, video documentaries etc)</li> <li>Compile a compendium of laws relevant atrocity prevention in Uganda</li> <li>Awareness raising on AUTJP and national transitional justice policy</li> <li>Lobbying for the enactment of the TJ bill and genocide bill</li> <li>Community outreach campaigns in post conflict communities</li> <li>Support to early warning and early response in the prevention of atrocity crimes</li> </ul>
2	Counter- ing violent extrem- ism	To empower key stakehold- ers to counter violent extrem- ism in Uganda	<ul> <li>University outreach on preventing violent extremism</li> <li>Develop IEC materials (eg posters, comic books, podcasts, flyers, video documentaries etc)</li> <li>Compile a compendium of laws on violent extremism and identity based violence</li> <li>Monitor document and report on violent extremism and identify based violence (rights violation &amp; the experience of survivors of violent extremism)</li> <li>Training of key stakeholders on countering violent extremism</li> </ul>
3	Stateless- ness pre- vention	To empower key stakehold- ers to prevent and respond to statelessness in Uganda	<ul> <li>University outreach on statelessness</li> <li>Compendium of laws on statelessness</li> <li>Development of IEC materials on statelessness         (e.g posters, comic books, podcasts, flyers, video documentaries etc)</li> <li>Community outreach on statelessness</li> <li>Researching and profiling statelessness in Uganda</li> <li>Monitor, document and report on statelessness in Uganda through the national, regional and international mechanisms</li> <li>Alliance/coalition building within Civil society on statelessness in Uganda</li> </ul>



No	Program- ming area	Strategic Objective	Strategic Actions
4	Hate/ Dan- gerous speech preven- tion	To strengthen the capacity of the different stakeholders in Uganda to counter hate/ dangerous speech	<ul> <li>A comprehensive assessment and mapping of hate/dangerous speech in Uganda</li> <li>Comprehensive assessment of the policy and legal framework against hate/dangerous speech in Uganda</li> <li>National convention on countering hate/dangerous speech</li> <li>Media campaign on hate/dangerous speech</li> <li>University outreach on countering hate/dangerous speech</li> <li>Community outreach to counter hate speech</li> <li>Monitor, document and report on hate/dangerous speech in Uganda</li> </ul>
5.	Human Rights & Rule of Law	To empower key stakeholders to promote, protect and uphold the human rights standards as enshrined in the domestic, regional and international human rights frameworks	<ul> <li>University outreach on Human Rights and rule of Law</li> <li>Develop IEC materials (eg posters, comic books, podcasts, flyers, video documentaries on human rights &amp; rule of law)</li> <li>Compile a compendium of key laws on human rights and rule of law in Uganda</li> <li>Monitor document and report on human rights violations through national regional and international human rights mechanisms</li> <li>Training of key stakeholders on human rights and rule of law</li> <li>Lobby for the strengthening of the security sector civilian oversight for greater accountability, responsiveness, democracy and respect of human rights in Uganda. ( this will include advocating for amendment of laws, or creation of independent civilian oversight mechanism for UPF or UPDF)</li> </ul>
6	Institu- tional capacity develop- ment	To strengthen the institutional capacity & setup of JAP to implement its interventions in an efficient & effective manner;	<ul> <li>Maintain competent and motivated staff team</li> <li>Develop a robust policy framework for JAP</li> <li>Improve the operational systems of JAP</li> <li>Develop staff in a number of key areas including resource mobilization, project design and management, wellness and stress management team building and organization resilience</li> <li>, personal safety &amp; organization security</li> <li>Ensure organizational accountability and governance through periodic meetings and audits.</li> </ul>



## **PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023**

- 1. Periodic Status Report on Public Assemblies based on selected case studies of events monitored in Uganda: July August 2022
- 2. Pocket guide book on freedom of assembly in Uganda: Principles, Rights, obligations and responsibilities 2022
- 3. Tool for monitoring public assemblies in Uganda 2022
- 4. Monitoring tool for police Stations visits 2023
- 5. Tool for monitoring /observing police disciplinary courts trials 2023
- 6. A draft of the Bill for the establishment of an independent civilian police oversight authority.
- 7. Draft analysis of the Police Act 1994
- 8. Analysis of the draft transitional Justice bill, 2019 with a lens for accountability of business sector complicity in gross and serious human rights violations in Uganda



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