

COMPREHENSIVE TOOL FOR MONITORING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN UGANDA

This tool was developed by Justice Access Point (JAP) based on the AU Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2019), the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (Art. 29), the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019, and the ICCPR (Article 19) to monitor freedom of expression in Uganda.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENT

Indicator	Options
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> 18–35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36–55 <input type="checkbox"/> 56+
Role in the Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Journalist <input type="checkbox"/> Activist <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Government Official <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Belongs to a marginalized group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
If yes, specify group	<input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee/IDP <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic minority <input type="checkbox"/> Religious minority <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+ <input type="checkbox"/> Person with disability <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

SECTION 2: EXPRESSION EVENT DETAILS

Indicator	Options
Date of Event	_____ / _____ / _____
Time	Start: _____ End: _____
Location	District: _____ Sub-county/Division: _____ Venue: _____
Type of Expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Media publication <input type="checkbox"/> Online post <input type="checkbox"/> Public speech <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic performance <input type="checkbox"/> Protest signage <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Medium Used	<input type="checkbox"/> Print <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Purpose of Expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Satirical <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Nature of Expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned <input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous
Prior Notification (if required)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Was the expression linked to other rights (e.g. assembly, privacy)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure

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SECTION 3: STATE RESPONSE TO EXPRESSION

Indicator	Options
Was the expression disrupted or censored?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Nature of Disruption	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Threat <input type="checkbox"/> Content removal <input type="checkbox"/> Platform blocking <input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Agency Involved	<input type="checkbox"/> UPF <input type="checkbox"/> UCC <input type="checkbox"/> ISO <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Legal Basis Cited	<input type="checkbox"/> Penal Code <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Misuse Act <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Terrorism Act <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Was a warning issued before action?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was the response proportionate and justified under law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially
Did the restriction meet the three-part test (lawful, legitimate aim, necessary/proportionate)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed

SECTION 4: IMPACT ON RIGHTS AND PARTICIPANTS

Indicator	Options
Were individuals arrested or detained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Were individuals injured or harmed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Were journalists or media houses targeted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Were human rights defenders involved or affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was journalistic source protection violated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Public Reaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Hostile <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive
Did the expression lead to legal proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was legal aid or remedy sought?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was an oversight mechanism accessed (e.g. UHRC, courts)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Instructions: Rate each statement using the scale below:

1 = Strongly Disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly Agree

A. Safety and Freedom to Express					
Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Individuals expressed their views without fear of retaliation or harm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expression occurred without intimidation by state or non-state actors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participants felt safe engaging in public discourse or critique.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Media and Journalistic Freedoms					
Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Journalists and media outlets operated without undue interference.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media content was not censored or blocked arbitrarily.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Journalists were not targeted or pressured to reveal sources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Digital Expression and Access					
Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Digital platforms were accessible and unrestricted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online expression was not suppressed through surveillance or takedowns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet access was not disrupted or throttled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Artistic and Symbolic Expression					
Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Artistic or symbolic expression was not penalized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural or religious expression was respected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Legal and Institutional Protections					
Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Legal protections for expression were upheld.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement respected peaceful expression.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public officials tolerated criticism without reprisals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oversight mechanisms were accessible and effective.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remedies were available for rights violations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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SECTION 6: OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Indicator	Scale
The expression was conducted in accordance with Ugandan law	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
The expression was protected under AU and ICCPR principles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
The state response respected human rights standards	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Overall environment for freedom of expression	Scale: 0 (Closed) → 10 (Open) → <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10

★ Notes & Observations (Optional)

- **Narrative Summary:** _____
- **Quotes or Testimonies:** _____
- **Visual Evidence (if applicable):** ☐ Photo ☐ Screenshot ☐ Link
- **Follow-up Actions Taken:** ☐ Legal aid ☐ Advocacy ☐ Reporting ☐ Other