

FOR JUSTICE

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A monthly Newsletter published by APILU - an organization formed by Ugandan lawyers

APILU

Promoting understanding, observance and
entrenchment of the rule of law



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. APILU overview
2. Message from APILUboard chairperson
3. APILU website hits global waves
4. APILU joins UGMP
5. APILU engages university students
6. Contacts

APILU *an overview*

Advocates for Public International Law Uganda (APILU) was established to promote understanding, observance and entrenchment of the Rule of Law, International Humanitarian, Criminal and Human Rights law in Uganda.

APILU aims at providing a forum for the free exchange of ideas on promoting observance of the Rule of Law and promote understanding of international law in particular the International conventions that Uganda is a signatory or state party to. This is done through information, education and communication to concerned stakeholders.

APILU also aims at building the capacity of Ugandan advocates and law students in International law and various international instruments. It facilitates a platform for promoting activities aimed at entrenching observance of Public International Law, International Criminal Law and International Human Rights Law.

Objectives

1. Promote understanding of international law, in particular the international conventions that Uganda is a signatory or state party to, through information, education and communication
2. Build capacity of Ugandan lawyers and law students in International law and various international instruments
3. To facilitate a platform for pro-



Some of the rebels facing charges at the International Criminal Law

moting activities aimed at entrenching the observance of public international law, international criminal law and international human rights law.

4. To provide a forum for freely exchanging knowledge and ideas on promoting observance of the Rule of Law.
5. To institute or commence civil or criminal proceedings and/or prosecute human rights cases and/or Rule of Law related cases, including, but not limited to democratic governance

Activities

1. Provide technical legal expertise on international Criminal Law and International Criminal justice and the suitability of using international criminal justice mechanisms to respond to war crimes and crimes against humanity in Uganda.
2. Engage Law students in universi-

ties in Uganda to discuss various Public International Law and Criminal Justice issues and their relevance and implications in the Ugandan context.

3. Disseminate clear and simplified information on the implications of International Criminal Law and International Criminal Justice to Uganda.
4. Undertake skills development workshops for stakeholders focusing on issues like litigating cases involving Public International Law.
5. Increase public awareness on the impact of key and current international legal issues such as victims' rights and rights to fair trials and their application in the Ugandan context.
6. Undertake strategic Public Interest Litigation on International Criminal Law, International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law.

Word from APILU board chairperson

Developments in International Justice are currently focused in East Africa. The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against five members of the Lords Resistance Army, arrest warrants were issued against some militias in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the ICC is seeking an indictment against President Bashir of Sudan and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is trying people on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Despite the fact that most ICC efforts are concentrated in East Africa, most people in these countries are not knowledgeable about International Criminal Justice and its benefits to promoting lasting peace.

APILU's mission is to increase awareness of Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Justice; increase awareness of the various fora to which disputes related to Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Criminal Justice can be referred to.

APILU also endeavors to create a robust legal system that can influence change and ensure observance and entrenchment of International Laws in Uganda. APILU further contributes to empowering the public to ensure that issues of Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Criminal Justice are discussed by all Ugandans.



Moses Adriko

APILU launches website

Advocates for International Initiative has opened up a website to sensitize the public of its activities. The www.apilu.org gives a brief background of APILU programmes and its activities.

The website also gives a list of publications to guide researchers and scholars on where to get resources concerning major international treaties to which Uganda is a party



The new APILU website

APILU joins UGMP group



APILU national coordinator Martha Nanjobe presents a report during the UGMP meeting recently

APILU was in August registered as a member of the Uganda Governance Monitoring Program (UGMP), a platform that brings together key civil society organizations in Uganda and the Netherlands in a joint governance monitoring programme to track and Uganda's progress in good governance.

The programme uses a total of 29 governance related indicators, ensuing from four broad benchmarks derived from Uganda's 2004/05 Poverty Eradication Action Plan. These benchmarks are; the democratization process, human rights situation, transparency and accountability and conflict resolution.

APILU was therefore tasked to contribute to reports about justice and peace in Uganda. By monitoring and reporting about governance issues, APILU hopes to use the forum to advance its cause of promoting understanding, observance and entrenchment of the Rule of Law, International Criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law and human rights law in Uganda.

APILU engages LDC, university students

APILU plans to engage with Law students to promote understanding of Public International Law, International Criminal Law and Justice, International Humanitarian Law and the Rule of Law; and encourage debates on its relevance in the Ugandan context

APILU's engagement with students will contribute to developing their personal expertise in Public International Law, International Criminal Law and Justice, International Humanitarian Law and the Rule of Law; and to stimulate interest and debates in these subjects among students.

In August, APILU and officials from the Law Development Centre (LDC) discussed ways of engaging post graduate law and diploma students at the Centre. The discussions considered possibilities of how APILU can give guest presentations to post graduate students on International Criminal Justice. APILU is also considering taking up the students for clerkship to increase their knowledge and awareness of International Criminal Law and



APILU national coordinator (third behind) joins LDC tutors in a photo

Justice.

APILU also met with deans of faculties of Law from Kampala International University and Uganda Christian University, and the Institute of Strategic Studies in Gulu where they discussed and agreed on ways of working with the faculties and engaging law students to enhance their knowledge and awareness of issues of Public International Law, International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law.

APILU further participated in a workshop organized by the International Commission of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet with lecturers of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Uganda in the various universities. The workshop facilitated sharing of experiences amongst IHL lecturers on IHL teaching in Uganda. Participants further shared their thought on structuring IHL curricula and resources and support available for IHL teaching.

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