

**A REPORT ON A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION, DIALOGUE AND  
PRESENTATION OF A MEMORANDUM AGAINST CHILD SACRIFICE TO  
PARLIAMENT THROUGH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF BUSOGA  
REGION**

**Organized by Jinja Network in partnership with the Civil Society fraternity of  
Busoga region**



**Held On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 at Jinja Town Hall**

**Sponsored by Terre des hommes Netherlands and other Civil Society Organizations**

**Prepared by Naigaga Susan  
Jinja Network**

**Abbreviations**

ADSN	Adolescent Development Support Network
ANPPCAN	The African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Abuse and Neglect
CRO	Child Restoration Outreach-Jinja
HON	Honorable
JDLG	Jinja District Local Government
JIACOFE	Jinja Area Community Federation
JINNET	Jinja Network for the Marginalised Child and Youth
MP	Member of Parliament
P/S	Primary School
SALVE	Support and Love via Education
UPACLED	Uganda Parents of Children with Learning Disability

### **Acknowledgment**

JINNET would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following stakeholders during the peaceful demonstration and dialogue against child sacrifice. Child Restoration Outreach-Jinja, Jinja Child Development Centre, Children of Grace, Youth Alive-South Eastern Region, Uganda Human Rights Commission-South Eastern region, Police (child and family protection unit, community liaison office and traffic), Uganda Red Cross society-Jinja branch, Twezimbe Centre, Uganda Parents of children with learning disability, Child Fund International-Jinja area, ANPPCAN (U) Jinja branch, Assist the Child – Uganda [Kiyunga], VCHHU –Iganga, Main street p/s, Uganda railways p/s, Magwa p/s, St. Nicholas p/s, SALVE International, PEFO, Adolescent Development Support Network, Buwuda p/s, Wakitaka p/s, Masese Co p/s, Bamboo fm, Kiira fm, Victoria fm, Basoga Baino fm, and the New vision.

Thank you for inputting your very precious time, knowledge, skills and financial resources. Without the role played by each, the activity would not have been possible.

To the children, thank you for sharing the spirit of oneness and for showing concern over your fellow children who succumbed to child sacrifice.

To Hon Musa Mutabali, your contribution to the dialogue was extremely valuable.

May the good Lord bless you all.

## **Introduction**

What we read and see in the news as Ugandans and the world represent just the tip of the silent morgue of ritual murders in Uganda. What is less clear is how a father, friend or even a stranger could pick courage to brutally butcher a baby. Children are vulnerable and believed to be pure-this is why they are being sacrificed and they are more easily lured. Behind the torture, mutilation and killing of the victims lies a strong cause, money! This evil practice is done through every social class from the poorest villagers who live out of the capital to rich tycoons and generals who determine the wealth and stability of the country. Children are beheaded when new buildings are under construction-because misinformed individuals believe that their heads, once buried underneath the foundation, will bring the construction to success and the business to be done within there. People looking for money, sexual performance or love visit traditional healers who do not hesitate to hijack children from their families or from streets to acquire body parts thus are enabling them to charge their clients more.

With this background, child sacrifice is manifesting itself as one of the fundamental issues that violate children's rights as they are denied a right to survival. Henceforth all Civil Society Organizations, Schools, and Corporate Institutions in Busoga region petitioned Busoga members of Parliament over it. And the following were the activities performed.

## **Participants**

A total of 164 stakeholders participated in the peaceful demonstration and dialogue on child sacrifice. 59.2% were children. The participants were from schools, Non Government Organizations, media houses and general concerned citizens of Uganda.

## **Activities performed before and on the very day**

### **1. Planning meetings**

Meetings were held at CRO-Jinja board room in preparation for the demonstration and dialogue against child sacrifice. Attendees were from Non Government Organizations in Busoga region and media houses in Jinja district.

### **2. Press conference**

One press conference was held at CRO-Jinja board room. This was done in a bid to inform the public about the demonstration on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, why the demonstration, who we are to petition and inviting the general public to participate.





## **A press conference on Child sacrifice demonstration and dialogue**

### **3. Marching and peaceful demonstration**

Children from primary schools and Organizations in Jinja district marched around the town of Jinja showing their discontent on the issue of child sacrifice. Children were holding play cards with words like “No more shrines in Busoga region”, “give children a chance to live as you were also given”, “we need specialized courts for child sacrifice suspects”, “justice should prevail on

*cases of child sacrifice”, “say no to child sacrifice”, urgent need for timeframe on cases of child sacrifice”, save the children, save the future”, “Amend the 1957 Witchcraft Act”, NGOs united against child sacrifice”, among others.*

### **Activities at the Town Hall**

#### **4. Welcome Remarks by Chairperson of the organizing committee**

Mr. Patrick Balikweya welcomed all participants and thanked them for coming. He thanked JINNET for coming up with the idea of fighting Child Sacrifice because it’s on increase in Uganda and this makes children not safe. He further said that “every child is our child” and urged people to be concerned”.

#### **5. Presentation by a child on the State of Child Sacrifice in Uganda**

This report is being submitted by Nambi Idha of Narambai Road primary school, aged 13 years, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2010.

Dear guest of Honor, the Members of Parliament present, District leaders, fellow children, all protocol observed.

You are all welcome to this meeting and I pray that you give attention to this noble cause in which we are fighting to defend the rights of a child and therefore fighting against the evil monster called “**Child Sacrifice**”.

The monster has posed a great threat to the dear lives of the children in our country and the world at large.

While our parents and families are meant to be key actors in our protection, they have instead turned against us and are killing us for riches.

Some of our fellow children have been sacrificed into family rituals and their brains have been impaired so that nobody can ever find out what happened.

Our dear parents and relatives how can you celebrate riches you have earned with a child’s blood?

**Here is a list of some of our friends who have been forced to leave this country before they lived to see their dreams come true**

No	Name of child	Place / District	Age	Date
1	Margaret Babirye Nankya	Katugwe-Gulu	10 years	25 <sup>th</sup> 04 2010
2	Kasirye Joseph	Masaka	12 years	26 <sup>th</sup> 10 2010
3	Shamim(it was the very first case)	Njeru- Mukono	5 years	29 <sup>th</sup> 06 1996
4	Isaac Kyanakyayesu	Makindye- Kampala	6 months	10 <sup>th</sup> 10 2008
5	Kalule Eriya	Namusita Kamuli	12 years	26 <sup>th</sup> 12 2008
6	Otiti Solomon	Lela Mia- gulu	3 years	23 <sup>rd</sup> 08 2009
7	Kironde	Nakibiizi Njeru	6 years	July 2009

### “STOP CHILD SACRIFICE NOW” SAVE THE FUTURE GENERATION

Guest of Honor, here is some data on the state of Child Sacrifice and Child disappearance in Jinja District. The Police have so far recorded **1** case of child Sacrifice in the period of January to September 2010, and have also registered **34** cases of child disappearance. The unfortunate part with the data on Child Disappearance is that the people who come to report the cases never return to give a feed back when the children are found. So it is hard to tell whether they end up in sacrifice or not.



Children presenting the state of child sacrifice in the Uganda and displaying photos of sacrificed children

**BUT** the question is; what is the role of police, when a case like that is reported; don't they follow it up for investigations? Anyway that is food for thought.

The Police ask for money to even take the body for examination, is that right?

I therefore call upon everybody to understand that child's protection and safety is everyone's responsibility.

**For God and my Country.**

## 6. Presentation of the memorandum

### A memorandum to the attention of parliament against child sacrifice presented by the Busoga Civil Society Fraternity led by Jinja Network for the marginalized Child and Youth on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

#### **Introduction**

Guest of Honor, Hon MPs present, District Leaders present, members of Civil Society / Business Organizations present, our invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. You have all heard the incidences of **CHILD SACRIFICE** which have been narrated to us by Nambi Ida (a child). You have also seen the pictures of the inhuman and horrible acts of child sacrifice. This Memorandum touches this issue of **CHILD SACRIFICE** focusing on what we as Civil Society can do and what you MPs can do to intervene in terminating Child Sacrifice. I also will make some Recommendations mainly on the lacuna in our legal system and laws which have played to the advantage of the people involved in this evil.

#### **Interventions towards averting this evil**

The efforts towards this evil in our society have surely been made and follow within the list herein below; the general public has shown a negative reception towards this evil in the form of peaceful demonstrations almost similar to the one we had this morning. Police Committees registering traditional healers, have also done a wonderful job as many of the traditional healers may fear to involve themselves in the Acts of Witch Craft leading to **CHILD SACRIFICE**.

However, the squared question remains as to whether those interventions are contributing pragmatically towards averting this evil in our society which is now adopting the latest fashion style of Child Ransom. If this is not so, then all of us gathered here have to ask ourselves what the cause of **CHILD SACRIFICE** is and then we advance a concrete way forward. We have all heard and seen some of the scenarios of child sacrifice in Uganda and many of us have felt the effects of this monster on our families and society as many of us have lost relatives. It's time to rise against it with appropriate yet pragmatic mechanisms and the time is now!

#### **Recommendations**

##### **1. Specialized courts under which culprits of child sacrifice would be tried.**

It's quite evident all suspects of child sacrifice have been prosecuted under the Penal Code Act CAP 120 and are mainly charged with Murder, Kidnap with intent to Murder or Kidnap with Intent to Confine. In all these instances, these suspects / accused persons have been put before Ordinary courts of Judicature which courts are so strict or rigid with the rules of procedure leading to many of the accused being acquitted or dismissed. A case in point is **Uganda Vs Kato Kajubi** where the accused was acquitted on a no case to answer on his part. Whereas such a case could probably have been sustained if proof was on a balance of probabilities in a specialised court which takes into consideration the likely technicalities, the high standard in criminal cases requiring proof beyond reasonable doubt [as was the case] could not be attained hence a call for a **SPECIALISED COURT**.

## 2. Urgent need to amend the witchcraft Act of 1957.

It's important to note that many of the suspects or accused persons in Child Sacrifice cases are witch doctors and traditional healers who usually ask their clients for human blood in most cases to enable their clients get wealth and initiation into witch craft. Section 7 of The Witchcraft Act of 1957 had helped in curbing Witchcraft as it had very serious punishments like banishment if someone was found guilty of Witch Craft. However the case of **ATTORNEY GENERAL Vs SALVATORI ABUKI AND RICHARD OBUGA** has declared several provisions of the Witchcraft Act like the section on Banishment Unconstitutional. The main provisions in the Act are too impotent to cause any fear among people practicing witchcraft including Child Sacrifice.

Further still the existing laws that ought to have served the role of preventing the same have not been exhaustive enough! Article 34 of the constitution for instance provides for rights of a child but it is silent with regard to the aspect of Child Sacrifice.

In addition to aforementioned, even the children's Act that is supposed to be exhaustive in all aspects of children's rights is also silent on the same leaving the cry against child sacrifice with no legal backing.

There is therefore need for an urgent amendment of existing laws that touch on rights of children to fill the gaps and in particular the gap left by the Supreme Court ruling in the case of **ATTORNEY GENERAL Vs SALVATORI ABUKI AND RICHARD OBUGA** so as to make the Act relevant to the current times and be used as a vehicle to fight CHILD SACRIFICE.

- ## 3. Parliament to set time frame within which courts are to hear and dispose of child sacrifice.
- It's not uncommon that courts take up to 10 years to hear and determine child sacrifice cases. By the time these cases are heard and disposed of many of the key witnesses have died and thus making it hard for the prosecution to effectively prosecute these cases and secure convictions against the accused where it is due. A case in point is **Uganda Vs Muwanga and others which involved murdering of a child called Shamim in Nile Njeru - Mukono**. It took up to 8 years for the case to be concluded from the High Court to the Supreme Court and at the time of its conclusion only one person was convicted and the others were acquitted including the Witch Doctor. We should not forget that as cases take long, many people lose interest in them, witnesses die, and corruption is as well given an opportunity to thrive. Likewise as it is with Electoral Petitions which are given priority over other cases, so should it be done with Child Sacrifice cases.

## Conclusion

All of us are parents or parents in potency, the children are the future of this country and we need to protect them from CHILD SACRIFICE.



Your child as Member of Parliament may have security but you leave this child with a maid or relative who may exchange him or her for money as it was in the case of the late Kakama. Let's therefore join hands to fight CHILD SACRIFICE in all ways possible not limited to the above recommendations. There is need for preventive measures and this lies with you members of parliament who play the legislative role in Government.

**Presented by Ngobi Willy Felix on behalf of the Organizations**

**Remarks from the Guest of Honor –Hon Musa**

### **Mukose Mutabali**

He apologized on behalf of his fellow members of parliament who failed to turn up but said that whatever has come up will reach them and the results will be realized or seen. On behalf of the parliament he thanked Jinja Network, other organizations and the children advocates for organizing such a function.

He further said that necessary invitations will be done to get more information from Jinja Network about the recommendations made. He said that he is a member of Parliamentary Committee on children affairs. As far as he is concerned, all information will reach committee.

There are so many types of child sacrifice and they are performed by witchdoctors, parents, teachers and fellow children. The work done by Jinja Network is not simple, it is wide and dangerous, and it is always a long and difficult process. He appealed to all Organizations to continue pursuing the issue.

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Those old days, child sacrifice was not common. When a child disappears from your face you may not get him alive again. Every child is not safe so we have to put our hands together and fight the vice. The witch craft Act is ready at the cabinet level for review. We trying to put special courts to deal with child sacrifice as we have the anti corruption court. He said that he will present the memorandum and assist Jinja Network to meet their endeavors as per child sacrifice.



Guest of Honor receiving the memorandum

**Achievements**

One Member of Parliament attended the dialogue and the petition was handed over to him and he promised to take it to parliament.

**Challenges**

- Limited funds to carry out the activity
- The National Resistance Movement party losers meeting at YMCA on 1<sup>st</sup> October hindered other members of parliament to attend this activity.
- Too many bureaucracies in meeting legislators.

**Recommendations**

- The organizing committee was requested by the MP to follow up the memorandum presented with the Parliamentary Committee on Gender and Social Welfare.
- Each person has a role to play in fighting this evil and this could be by reporting any stranger in the community to the relevant authorities e.g. police.

## **Engaging Uganda's members of parliamentary committee on gender labour and social development with civil societies from Busoga on child sacrifice**

### **Background Information:**

During a Monthly Child Radio Preprogram Editorial meeting in July 2010, two advocacy issues were identified i.e. Child Sacrifice and Children with Learning Impairments. Both issues were handled separately meeting various actors and policy makers at different levels. For the Child sacrifice, civil societies from Jinja, Iganga, Luuka, and Kamuli were brought on board and various planning meetings were held and on Friday 01<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a peaceful demonstration and later a dialogue with Members of parliament who hail from Busoga Region v were invited so that the children and civil society organizations could present a memorandum requesting majorly 3 crucial issues for immediate consideration. These are:

#### **4. Specialized courts under which culprits of child sacrifice would be tried.**

It's quite evident all suspects of child sacrifice have been prosecuted under the Penal Code Act CAP 120 and are mainly charged with Murder, Kidnap with intent to Murder or Kidnap with Intent to Confine. In all these instances, these suspects / accused persons have been put before Ordinary courts of Judicature which courts are so strict or rigid with the rules of procedure leading to many of the accused being acquitted or dismissed. A case in point is **Uganda Vs Kato Kajubi** where the accused was acquitted on a no case to answer on his part. Whereas such a case could probably have been sustained if proof was on a balance of probabilities in a specialised court which takes into consideration the likely technicalities, the high standard in criminal cases requiring proof beyond reasonable doubt [as was the case] could not be attained hence a call for a **SPECIALISED COURT**.

#### **5. Urgent need to amend the witchcraft Act of 1957.**

It's important to note that many of the suspects or accused persons in Child Sacrifice cases are witch doctors and traditional healers who usually ask their clients for human blood in most cases to enable their clients get wealth and initiation into witch craft. Section 7 of The Witchcraft Act of 1957 had helped in curbing Witchcraft as it had very serious punishments like banishment if someone was found guilty of Witch Craft. However the case of **ATTORNEY GENERAL Vs SALVATORI ABUGI AND RICHARD OBUGA** has declared several provisions of the Witchcraft Act like the section on Banishment Unconstitutional. The main provisions in the Act are too impotent to cause any fear among people practicing witchcraft including Child Sacrifice. Further still the existing laws that ought to have served the role of preventing the same have not been exhaustive enough! Article 34 of the constitution for instance provides for rights of a child but it is silent with regard to the aspect of Child Sacrifice. In addition to aforementioned, even the children's Act that is supposed to be exhaustive in all aspects of children's rights is also silent on the same leaving the cry against child sacrifice with no legal backing.

There is therefore need for an urgent amendment of existing laws that touch on rights of children to fill the gaps and in particular the gap left by the Supreme Court ruling in the case of ATTORNEY GENERAL Vs SALVATORI ABUKI AND RICHARD OBUGA so as to make the Act relevant to the current times and be used as a vehicle to fight CHILD SACRIFICE.

- 6. Parliament to set time frame within which courts are to hear and dispose of child sacrifice.** It's not uncommon that courts take up to 10 years to hear and determine child sacrifice cases. By the time these cases are heard and disposed of many of the key witnesses have died and thus making it hard for the prosecution to effectively prosecute these cases and secure convictions against the accused where it is due. A case in point is **Uganda Vs Muwanga and others which involved murdering of a child called Shamim in Nile Njeru - Mukono.** It took up to 8 years for the case to be concluded from the High Court to the Supreme Court and at the time of its conclusion only one person was convicted and the others were acquitted including the Witch Doctor. We should not forget that as cases take long, many people lose interest in them, witnesses die, and corruption is as well given an opportunity to thrive. Likewise as it is with Electoral Petitions which are given priority over other cases, so should it be done with Child Sacrifice cases.

It's upon this background that through the office of the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Republic of Uganda, a meeting was sought to meet the Parliamentary Committee on Gender Labour and Social Development to address the above challenges which are increasing day by day. The Chairperson to this committee (Hon. Kabanda Pherry Woman MP Budaka District) was contacted; a formal letter seeking an interface with this committee was written by JINNET and delivered. Finally the Committee's Clerk Mrs. Jackie arranged a meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00AM at their committee room to discuss our Memorandum to Parliament –Kampala in details with this committee. Below is the team that went to meet the members of parliament:

No.	Name	Name Organization	Contact	E-mail
1.	Mr. Ngobi Willy Felix	JINNET- Co-ordinator	077613305	<a href="mailto:ngobi@jinjanetwork.org">ngobi@jinjanetwork.org</a>
2.	Mr. Balikweya Patrick	UPACLED	0772624815	<a href="mailto:patrickbalikweya@yahoo.com">patrickbalikweya@yahoo.com</a>
3.	Mr. Owori Hebert	Tr.- Magwa P/School	0776178960	-
7.	Mr. Opira Anthony	ADSN	0773616110	-

8.	Mike Asiya Asiku	SALVE	0774214726	<a href="mailto:kabangoshmike@yahoo.com">kabangoshmike@yahoo.com</a>
9.	Ibullahim Abdulhamed	ADSN	0753164058	<a href="mailto:Ibrahim.abdulhamed@gmail.com">Ibrahim.abdulhamed@gmail.com</a>
10.	Nakiyemba Harriet	Kiira FM	0774443004	<a href="mailto:h.nakiyemba@yahoo.com">h.nakiyemba@yahoo.com</a>
11.	Musambi Moses	BABA FM	0776626148	-
12.	Josephine N. Kabuye	Twezimbe Centre	0784344339	<a href="mailto:nantezajosephine@rocketmail.com">nantezajosephine@rocketmail.com</a>
13.	Sr. Sylvia Aketch	Twezimbe Centre	0774916337	<a href="mailto:sylviaaketch@yahoo.com">sylviaaketch@yahoo.com</a>
14.	Pr. Batambuze Paul	JINNET	0752936898	<a href="mailto:paul@jinjanetwork.or.ug">paul@jinjanetwork.or.ug</a>
15.	Mr. Luyuyo Eric	Bamboo FM	0712141485	<a href="mailto:luyuyoeric@yahoo.com">luyuyoeric@yahoo.com</a>
16.	Mugaya Aggrey	Child –Magwa P/S	-	-
17.	Kabali Ronnie	Child-Main Street P/S	-	-
18.	Abwoch Jemma Otto	Child –Magwa P/S	-	-
19.	Mr. Ngobi Julius	Tr.-Main Street P/S	0784561491	-
20.	Mr. Ofwono M. Tomson	Children of Grace	0782846184	<a href="mailto:omt2000k@yahoo.com">omt2000k@yahoo.com</a>
21.	Mrs. Sarah Nsaja	UPACLED	0752443322	-
22.	Victor	Twezimbe Centre	-	-
23.	Byarugaba Simon	CRO-Jinja	077463381	<a href="mailto:byarugabasimon@yahoo.com">byarugabasimon@yahoo.com</a>
24.	Were E. Fred Wataga	CRO-Jinja	0712852532	<a href="mailto:werefred@yahoo.com">werefred@yahoo.com</a>
25.	Mr.Obbo Jimmy Ivans	ANPPCAN (U) Jinja	0772640013	<a href="mailto:jobbo@anppcanug.org">jobbo@anppcanug.org</a>
26.	Mr. Muwanga Peter	JINNET	0774726246	<a href="mailto:muwangapeter@yahoo.com">muwangapeter@yahoo.com</a>

Below was the list of Members of Parliament of the Committee on Gender Labour and Social Development present:

No.	Name	Designation	Constituency
1)	Hon. Pherry Kabanda	Chairperson	Woman MP Budaaka District
2)	Hon. Nokorach William	Vice Chairperson	MP Person with Disabilities Northern
3)	Hon. Mwebaza Sarah Ocan	Committee Member	MP Samya Bugwe North Busia District
4)	Hon. Akol Judith Franca	Committee Member	Woman MP Pader District
5)	Hon. Aoi Betty	Committee Member	Woman MP Gulu
6)	Mrs. Jackie	Committee Clerk	

Agenda:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Communication from the Chairperson Parliamentary GLSD
- 4) Presentation of the Memorandum on Child Sacrifice by Jinja Team Leader
- 5) Reactions and Discussions on the Presentation on Child Sacrifice
- 6) Way forward
- 7) Closure

Minute	Discussion/Details
<b>Min.01/MPGLSD/11/2010 PRAYER</b>	As it is the procedure of Parliament, the Clerk to the Committee on Gender, labour and Social development Mrs. Jackie Led through the members the parliamentary prayer
<b>Min.02/MPGLSD/11/2010 SELF INTRODUCTIONS</b>	All the members present introduced themselves as the attendance list above
<b>Min.03/MPGLSD/11/2010 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR</b>	The Chairperson parliamentary Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development Hon. Pherry Kabanda said the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed all especially the team from Jinja which included children and adults.</li> <li>• Grateful for the persistence of a member form Jinja Network for the</li> </ul>

	<p>Marginalized Child and Youth who has been calling her often to find out when this meeting has been scheduled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advised that the meeting should be brief and specific to the idea</li> <li>• Some members of parliament to this committee are away in their constituencies as they are in preparation for Parliamentary nominations which are soon.</li> <li>• Reminded members always to have children issues at first so that they help them because they vulnerable.</li> <li>• Very happy that for their first time, they have received a team presenting their petition to parliament which included children whom they were advocating for.</li> <li>• Emphasized Parliament’s commitment to address issues relating to Child welfare like Child Sacrifice, Child labour, Defilement, immunization and their general socio-economic wellbeing.</li> <li>• Called upon Jinja team to feel free to speak relevant issues relating to children and youth, because their contributions were going to lead to the action plan.</li> <li>• Wished members a fruitful deliberations and he declared the meeting open for further discussion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Min.04/MPGLSD/11/2010</b>  <b>Presentation of the Memorandum on Child Sacrifice by Jinja Team Leader</b></p>	<p>The Jinja Network’s Coordinator Mr. Ngobi Willy Felix presented the memorandum which had three pertinent issues as follows:</p> <p><b>1. Specialized courts under which culprits of child sacrifice would be tried.</b></p> <p>It’s quite evident all suspects of child sacrifice have been prosecuted under the Penal Code Act CAP 120 and are mainly charged with Murder, Kidnap with intent to Murder or Kidnap with Intent to Confine. In all these instances, these suspects / accused persons have been put before Ordinary courts of Judicature which courts are so strict or rigid with the rules of procedure leading to many of the accused being acquitted or dismissed. A case in point is <b>Uganda Vs Kato Kajubi</b> where the accused was acquitted on a no case to answer on his part. Whereas such a case could probably have been sustained if proof was on a balance of probabilities in a specialised court which takes into consideration the likely technicalities, the high standard in criminal cases requiring proof beyond reasonable</p>

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## **2. Urgent need to amend the witchcraft Act of 1957.**

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## **3. Parliament to set time frame within which courts are to hear and dispose of child sacrifice.**

It's not uncommon that courts take up to 10 years to hear and determine child sacrifice cases. By the time these cases are heard and disposed of many of the key witnesses have died and thus making it hard for the prosecution to effectively prosecute these cases and secure convictions against the accused where it is due. A case in point is **Uganda Vs Muwanga and others which involved murdering of a child called Shamim in Nile Njeru - Mukono.** It took up to 8 years for the case to be concluded from the High Court to the Supreme Court and at the time of its conclusion only one person was convicted and the others were acquitted including the Witch Doctor. We should not forget that as cases take long, many people lose interest in them, witnesses die, and corruption is as well

	<p>given an opportunity to thrive. Likewise as it is with Electoral Petitions which are given priority over other cases, so should it be done with Child Sacrifice cases.</p>
<p><b>Min.05/MPGLSD/11/2010</b>  <b>Reactions and Discussions on the Presentation on Child Sacrifice</b></p>	<p>The members of Chairperson and the Committee members had the following to say on the parliament/government’s interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is an Act on Trafficking of persons which has been assented to by the president</li> <li>2. There is a bill on Child sacrifice now at the Ministerial level</li> <li>3. There is a draft policy on drugs</li> <li>4. There is a draft guideline on the Code of conduct for Traditional healers and witch doctors</li> <li>5. The Uganda Law Reform Commission is currently reviewing the Witchcraft Act 1957 and a better will put in place.</li> <li>6. What is now remaining is to “make the law more biting” during implementation or enforcement.</li> <li>7. More stringent laws which defend the rights and welfare of the children shall be put in place and enforcement shall be emphasized.</li> </ol> <p>Members of the team from Jinja further raised the following child related concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There was a child who was sacrificed in Mbikko Njeru Town Council whose grandmother was told to pay Shillings 70,000/= for postmortem at Jinja Hospital yet she was a very poor old woman.</li> <li>b. There is only one police surgeon in the region who is mandated to carry out postmortem in the whole of South Eastern Region.</li> <li>c. At police posts/stations, some police officers demand for a lot of money if one reported a case of child related abuse before they can arrest the culprit disguised as transport.</li> <li>d. There is still a negative attitude by parents/guardians towards their children who are often abused and neglected. Further there are some backward cultural activities which are abusive to children.</li> <li>e. There is urgent need to make research on child sacrifice in the country to know all its dynamics.</li> <li>f. Children from Jinja team said they purposely came to parliament to tell</li> </ol>

	<p>Members of parliament that rich people with the help of witch doctors are sacrificing children not adults because children are easily deceived or exploited by sweets.</p> <p>g. Another child wanted to know why those who sacrifice children once arrested by police, investigated and taken to court are not hanged immediately?</p> <p>h. The Radio FM stations in the region and the country at large are in business as they allow witchdoctors to give in their pre-recorded CDs with messages encouraging the public to go for their services in their shrines since they can cure anything in this world.</p> <p>i. The region has only one police surgeon who handles defilement cases yet they are rampant in the region.</p> <p>j. There are lots of film halls in the communities in which children have been found several times during school hours, this has affected their morals and education.</p>
<p><b>RESPONSES BY MPs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uganda is one of the few of the countries in the world well known for good laws and policies made but the problem is lack of implementation.</li> <li>• They were grateful for the views which the Jinja team presented with active participation of children whom we advocated with and for.</li> <li>• They also noted the need to involve other children from rural schools/communities so that they can also share their experiences down there.</li> <li>• They urged all stakeholders at all levels to be vigilant in order to save the children our future generation</li> <li>• In Gulu, there was a child who was sacrificed by a relative after being promised a lot of money by a rich man.</li> <li>• One MP was not happy with the Nigerian films which are destructive to people's minds because most of the time they are misleading the viewers of barbaric and evil acts like murder, robbery, corruption, witchcraft, divorce, drug abuse, prostitution and increase crime in the community.</li> <li>• Today's society rarely embraces positive religious values and beliefs.</li> </ul>

They often neglect church and mosques, instead they are materialistic

- Uganda Communications Commission and the Broadcasting Council need to be contacted to regulate the use of pre-recorded CDs which promotes witchdoctors.
- There is urgent need to tighten the grip so that all such activities of witchdoctors/traditional healers who do their practices during night and in very dark places.
- There is also need to look at the trend in which child sacrifice is changing face into child ransom.
- There are some cases of adults who have been also kidnapped and sacrificed.
- Societies should stop adopting culture wholesomely to avoid copying negative and destructive cultural practices.
- Urged the Chairperson and the Clerk to the committee to expedite the process of sending this petition to plenary before the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament.
- There is need to look at the causes of Child sacrifice in the communities
- As cases take long to be disposed off, witnesses die, lose memory, transfer while others lose interest in such cases.
- Local Governments right from village levels should remember their mandates like registration of births and deaths, having a register for all children including those with disabilities, also those register all residents in each village or cell to inform proper planning and easy cracking down criminals.

Everybody should get concerned as is the case in Northern Uganda where Peace Clubs and Child Protection Committees are active.

**Min.06/MPGLSD/11/2  
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WAYFORWARD**

The Committee on promised us to do the following:

- 1) To meet relevant Ministries and Departments like Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda Law Reform Commission, Internal Affairs, Information and National Guidance, Gender Labour and Social Development, Education and Sports, Parliamentary Committee on legal Affairs, Health, The Inspector General of Police and the Communications Commission/Broadcasting Council and the Judicial Service Commission.
- 2) Birth certificates shall be availed free of charge to all children born to ease registration of all children at village level.
- 3) Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is going to set up a public 3 digit Toll Free Child Helpline for children to call in case of any abuse
- 4) The Witchcraft Act is under review and they are going to widen the interpretation witchcraft and various Clauses which will make it more punitive and relevant to the public
- 5) They shall as soon as possible meet the media houses and ministry of information on Films and CDs pre recorded by witchdoctors.
- 6) Even the weak immigration laws shall be changed immediately to handle trafficking of children/persons at Borders.
- 7) When all the concerned stakeholders have been consulted, the motion shall be tabled to Plenary (entire parliament) for discussion and Jinja Team shall be invited to witness the debate and give support to the committee.
- 8) MGLSD shall be tasked to undertake research on the magnitude of Child Sacrifice in the country and a Report shall be published and disseminated.
- 9) Government shall mandate other qualified medical personnel at the health centre II, III, IV to carryout postmortem and other related legal reports like for defilement
- 10) The Inspector General of Police shall be invited to give an explanation on the charges being demanded by police officers
- 11) Government and Non Government Organizations should continue to

	<p>sensitize parents and communities on their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>12) Government and Non Government Organizations should conduct research</p> <p>13) Local Government and communities should be more vigilant and set up by-laws which shall address video halls, registration, child trafficking and there is general need for being patriotic.</p>
<p><b>Min.07/MPGLSD/11/2010</b> <b>CLOSURE</b></p>	<p>The Chairperson to this committee thanked all the members of the committee and the team from Jinja for having deliberated a lot on the issue of child sacrifices which is a very pertinent issue if Uganda is to achieve development. She further said that she had been instructed by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament to expeditiously work on the petition from Jinja and then report to her immediately. She promised to keep in touch with Jinja team for updates. She declared the meeting closed at 12:50PM.</p>

**Attendance list for children**

No	Name	Class	Age	School
1	Nabirye Lydia	p.6	13	Buwuda p/s
2	Wanyana Janet	p.6	11	Wakitaka p/s
3	Nambi Lillian	p.6	11	Wakitaka p/s
4	Bakobye Joan	p.5	13	Buwuda p/s
5	Namukaya Prossy	p.6	13	Buwuda p/s
6	Mbwali Lydia	p.6	12	Buwuda p/s
7	Atim Mary	p.5	13	Uganda Railways p/s

8	Vannessa D	P.4	9	Mainstreet p/s
9	Baluka Cissy	p.5	13	Mainstreet p/s
10	Yatuwa Doreen	p.6	14	Mainstreet p/s
11	Nsenge Edrine	p.7	16	CRO
12	Baisa Zabina	p.6	13	Buwuda p/s
13	Abwoch Otto Jemma	p.6	13	Magwa p/s
14	Zaale Leila	p.5	11	Magwa p/s
15	Tasumba Racheal		11	Masese Co
16	Otini Trevor	p.5		Uganda Raiways p/s
17	Aleper christine		11	Masese Co p/s
18	Mihuwa Brenda	p.4	13	Mainstreet p/s
19	Phino Nangobi		7	CRO
20	Nabirye Tolofisa	p.6		
21	Okoba Claire		12	Uganda Railways p/s
22	Namukose Priscar		7	CRO
23	Nakiranda Brenda		12	Uganda railways p/s
24	Alezuyo Annet		12	Magwa p/s
25	Abbo Doreen		12	Magwa p/s
26	Kuguminkiriza Loy		13	Uganda Railways p/s
27	Menya Emmauel	p.5	12	Wakitaka p/s
28	Basudde Richard	p.5	10	Wakitaka p/s
29	Nabirye patricia	p.6	10	Wakitata p/s
30	Mulumba Precious	p.6	12	Main Street p/s
31	Kaada ivan	p.7	13	Wakitaka p/s
32	Meddy Disan		6	CRO
33	Subba Tony		12	Spire Road p/s
34	Anakeke			CRO
35	Paul Buyinza		12	CRO
36	Meddy Innocent		15	CRO
37	Aganyi Michael		15	CRO
38	Charles Eriaz		13	CRO
39	Apolot Edith		13	Masese Co p/s
40	Lubwama Eddy		16	Masese Co p/s
41	Nagudi Deborah		13	Masese Co p/s
42	Namugwana Ruth	p.6	15	Uganda railways
43	Namwiryra Fatuma	p.6	14	Uganda railways
44	Namwoli Eflance	p.6	14	Uganda railways
45	Otim Moses	p.6	14	Uganda railways
46	Mutesi Catherine	p.6	15	Uganda railways
47	Abudala Saluwa	p.6	15	Uganda railways
48	Traifu Munaba	p.6	14	Uganda railways
49	Namanda Abthony	p.6	12	Masese Co p/s
50	Losike Joseph	p.6	15	Masese Co p/s
51	Logose Julie	p.6	15	Wakitaka p/s
52	Namukose Rebecca	p.5	15	Wakitaka p/s

53	Kimanye Inno	p.5	13	Wakitaka p/s
54	Mwesigwa Ronald	p.6	12	Wakitaka p/s
55	Madango Emma	p.6	14	Wakitaka p/s
56	Nabirye Brenda	p.6	13	Wakitaka p/s
57	Mukama Derrick	P.4	12	St. Nicholas
58	Alikoba Tracy	P.4	10	St. Nicholas
59	Ipion Aaron	P.4		St. Nicholas
60	Magoba Mercy	P.4		St. Nicholas
61	Namagoba Juliet	P.4		St. Nicholas
62	Mangure Teddy	P.4		St. Nicholas
63	Aktch Faith	P.4		St. Nicholas
64	Nangobi Subla	P.4		St. Nicholas
65	Amoding Eunice	P.4		St. Nicholas
66	Isabirye Isima	P.4		St. Nicholas
67	Ma,uso Hannah			CRO
68	Nimbi Josephine			CRO
69	Anayise Habiba			CRO
70	Ntalo Derick		12	
71	Nambi Aidah		13	
72	Magoba Mercy	p.4	10	St Nicholas
73	Opio Aaron	p.4	12	St Nicholas
74	Mukama Derrick	p.4	12	St Nicholas
75	Alikoba Tracy	p.4	10	St Nicholas
76	Isabirye Isma	p.4	11	St Nicholas
77	Namagoba Juliet	p.4	10	St Nicholas
78	Mungureyke Teddy	p.4	11	St Nicholas
79	Aketch Faith	p.4	10	St Nicholas
80	Nangobi Sanula	p.4	12	St Nicholas
81	Amoding Eunice	p.4	10	St Nicholas
82	Nakimera Nziran	p.6	11	Magwa p/s
83	Namubali Kekulina	p.5		Magwa p/s
84	Kakaire Elifazi	p.6		Magwa p/s
85	Othieno Brian	p.6		Magwa p/s
86	Omoit Jonathan	p.5		Magwa p/s
87	Kaluya Brian	p.6		Magwa p/s
88	Ssekandi Umaru	p.6		Magwa p/s
89	Naima Omari	p.5		Magwa p/s
90	Muyinda Job	p.5		Magwa p/s
91	Otim Moses	p.6		Magwa p/s
92	Ndakilise Keneth			Magwa p/s
93	Patrick Odoi		10	CRO
94	Florence Lyamusayi		12	CRO
95	Bwamiki Abel	p.7		Buwuda p/s
96	Kasango Timothy	p.7		Buwuda p/s
97	Emong Emmauel	p.6		Main Street p/s

**Attendance list for participants from NGOs**

No	Name	Organization	Contact	Email
1	Wamala Zadoek	CRO-Jinja	0773 782434	<a href="mailto:wazdoek@gmail.com">wazdoek@gmail.com</a>
2	Kiwanuka Stephen	ANPPCAN	0782 122225	<a href="mailto:kiwanukastephen53@yahoo.com">kiwanukastephen53@yahoo.com</a>
3	Mirko Wala	CRO		<a href="mailto:mirko.wale@googlemail.com">mirko.wale@googlemail.com</a>
4	Awori Gloria	Magwa p/s	0774 935639	
5	Agote Beatrice	U/Railways p/s	0788 066350	
6	Bukenya A	St Nicholas	0773 707675	
7	Isabirye W	Child fund	0788 620831	
8	Ngobi Julius	Main street p/s	0784 561491	
9	Isabirye J	Railways		
10	Kakire J.B	Parent	0775 864669	
11	Choda Stephen	S.A.L.V.E	0783 396806	
12	Nabbanja Assy	S.A.L.V.E	0774 381424	<a href="mailto:assynabbanja@tahoo.com">assynabbanja@tahoo.com</a>
13	Bampimbye Moses	St. Nicholasa	0774 931123	
14	Ochwo Juliet	Buwuda p/s	0784 990490	
15	Olinga Tom	Buwuda p/s		
16	Balwana Godfrey	Bandera Project	0772 913045	
17	Musasizi Noel	JDLG	0776 307746	<a href="mailto:musasizinoel@yahoo.com">musasizinoel@yahoo.com</a>
18	Erau Francis	Uganda Red Cross	0773 852902	<a href="mailto:era.franz@yahoo.com">era.franz@yahoo.com</a>
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21	Adyedo Caroline	CRO	0751 930187	
22	Namuwaya Faith	CRO	0779 961298	
23	Iduuli John	Mainstreet p/s	0772 673235	
24	SR. Maween Carroll	Twezimbe Centre	0772 504038	<a href="mailto:twezimbecentre@infocom.co.ug">twezimbecentre@infocom.co.ug</a>
25	Otale Solomom	Red Cross	0776 211155	
26	Sarah Nsaja	UPACLED	0752 443322	<a href="mailto:upacled@gmail.com">upacled@gmail.com</a>
27	Mukembo Robert	UPACLED	0774 709654	<a href="mailto:upacled@gmail.com">upacled@gmail.com</a>
28	Kakire Florence	UPACLED	0774 709654	<a href="mailto:upacled@gmail.com">upacled@gmail.com</a>
29	Kaseewa Irene	Child fund	0781 454958	
20	Josephine Kabuye	Twezimbe Centre	0784 344339	<a href="mailto:nantezajosephine@rocketmail.com">nantezajosephine@rocketmail.com</a>
21	Sr. Sylvia Aketch	Twezimbe Centre	0774 916337	<a href="mailto:sylviaaketch@yahoo.com">sylviaaketch@yahoo.com</a>
22	Igalo Robert	Child Fund	0712 665125	
23	Nsubuga John Bosco	Twezimbe Centre	0702 051234	
24	Akello Grace	Wakitaka p/s	0774 542346	
25	Hon Milto Muwuma	MP	0772 910200	
26	Mutengu Stephen	Masese Co p/s	0776 372935	<a href="mailto:mutengusteve@yahoo.com">mutengusteve@yahoo.com</a>
27	Achola Stella	ANPPCAN (U) Jinja	0776 372935	<a href="mailto:achollastella@ymail.com">achollastella@ymail.com</a>
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40	Patrick Balikweya	UPACLED		
41	Massa Kenneth	CHILD Fund		
42	Mufumbiro Rose	CRO-Jinja		
43	Ngobi Willy Felix	JINNET		
44	Peter Muwanga Guluka	JINNET		
45	Opira Anthony	ADSN		
46	Ibrahim Abdul-Hamed	ADSN		
67	Pr. Paul Batambuze	JINNET		