

UNAFRI



United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)

- General Direction and Management
- Training And Human Resource Development
- Information And Documentation
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- Joint Activities and Strategies

January- March 2023
Newsletter

New Director Arrives



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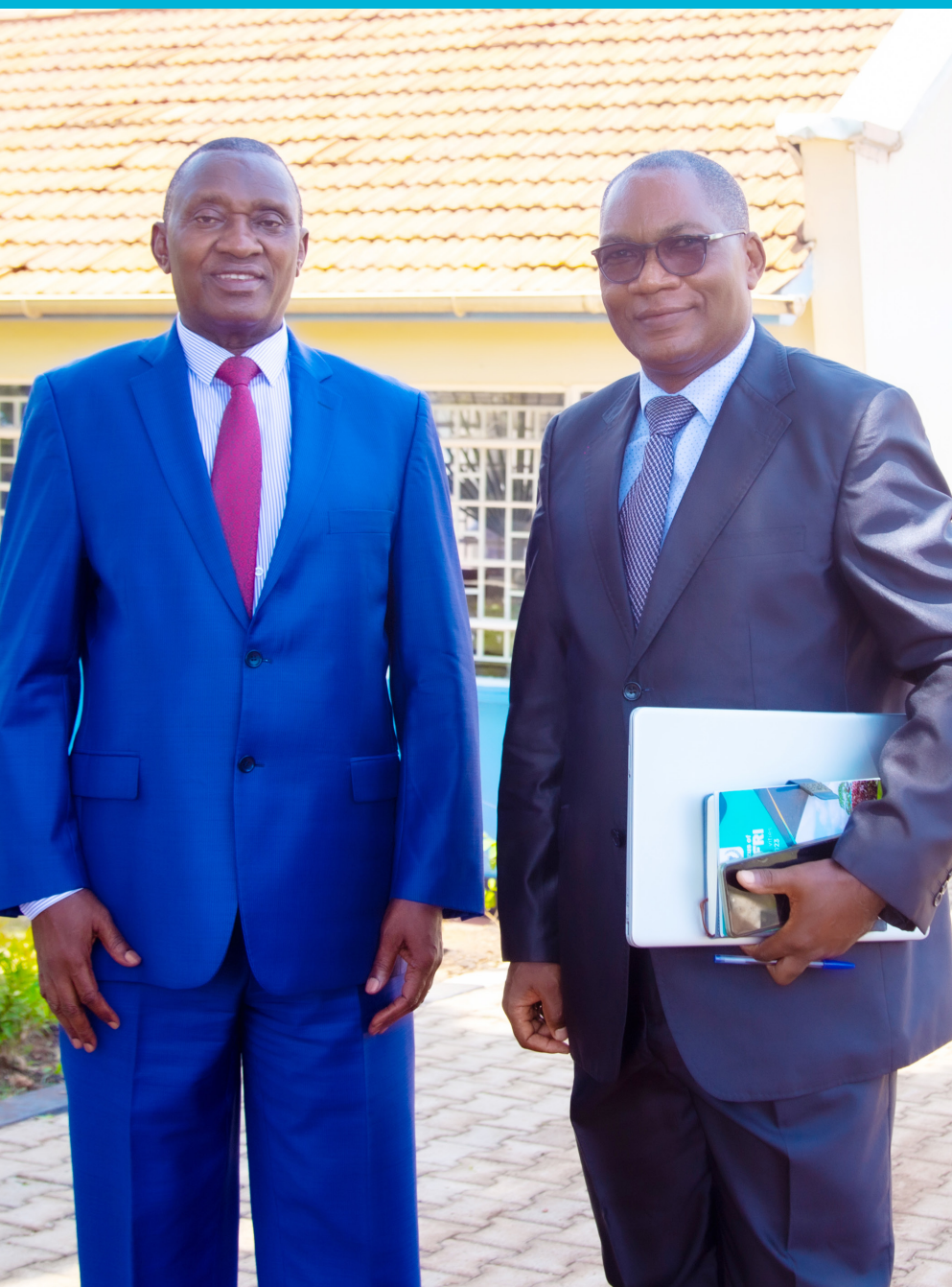
Uganda Law Society and
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UNAFRI New Director Arrives



Left is Mr Ssali while on the right is Dr Kitio.

Dr Kitio Edouad, a super scale Magistrate, has assumed leadership of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). Dr Kitio who hails from the Republic of Cameroon is the fifth substantive head of the Institute since its inception in 1989. He assumed office on 1st March 2023.

UNAFRI, mothered by the United Nations Organisation (UN), is an inter-governmental organisation with a main remit of promoting active cooperation of African governments, academic institutions, non-government organisations and experts in the realm of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Dr Kitio has joined UNAFRI, bringing with him a vast resource of knowledge and experience in management and governance of corporate institutions. Based on credentials of a PhD in Law, LL.M, Private Law and a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Law, he will deliver the benefits of his professional experiences and contacts to the Institute.

He has taken over the reins from John Sembuya Ssali who has been the Ag Director since 2019, following the death of the then Ag Director, John Kitembo. The latter was also the substantive Deputy Director. Mr Sembuya is now the Ag Deputy Director and



Dr Kitio, seated right, and Mr Ssali (left) pose for a photo with staff members.

also doubles as the substantive Finance and Administration Officer. Under the Statute that created UNAFRI, Uganda is barred from fielding a substantive Director, since it hosts the Institute's Secretariat, in Naguru, Kampala. She can only field a substantive Deputy Director.

As he took up the mantle, Dr Kitio acknowledged the input of his predecessors and paid special tribute to the current Acting Deputy Director, Mr John Sembuya Ssali for sustaining the Institute. He looked forward to working closely with him and all the staff to endear UNAFRI to all member States and global

stakeholders. Led by Mr Ssali, all the staff members welcomed Dr Kitio and assured him of total commitment to execution of the Institute's programmes.

These programmes focus on the needs of member States in crime prevention and criminal justice and are met, through tailored interventions developed by UNAFRI in conjunction with relevant authorities in the justice sector in recipient countries. The Institute also provides a variety of services through available opportunities for collaboration with relevant institutions. New partnerships are also being explored on account of suitability

of their mandate in addressing expressed needs.

Dr Kitio is scheduled to meet Government of Uganda officials and heads of Diplomatic Missions resident in Kampala in a bid to consolidate existing cordial relations and building networks.

History of UNAFRI Leadership

Since inception in 1989, the Institute has been steered by the following:

- **Mr Olufemi Odekunle from Nigeria** the founding Director.



Some staff members listen attentively to the new Director.

- He served from 1989 till 1992.
- Between 1992 and 1995, Uganda's Prof. Eric Paul Kibuka was Ag Director.
- **Mr Isam Abugideri from Sudan** became the second substantive Director and served from 1992 till 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2003 as the Secretariat searched for a replacement, Prof. Eric Kibuka was the Ag Director.
- **Dr Masamba Sita from the Democratic Republic of Congo** was the third

substantive Director. He served from 2003 up to 2010.

- **Mr Davis Chikalanga from Zambia** took over the reins in 2010 but served for a very brief period before returning home in the same year.
- Mr John Kitembo took over as Ag Director, between 2010 till his death in 2019.
- Mr John Sembuya Ssali steered the Institute as Ag Director from 2019 till March 2023.

Deputy Directors:

As earlier explained, the post of Deputy Director is ring-fenced for Uganda. The following have rendered service:

- **Prof. Eric Paul Kibuka;** from 1989 till 2003, with intermittent stints as Ag Director.
- **Mr John Kitembo;** from 2003 till 2019 but with a stint as Ag Director.
- **Mr John Sembuya Ssali;** from 2019 as Ag Director. And from March 2023 as Ag Deputy Director.

Current Drug Crimes in Francophone West Africa & Counter measures

A Criminal Justice Seminar was recently held at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. The forum, which took place between 28th Feb and 10th March 2023, attracted several delegates. Among these was UNAFRI's Legal and Training Consultant, Andrew Munanura.

His 32-page presentation centred round the current situation of drug crimes in Francophone West Africa, coupled with efforts to combat it. Below is an abridged version of his paper.



UNAFRI delivering a lecture at the Francophone African Criminal Justice Seminar held at JICA in Tokyo, Japan, on the 3rd of March 2023



The Deputy Director of UNAFRI Irie Junko, poses for a photo with Munanura

This paper explores the drug trafficking complexities confronting the West African sub-region; the regional vulnerabilities being exploited by the drug traffickers; and the pushback measures the region is employing to thwart the problem. The trafficking of illicit drugs through West Africa has continued to grow in leaps and bounds over the past decade, mainly from the Latin American countries to the thriving European and North American markets.¹ This trend of crime and drugs in West and Central Africa was highlighted by the Security Council in its thematic

¹ *Legal and Training Consultant at The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI).

David O'Regan (2010), "Cocaine and Instability: Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean," African Center for Strategic Studies, Africa Security Brief No.5. 31st July 2010, <www.africacentre.org/publication/cocaine-and-instability-in-africa-lessons-from-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/

meeting on drug trafficking and its attendant threats to stability and peace, with disruptive and destabilizing effects on governance, security, economic growth, and public health.² According to the UN agency,

West and Central Africa, along with North Africa, accounts for 87% of all pharmaceutical opiates derived from opium poppies seized globally. Methamphetamine seizures have almost reached the same levels as cocaine seizures. As for heroin trafficking, it is also on the rise, with seizures across the region, especially at the airports of Lagos in Nigeria, Accra in Ghana and Cotonou in Benin, closely followed by

² Security Council meeting of 19th December 2018; www.news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1029011, The immediate past Executive Director of UNDOC, Yuri Fedotov, noted the increasing transiting of opiates through West Africa to European and North American markets.

Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Lomé in Togo and Bamako in Mali.³

The consumption and trafficking of controlled substances continue to rise in all five African Union regions: North, East, South, West and Central Africa. The coastal countries of West Africa, stretching from Senegal through the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau to Guinea, operate as a central corridor for Latin American cocaine flowing through West Africa en route to end markets in

³ <www.africanews.com/2022/04/07/cape-verdean-police-seizes-over-5-tonnes-of-cocaine/>Cape Verdean police seized more than five tonnes of cocaine at sea on board a fishing boat from Brazil, with the help of American agents. The West African coast is known to be a major transit route for cocaine from Latin America to Europe. Cape Verde is vulnerable because of its geography and the extent of the waters being monitored with limited means. In January 2019, 9570 kg of cocaine had been discovered in Praia, the capital city, on board a Panamanian-flagged vessel that left South America for Morocco with a Russian crew.

Europe.⁴ Africa is a transit pipe in the global business of narcotics and a growing end user.⁵

The paper is structured as follows. Part I explores the drug trends and trafficking complexities confronting francophone countries in West Africa and will give snippets or reviews of the drug trafficking situation and the regional vulnerabilities.⁶

⁴ Lucia Bird, "West Africa's Cocaine Corridor", *Building a Sub-Regional Response, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime*, April 2021. P.2. "Key seizures between 2019-2021 were : (i) 789 kg March 2019 seizure, a truck had travelled from Dakar to Bissau and was due to travel to Mali. This was the first significant seizure in Guinea Bissau; (ii) 72 kg was seized in Senegal in April 2019, Dam of Gouloumbu, (iii) 1.3 tonnes of cocaine were seized over four days in Senegal. The Cocaine was hidden in two Italian-flagged ships. The second shipment was the largest in the country since 2007 and was found inside 15 cars with a final destination of Europe on a boat from Brazil. (iv) Gambian authorities seized 52.6 kg of cocaine at Banjul port in a container imported by the Laura Food Company. (v) A major seizure at Caiò and Canchungo in Guinea Bissau on 2nd September 2019. (vi) 4kg of cocaine was seized in the port of Dakar on 17th September 2019. (vii) 750 kg of cocaine seized by the Senegalese navy (in a joint operation with the Spanish navy) on an intercepted fishing boat on 6th November 2019. (Seizure of 1kg of cocaine at Bissau airport. The Bissau-Guinea migration agency's head was arrested in September 2020 regarding the seizure. (ix) Gambian authorities seized 2.9 tonnes of cocaine in containers at Banjul port on 8th January 2021." Traffickers import cocaine into West Africa through multiple maritime entry points, both in the coastline stretching between Senegal and Guinea and further south, with Cote D'Ivoire playing a prominent role since 2019. Available at < <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/West-Africas-Cocaine-Corridor-GITOC-01.png>>

⁵ Progress report on the implementation of the AU plan of action on drug control (2013-2017) for 2014-2016. Information submitted to the STC-HPDC-2, 20-24 March 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

⁶ The French colonies included what is known today as Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory

Part II examines obstacles and challenges in the investigations and prosecution of drug crimes. Part III discusses the steps the region is taking to address the challenges. Part IV explores what the area can learn from other jurisdictions, and part V is the conclusion.

A. Drug Trends and Trafficking Complexities in Francophone West African Countries:

The Republic of Mali

This is a landlocked country in the interior of Western Africa, deep into the centre of the Sahara; in the north, more than half of the country lies in the scorching, dust-laden desert, while its central parts are in the Sahel zone.⁷ It shares borders with seven other African countries, making policing long and vast edges an onerous task.

Mali is a signatory to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; the 1971 Convention on Coast, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal (also controlled by Great Britain) and Togo.

⁷ The Sahel region stretches across several countries in West, Central and North Africa and refers to Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. This region is linked to other Francophone West African countries of Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Beni, Togo and Guinea.

Psychotropic Substances; the 1972 Protocol Amending the 1961 Single Convention; and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The primary legislation against Illicit Drug use and consumption is Law No. 01-078 of 18th July 2001. It has, however, been changed/amended by Decree No. 2013-012 to manage some coordination and coherence challenges related to anti-narcotics efforts.⁸

According to a United Nations mission in the Sahel region, Northern Mali has become a dangerous crossroad of drugs, crime, terrorism and rebellion.⁹ The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon's report to the Security Council, *Progress Towards the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel*, published in June 2014, brought the issue of drugs, crime and terrorism in Mali and the Sahel region to the fore and stated:

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ David O' Regan *supra* note1. "In November 2009, on a dry lakebed in the desert of northern Mali, United Nations investigators found traces of cocaine amidst a Boeing 727's charred and stripped fuselage. Once the cocaine was unloaded, the plane got stuck in the sand and failed to take off. A forensic examination of the aircraft revealed significant traces of cocaine. With a payload of 10 tons of cocaine fetching \$ 580 million, West Africa's cocaine traffickers could afford the loss of an aircraft." In January 2010, another plane from Latin America landed in northwest Mali near the Mauritanian border; its contents were never disclosed. In 2008 Malian forces intercepted 750kgs of cocaine, equivalent to 36% of the Malian military budget that year.

A recurrent and common problem in many countries in the Sahel is the impact of insecurity in border areas on local governance, state authority, and territorial control. The permeability of borders, located mainly in vast and sparsely populated areas, exposes the countries to numerous challenges, including irregular migration, trafficking in illicit drugs, arms, and human beings, and expanding terrorist networks. Despite continued efforts, fragile state institutions, a lack of statistics and databases, and weak border management systems remain serious impediments to national reforms, negatively affecting public and state security, regional integration, and economic growth and development.¹⁰

Despite the elaborate legal framework, the events and investigations that followed the 22nd of March 2012 coup in Mali revealed a different story and were stimuli for international attention on the country. It told of the deep involvement of senior government officials in drug trafficking; especially the events of the infamous crash landing of a Boeing 727 in Tarkint (near Gao, in northern Mali) on 2nd November 2009.¹¹ It also

10 UN Security Council, *Progress Towards the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel: Report of the Secretary-General*, S/2014/397(6, June 2014), www.undocs.org/S/2014/397.

11 Lansana Gberie, *Crime, Violence, and*

revealed how cartels had taken advantage of a complex political situation, coupled with weak judicial and institutional power, to entrench themselves and make the Sahel, in general, and Mali, in particular, a hub for all kinds of illegal trafficking.¹²

The spectacular Boeing story notwithstanding, several seizures of illegal drugs are credited to the Malian customs officials, particularly in the Kayes region, in the southwest of the country, mainly of cocaine and Indian hemp produced in Ghana or Nigeria and destined for Senegal.¹³ In the country's north, seizures are rare, and the balance of power remains with the traffickers, who have enough political influence to hinder investigations.¹⁴

There have been efforts to disrupt drug trafficking routes through military attacks and drone strikes with limited results. The government of Mali is active in the fight against drug trafficking, with the assistance of several partners, including UNODC, the

Politics: Drug Trafficking and Counternarcotics Policies in Mali and Guinea, Foreign Policy at Brookings, Centre for 21st Century Security and Intelligence Latin America Initiative.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 Lacher Wolfram, (2012), "Organized Crime and Conflict in the Sahel-Sahara Region," The Carnegie papers, September 2012 < https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/fachpublikationen/sahel_sahara_2012_lac.pdf

French Police, and the European Union.¹⁵

These partners support the Central Narcotics Office (*Office central des stupéfiants*, OCS), which has made significant seizures in the south of Mali and the capital Bamako. There are also designated inter-ministerial committees to oversee and support implementation of anti-drug trafficking efforts and a dedicated special committee in the legislature that provides oversight.

Mali is part of many other regional initiatives like the G5-Sahel, a joint initiative of five regional countries whose mandate includes fighting cross-border organised crimes, including drug trafficking.

The greatest challenge to the state's capacity to tackle the drug problem appears to be corruption within the judiciary and police.¹⁶ A 2014 International Crisis Group report urged the government of Mali to take firm judicial action against corruption and implement long-term efforts to restore the justice system's independence.¹⁷

15 Crisis Group Africa, (2018) *Drug Trafficking, Violence and Politics in Northern Mali*, Report No. 267, 13th December 2018, p.20. examples of other interventions include the European Union's Capacity Building Mission for Malian security forces (EUCAP Sahel Mali).

16 Ibid.

17 Lasana *supra* note 11, p.10

Another problematic issue has been identified as the co-existence of multiple counternarcotics laws and organizational arrangements, which create coordination challenges over the duties and responsibilities of the OCS, the Malian National Police Counterdrug Brigade, and Customs and Border Control.¹⁸ The meagre budgetary allocations don't help the situation either.

The OCS agents face challenges ranging from poor pay, lack of essential equipment and marginalization due to a lack of government support.¹⁹ Much of this dysfunction is driven by pervasive corruption.²⁰ To address some of these

18 Ibid, p.8. 'Mali's laws relating to controlled substances date to 1926. In June 1973, Order 173 was issued, establishing a specialized procedure for drug-related criminal acts and robbery. In July 1981, a National Commission against drug abuse and trafficking was established. This commission was responsible for dealing with drug-related issues and ensured that Mali adopted International Conventions on drugs. In September 1983, Mali passed Law 83/14 AN-RM for the suppression of offences related to toxic substances and drugs. In 1995 Mali ratified both the 1961 UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In July 2001 passed, Law No. 01-078 imposed stiff penalties on the misuse of narcotic and precursor drugs, and in December 2009, established the inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee for the fight against drugs. In April 2010, Decree 10-2021/P-RM established the OCS, designating it with the responsibility for drug enforcement.'

19 Lansana, *supra* note 11.

20 Ibid.

challenges and bolster the OCS, Mali's parliament passed Decree No 2013-012 in September 2013. In the same year, a specialized court was established to try drug, organized crime and terrorism-related offences.

Chad

It is positioned south of Libya, on the eastern edge of the Sahel, west of Sudan and north of the Central Africa Republic (CAR). The situation in Chad was captured by Ban Ki Moon's description of countries in the Sahel region.²¹

Armed conflicts, both latent and violent in the neighbouring countries, make the region insecure and a fertile ground for contraband. Due to its proximity to Libya, Northern Chad has borne the brunt of the conflict, including being used as a corridor for various types of trafficking.²²

Chad is a transit country for heroin, and cocaine through the Sahel routes of Northern Africa, with destinations in European and North American markets.²³ Cannabis is produced along the

21 UN Security Council *supra* note 10.

22 Remadji Hoinathy, "Drug Trafficking/ Chad's illegal drug trade contributes to regional insecurity", Enact Newsletter, Institute of Security Studies, 25th August 2020.

23 [www.https://ocindex.enactafrica.org/country/chad](https://ocindex.enactafrica.org/country/chad) Africa Organised crime index 2021.

borders with Nigeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Sudan and is trafficked into Chad from these countries but most especially from Nigeria.²⁴ The domestic consumption of synthetic drugs, especially Tramadol, is a serious problem in Chad.

Tramadol is a synthetic opiate and anti-inflammatory medication. Although more than half of the country's pharmacies involved in the clandestine sale of Tramadol were shut down in recent years, evidence suggests that the move hasn't slowed its consumption. It is reported that on 24th of July 2020, a court in Chad sentenced 10 people, including high-ranking security and intelligence officials, as part of a global tramadol trafficking cabal.²⁵

The case was investigated by Chad's National Security Agency (ANS) and involved 11 people, including army officers, police officers and other highly connected individuals.

Ten accused were sentenced to five to ten years in prison, fined between 750,000 thousand Euros and a five-year suspended sentence.²⁶ In July 2019, two senior officials of Chad's Ministry

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid., p.2.

26 Ibid.



After the Criminal Justice Seminar was recently held at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan; between 28th Feb and 10th March 2023, Mr Munanura visited Japan's Ministry of Justice and pitched for cooperation between UNAFRI and the Government of Japan. On the left and the next page is a pictorial of him and Japanese Assistant Vice Minister of Justice, Shibata Noriko; Attorney Miichi Kaori of the International Affairs Division; Attorney Prof. Yamana Ronpei; and Irie Junko.

of Foreign Affairs were arrested for tramadol trafficking from India via Cotonou, Benin.

Beninese authorities apprehended the escort with the cargo.²⁷ Senior Chadian officials tried to have him released under the pretext that the load was shipped for the national army.

Corruption is pervasive in government, and judicial corruption is a problem that hinders effective law

²⁷ RemadjiHoinathy, 2020, enact, "Drug Trafficking/Chad's illegal drug trade contributes to regional insecurity" 25th August 2020 <www.enactafrica.org/enact-observer/chads-illegal-drug-trade-contributes-to-regional-insecurity> ;>

enforcement.²⁸ In addition, the judiciary faces significant (financial and human) resources and capacity challenges. Judicial officials lack training and expertise, criminal processes are slow, and court decisions are not always enforced.²⁹ Prison conditions are inhumane, and many inmates are held without charge or guarantee of their right to a fair trial. Corruption and

²⁸ 2020 United States of America "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Chad." Available on <https://www.stae.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/chad/>

²⁹ Marie chène, 2014, Transparency International, "Overview of Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Chad" https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/helpdesk/Country_profile_Chad_2014.pdf.

bribery also permeate judicial institutions.

Bribery influences court decisions, and 80 per cent of citizens interviewed in a 2009 survey perceived that there are two justice systems in the country, one for the rich and one for the poor.³⁰ Penalties for the use and possession of drugs are severe and usually include a prison sentence.

A complete version of this stimulating paper is available on our website.

³⁰ Ibid.



Ms Miichi Kaori, Hon Shibata Noriko, Mr Munanura and Ms Irie Junko.



Munanura at the Ministry of Justice headquarters in Tokyo.

Uganda Police Annual Crime Report: More Cases Taken to Court



Inspector General of Police, Martin Okoth Ochola.

In the just ended year, 2022, the Uganda Police Force registered a 5.2 percent increase in the number of suspects arraigned before courts of law. In a similar vein, there has been an 18 percent increase in the number of crimes reported to the Police; from 196,081 cases in 2021 to

231,653 in the just ended year. In comparison, 215,224 cases were reported in 2019 and 238,746 in 2018.

According to the 2022 Annual Crime Report released recently by the Inspector General of Police, J.M Okoth Ochola, the year had

more cases reported because the economy had been fully opened --- after the receding of the Covid-19 pandemic which claimed lives and impacted economies across the world. During the pandemic, lockdown was the catch-word; with movement of people, across the

globe, being restricted. Covid-19 aside, the increased number of reported cases also portrayed growing confidence in the police force.

Courts

According to the Annual Report, out of the total cases reported to Police in the year under review **68,405** cases were prosecuted. A total of **26,749** cases were not proceeded with, while **136,499** cases were still under inquiry. This portrayed “an improvement compared to 2021 where **65,008** cases were taken to Court; **60,095** cases not proceeded with and **70,978** cases under inquiries.

This reflects a great improvement in cases taken to Court by **5.2%.**” The report shows that out of 65,008 suspects arraigned before courts of law, the police registered a total of 10,648 convictions. Another 38 cases resulted in acquittals in the courts of law.

Eye-catching figures:

Theft: Out of 231,653 cases reported to police during the year 2022, the most eye-catching or prominent offences revolved

round Thefts, Assault and Domestic violence. The report shows that there were 61,508 cases of theft, unlike 43,583 in the year 2021. The increased figure of thieves reflected a 41 per cent growth.

Assault: This took the second slot on the table. There were 32,041 cases of assault reported in 2022 unlike 29,317 in the year 2021. This portrayed a 9 per cent increase of the terrible habit.

Domestic Violence: This is another heinous crime. It took the third place in the table. Figures show that 17,698 cases were reported to police in 2022. Paradoxically, the figure does not differ much from what was registered in the previous year.

In 2021, there were 17,533 reported. Sadly, according to the latest annual report, the habit of domestic violence has registered a 1 per cent increase; implying that attitudinal change still has to be inculcated among married and co-habiting couples.

Land grabbing: Although seated in the 18th position on the table, it is evident that land related cases, which are a relatively new phenomenon, in Uganda, are

on the increase. There were 566 cases reported to police in 2022 unlike 332 in the previous year. Although these figures are not in thousands, what is worthy of note is the percentage increase. The police report says this is a 69 per cent increase.

Narcotics: Although dealing in and smuggling of narcotics is in the 15th slot in the table, it is apparent that this transnational crime is on the rise. In 2022 a total of 2,797 cases were reported to police.

In the previous year, a lesser figure of 1,668 was reported. The police say there is therefore a percentage increase of 68 per cent. This also signals for more avenues to be used to stem this transnational crime by diverse stakeholders.

Traffic Offences: There was a 35% increase in common traffic offences registered by the Directorate of Traffic and Road Safety countrywide; from 336,722 cases in 2021 to 456,993 cases in 2022. The number of road traffic crashes increased by 16.9% from 17,443 in 2021 to 20,394 in 2022. Out of these 3,901 crashes were fatal; 10,776 were serious while 5,717 were minor.

Table 1: Summary comparison of General Cases reported in 2022 and 2021

Crime Categories	2022	2021	%ge change
1. Thefts	61,508	43,583	41%
2. Assaults	32,041	29,317	9%
3. Domestic Violence	17,698	17,533	1%
4. Sex-related Offences	14,693	16,373	-10%
5. Breakings	13,826	10,148	36%
6. Child-related Offences	13,489	8,681	55%
7. Economic & Corruption Crimes	13,202	11,023	20%
8. Obtaining By False Pretences	10,652	8,634	23%
9. Threatening Violence	10,345	10,408	-1%
10. Defilements	8,960	14,436	-38%
11. Criminal Trespass	8,418	7,636	10%
12. Malicious Damage to Property	7,838	6,980	12%
13. Robberies	6,854	5,275	30%
14. Homicide	4,043	3,912	3%
15. Narcotics	2,797	1,668	68%
16. Arson (General)	1,747	1,803	-3%
17. Escape from Lawful Custody	988	751	32%
18. Land-related cases	561	332	69%
19. Political/ Media Offences	140	797	-82%
20. Terrorism	15	21	-29%



In 2022, there was an 18% increase in the volume of crimes reported to Police countrywide from 196,081 cases in 2021 to 231,653 cases in 2022. In comparison, 215,224 cases were reported in 2019 and 238,746 in 2018.

A Glimpse into Crime Rates Across the World; 2023



Overall crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crimes of any kind by the total population, then multiplying the result by 100,000 (because crime rate is typically reported as X number of crimes per 100,000 people). Crime rates vary greatly from country to country and are influenced by many factors. For example, high poverty levels and unemployment tend to inflate a country's crime rate. Conversely, strict police enforcement and

severe sentences tend to reduce crime rates. There is also a strong correlation between age and crime, with most crimes, especially violent crimes, being committed by those ages 20-30 years old.

The overall crime rate in the United States is 47.70. The violent crime rate in the United States has decreased sharply over the past 25 years. Crimes rates vary significantly between the states, with states with

such as Alaska, New Mexico, and Tennessee experiencing much higher crime rates than states such as Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Some of the world's lowest crime rates are seen in Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Japan, and New Zealand. Each of these countries has very effective law enforcement, and Denmark, Norway, and Japan have some of the most restrictive gun laws in the world.

Countries with the Highest Crime Rates

The countries with the ten highest crime rates, expressed in per 100,000 people, globally are:

1. Venezuela	(83.76)	5. Honduras	(74.54)	8. El Salvador	(67.79)
2. Papua New Guinea	(80.79)	6. Trinidad and Tobago	(71.63)	9. Brazil	(67.49)
3. South Africa	(76.86)	7. Guyana	(68.74)	10. Jamaica	(67.42)
4. Afghanistan	(76.31)				



1. Venezuela

Venezuela has a crime index of 83.76, the highest of any country in the world. The U.S. Department of State has issued a Level 4 travel advisory for Venezuela, indicating that it is unsafe to travel to the country, and travelers should not travel there. Venezuela's high crime rates have been attributed to reasons including government corruption, a flawed judiciary system, and the breakdown of the Rule of Law.



2. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea has a crime index of 80.79. In Papua New Guinea, crime, especially violent crime, is primarily fueled by rapid social, economic, and political changes. Raskol gangs engage in small and large-scale criminal activity and consist mainly of members with little education and few employment opportunities. Organized crime in the form of corruption is also common in major cities and largely contributes to the high crime rate. Additionally, the geography of Papua New Guinea makes it appealing for drug and human trafficking.

3. South Africa



South Africa has the third-highest crime rate in the world. South Africa has a notably high rate of assaults, rape, homicides, and other violent crimes. This has been attributed to several factors, including high levels of poverty, inequality, unemployment, and social exclusion, and the normalization of violence. South Africa has one of the highest rape rates in the world. More than 1 in 4 men surveyed by the South African Medical Research Council admitted to committing rape.

4. Afghanistan

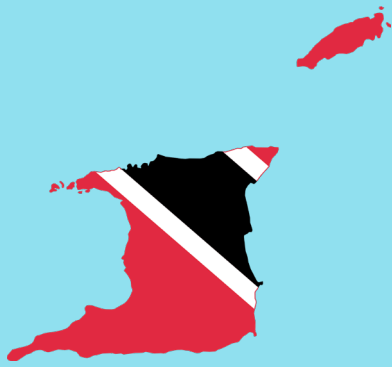


Afghanistan has the fourth-highest crime rate. Crime is present in various forms, including corruption, assassinations/contract killings, drug trafficking, kidnapping, and money laundering. Afghanistan supplied 85% of the world's illicit opium in 2020. The Taliban, which regained control of the country in 2021, has pledged to stamp out the opium industry, but it is such a vital part of the country's struggling economy that it will be difficult to eliminate. Widespread unemployment adds additional fuel for many of the country's crimes, such as robbery and assault.

5. Honduras



With a crime index of 74.54, Honduras ranks fifth in the world in terms of crime rate. Honduras's peak of violent crime was in 2012, where the country experienced about 20 homicides per day, typically carried out by gun-toting gangs such as Barrio 18 or Mara Salvatrucha. Honduras is also considered to be a major drug route to the United States. Weak domestic law enforcement has made the country an easy point of entry for the illegal drug trade. The U.S. Department of State has issued a Level 3 travel advisory for Honduras, indicating that travelers should reconsider visiting the country.



6. Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago has the sixth-highest crime rate in the world. Trinidad and Tobago's government faces several challenges in its effort to reduce crime, such as bureaucratic resistance to change, the negative influence of gangs, drugs, economic recession, and an overburdened legal system. There is a great demand for illegal weapons as well, which drug trafficking and gang-related activities fuel. Trinidad and Tobago has a Level 2 travel advisory, meaning that travelers should exercise increased caution. Visitors are typically victims of pickpocketing, assault, theft, and fraud.



7. Guyana

Guyana has the eighth-highest crime rate worldwide of 68.74 and a murder rate of about four times higher than that of the United States. Despite a rigorous licensing requirement to own firearms, the use of weapons by criminals is common. Domestic violence happens regularly in Guyana, as the enforcement of domestic violence laws is weak. Armed robberies occur frequently as well, especially in Georgetown. Additionally, tourists are often the victims of hotel break-ins, robberies, and assaults.



8. El Salvador

Organized crime is a massive problem in El Salvador, contributing to most social violence, with its two largest gangs, MS-13 and Barrio 18. There are an estimated 25,000 gang members at large in El Salvador, 9,000 in prison, and about 60,000 young people in youth gangs, which dominate the country. Many gangs have also cultivated relationships, and in some cases territorial disputes, with drug traffickers. In addition to gangs, high unemployment rates and low wages in El Salvador have pushed families into marginalized areas where crimes are common. Property crimes, such as robbery, theft, and theft of vehicles, are the most common.



9. Brazil

Brazil has the seventh-highest crime rate in the world with exceptionally high rates of violent crimes. Brazil's homicide rate was 23.6 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2020—and it has been as high as 30.8 in previous years. Brazil's most massive problem is organized crime, as organized crime has expanded in recent years, and violence between rival groups is a common occurrence. Drug trafficking, corruption, and domestic violence are all pervasive issues in Brazil.



10. Jamaica

Finishing the top ten list of countries with the highest crime rates is Jamaica, which is plagued by government corruption, gang activity, and high levels of violent crime, including sexual assault. The U.S. Overseas Security Advisory Council describes the Jamaican police force as understaffed and possessed of limited resources. Travelers are advised to especially avoid Spanish Town and parts of Kingston and Montego Bay.

Crime Rate by Country 2023

Rank	Country	Crime Index	2023 Population
1	Venezuela	83.76	28,838,499
2	Papua New Guinea	80.79	10,329,931
3	South Africa	76.86	60,414,495
4	Afghanistan	76.31	42,239,854
5	Honduras	74.54	10,593,798
6	Trinidad And Tobago	71.63	1,534,937
7	Guyana	68.74	813,834
8	El Salvador	67.79	6,364,943

Rank	Country	Crime Index	2023 Population
9	Brazil	67.49	216,422,446
10	Jamaica	67.42	2,825,544
11	Syria	67.18	23,227,014
12	Peru	66.72	34,352,719
13	Angola	66.48	36,684,202
14	Cameroon	65.24	28,647,293
15	Namibia	65.21	2,604,172
16	Nigeria	64.06	223,804,632
17	Bangladesh	63.9	172,954,319
18	Argentina	63.82	45,773,884
19	Puerto Rico	62.84	3,260,314
20	Bahamas	62.06	412,623
21	Libya	61.78	6,888,388
22	Dominican Republic	61.02	11,332,972
23	Kenya	60.14	55,100,586
24	Belarus	59.58	9,498,238
25	Zimbabwe	59.3	16,665,409
26	Guatemala	58.67	18,092,026
27	Bolivia	57.77	12,388,571
28	Fiji	57.62	936,375
29	Malaysia	57.29	34,308,525
30	Colombia	56.87	52,085,168
31	Kyrgyzstan	56.87	6,735,347
32	Uganda	56.12	48,582,334
33	Somalia	56.04	18,143,378
34	Mongolia	56.01	3,447,157
35	Tanzania	56	67,438,106
36	Maldives	55.34	521,021
37	Ecuador	55.23	18,190,484
38	Costa Rica	54.22	5,212,173
39	Mexico	54.19	128,455,567
40	Kazakhstan	53.77	19,606,633
41	Chile	53.42	19,629,590
42	Botswana	52.98	2,675,352
43	Algeria	52.03	45,606,480

Rank	Country	Crime Index	2023 Population
44	France	51.99	64,756,584
45	Uruguay	51.73	3,423,108
46	Cambodia	51.13	16,944,826
47	Belize	50.39	410,825
48	Iran	49.38	89,172,767
49	Paraguay	49.37	6,861,524
50	Ethiopia	49.3	126,527,060
51	Mauritius	48.88	1,300,557
52	Morocco	48.66	37,840,044
53	Iraq	48.42	45,504,560
54	Sweden	48	10,612,086
55	Nicaragua	47.89	7,046,310
56	United States	47.81	339,996,563
57	Ukraine	47.42	36,744,634
58	Ghana	46.98	34,121,985
59	Egypt	46.83	112,716,598
60	Lebanon	46.77	5,353,930
61	Myanmar	46.51	54,577,997
62	Moldova	46.35	3,435,931
63	Vietnam	46.19	98,858,950
64	United Kingdom	46.07	67,736,802
65	Indonesia	45.93	277,534,122
66	Greece	45.85	10,341,277
67	Ireland	45.51	5,056,935
68	Panama	45.15	4,468,087
69	Italy	44.85	58,870,762
70	Belgium	44.58	11,686,140
71	India	44.43	1,428,627,663
72	Palestine	43.74	5,371,230
73	Tunisia	43.69	12,458,223
74	Zambia	43.62	20,569,737
75	Australia	43.03	26,439,111
76	Bosnia And Herzegovina	42.99	3,210,847
77	New Zealand	42.88	5,228,100
78	Albania	42.53	2,832,439

Rank	Country	Crime Index	2023 Population
79	Pakistan	42.51	240,485,658
80	Philippines	42.46	117,337,368
81	Sudan	42.34	48,109,006
82	Canada	41.89	38,781,291
83	Sri Lanka	41.39	21,893,579
84	Montenegro	41.18	626,485
85	Malta	40.39	535,064
86	Russia	39.99	144,444,359
87	Jordan	39.96	11,337,052
88	Turkey	39.62	85,816,199
89	Thailand	39.35	71,801,279
90	North Macedonia	39.12	2,085,679
91	Latvia	38.77	1,830,211
92	Bulgaria	38.21	6,687,717
93	Serbia	38.1	7,149,077
94	Nepal	36.01	30,896,590
95	Germany	35.79	83,294,633
96	Hungary	34.36	10,156,239
97	Luxembourg	34.13	654,768
98	Norway	33.72	5,474,360
99	Uzbekistan	33.42	35,163,944
100	Kuwait	33.42	4,310,108
101	Lithuania	33.42	2,718,352
102	Spain	33.32	47,519,628
103	Azerbaijan	32.02	10,412,651
104	Israel	31.47	9,174,520
105	Cyprus	31.28	1,260,138
106	Poland	30.5	41,026,067
107	Slovakia	30.37	5,795,199
108	China	30.14	1,425,671,352
109	Portugal	29.91	10,247,605
110	Brunei	29	452,524
111	Cuba	28.33	11,194,449
112	Romania	28.3	19,892,812

Rank	Country	Crime Index	2023 Population
113	Singapore	27.96	6,014,723
114	Finland	27.59	5,545,475
115	Netherlands	27.16	17,618,299
116	South Korea	26.68	51,784,059
117	Denmark	26.22	5,910,913
118	Bahrain	25.64	1,485,509
119	Austria	25.54	8,958,960
120	Czech Republic	25.52	10,495,295
121	Saudi Arabia	25.23	36,947,025
122	Rwanda	24.89	14,094,683
123	Croatia	24.59	4,008,617
124	Iceland	23.75	375,318
125	Estonia	23.71	1,322,765
126	Georgia	23.38	3,728,282
127	Armenia	22.79	2,777,970
128	Slovenia	22.28	2,119,675
129	Japan	22.19	123,294,513
130	Hong Kong	22	7,491,609
131	Switzerland	21.62	8,796,669
132	Oman	20.34	4,644,384
133	Isle Of Man	19.25	84,710
134	Taiwan	15.46	23,923,276
135	United Arab Emirates	15.23	9,516,871
136	Qatar	12.13	2,716,391

Crime Rate by Country 2023,

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>

Uganda Law Society and UNAFRI Moot Project to Spur Delivery of Justice



L - R: Mr Munanura, Mr Mwaita, Deputy Director Ssali, and the ULS leadership.

Building on the mandates and advantages of each institution, the Uganda Law Society (ULS) and UNAFRI have mooted ideas that will help to plug existing lacuna in the administration of justice in Uganda and all over Africa.

The meeting held on 19th January 2023, at the UNAFRI secretariat in Naguru, discussed consolidation of the existing relationship between ULS and UNAFRI; developing this partnership into a technical platform for brainstorming and generating ideas which will spur an innovative and inclusive project for criminal justice personnel/ stakeholders. Targeted are law

enforcers, the court system and correction facilities.

In the meeting were the then UNAFRI Ag Director (and now Acting Deputy Director), John Sembuya Ssali, ULS President Bernard Oundo, ULS Chief Executive Officer, Moses Okwalinga, UNAFRI's Legal and Training Consultant Andrew Munanura, and UNAFRI's Programme/ Research Officer, Patrick Mwaita.

The focus of the meeting was on developing strategies for promoting Inclusive Justice. Among the proposals was creation of activities geared at improving citizens' trust in

the justice system; developing new levels of perception and confidence in the law by increasing access to justice through affordable legal services and reducing levels of impunity. The proposed project will be a key tool in rendering relevant safeguards and support to the anticipated efforts in the socio-economic transformation of society in the region.

The partnership will be crucial for tapping into unexploited potentials available to the justice sector in giving new energies, new direction and a focus in addressing emerging issues and limitations, which hinder the full realization of justice delivery.

Consequently, there is a growing and spontaneous urge on the part of ULS and UNAFRI to rescue a justice system that is perceived as inadequate in its response to the needs of the population; and which has a limited capacity to meet local requirements.

Opportunities to improve this ideal are expected to grow with a widening of publicity, including appeals to all potential stakeholders for their participation; each in accordance with its competences, endowment, area of coverage/clientele and mandate.

The meeting noted with concern that public confidence in the justice system is lagging, particularly in rural areas where the justice framework is thin and therefore causing vulnerabilities. Even in urban settings, there is lack of capacity to meet the totality of needs of citizens.

This often leads to sacrificing individual concerns and community justice requirements while promoting investments and entrepreneurial ventures. The project is scheduled to increase access to quality justice services for all, including vulnerable groups and rural communities.

Output

The meeting resolved to initiate a platform aimed at interactive sessions for sharing views on capacity development

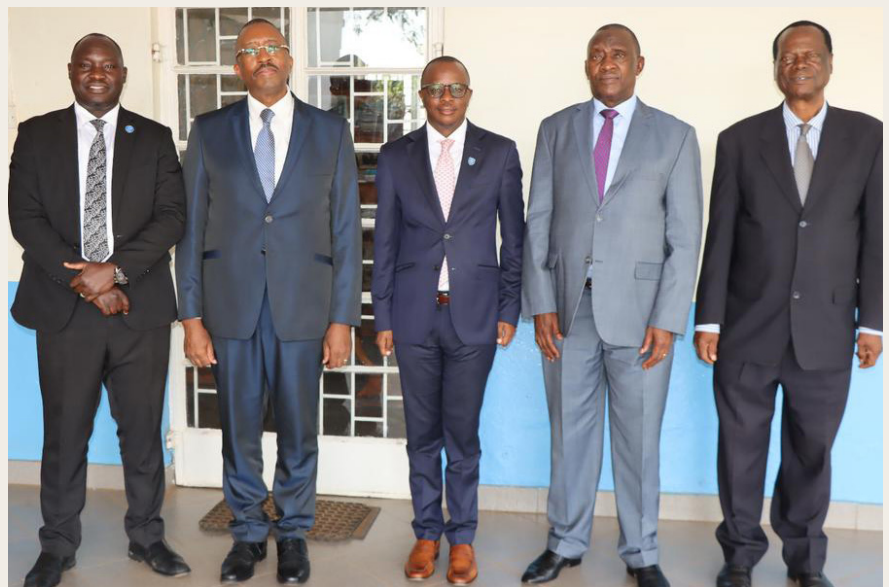
initiatives such as pro-bono infrastructure, legal aid, witness protection, outstanding court case backlogs, integrity issues in the justice sector, human rights concerns, pretrial detention, and correctional issues. Wide consultation will be initiated under the aegis of UNAFRI-ULS to address the need for sharing of experiences on topical themes. An MoU, which will define operational lines of performance.

A Concept Note for the project has been drafted by UNAFRI and discussed with a team from ULS. Thereafter, membership to the organizing team will be widened to include other stakeholders and lead to formation of a Technical Working Committee. There will be wide publicity of the project. The committee will consider a variety of programme activities to involve institutions from the region and eventually integrate a variety of corporate issues from African countries; thus making it a continental undertaking.

A Programme for the activities, with a relative budget will be developed by the committee for consideration and approval; including prospects of marketing the budget to potential donor communities and sister agencies.

Participants and resource persons will be drawn from these networks. The need to broaden links with other jurisdictions was discussed. It was agreed that the Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana experiences in administration of justice would be a crucial factor in the programme of events to follow in the future. The meeting agreed to institute a Technical Working Committee to handle the programme.

Benefits to be derived from the project include: up-skilling and competence development; enhanced collaboration; sharing of experiences; improved profile of ULS and UNAFRI; resource mobilization and enhanced visibility.



A group photo after the discussion.

UNAFRI hosts UN Resident Coordinator



Ms Namondo.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Susan Ngongi Namondo, paid a courtesy call on the Acting Deputy Director of UNAFRI, John Sembuya Ssali, on 15th February 2023, in Naguru. They discussed a range of programme activities and support, aimed at fostering institutional cooperation. Based on historical ties and the relevance of mandates, UNAFRI's mission corresponds well with the development goals and programmes of the United Nations in Uganda.

Ms Namondo acknowledged the relevance of UNAFRI in

addressing issues of socio-economic development, on the basis of effective justice administration, which revolves round stability and security of nations; with particular emphasis on promoting the rule of law and human rights.

The meeting expressed concern about emerging challenges relating to deficiencies in capacity of law enforcement agencies in Uganda. These deficiencies were noted in crucial areas of law enforcement in Uganda; and their impact on justice administration processes,

often leading to perceptible levels of impunity.

The two expressed concern at apparent militarisation of law enforcement, which conspicuously relegates the Police in execution of their constitutional role. The meeting also discussed opportunities for engagement and sustained dialogue with relevant stakeholders in an effort to address this irregularity. This would be geared at provision of technical assistance by UNAFRI to spur improvement in good governance, human rights, rule of law, peace and stability and socio-economic development in Africa.

The need for strategic engagement and interventions to strengthen capacity of the Police to handle law enforcement was paramount. The requisite separation of roles of the Police and the military was discussed and strategies to address the matter were agreed upon.

It was agreed that a survey be held in a number of jurisdictions in Africa, to establish how the effectiveness of the police in carrying out their constitutional duty of law enforcement; the successes registered in separation of roles between

the military and the police; and how this is done. The findings would inform proposals to be put before several jurisdictions on how to strengthen police in executing their mandate; including how the police and the military can carry out their duties separately in their own dockets as spelt out by diverse national Constitutions.

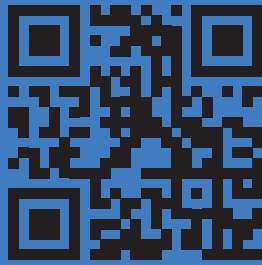
In the search for effective interventions to improve justice delivery, UNAFRI in partnership with the Uganda Law Society has already opened discussions centred on proposals for implementation of joint programmes to promote the rule of law and strengthen criminal justice administration. Initiatives to highlight the role of the legal

fraternity and other stakeholders in adjudication of cases to the satisfaction of litigants were agreed upon. It was proposed that engagements for experts be held as a joint project between both parties. This will be a guided initiative to mobilise views aimed at addressing weaknesses identified in the justice sector.



Dr Kitio in a group photo with UNAFRI staff





UNAFRI



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