

Uganda Human Rights Commission



A Joint Statement on activities to commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture-June 26th 2017

Tuesday 19th June 2017

**A Joint Statement of the Coalition Against Torture, on activities to
commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - June 26th
2017**

Good morning members of the media, human rights defenders, ladies and gentlemen!
All protocol observed.

A week from now, the world over, human rights defenders, survivors of torture and all stakeholders in human dignity will be commemorating International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. June 26th presents an opportunity to speak out against the crime of torture and to remember and support victims and survivors of torture throughout the world.

In 1987, Uganda ratified the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment and thus became one of the first countries in the world to voluntarily accept to be bound by the spirit and provisions of this noble Act. To domesticate obligations under the Convention, Uganda took progressive steps to enact a legal framework that criminalizes torture and related actions. Notably, Article 24 and 44 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution require the respect of human dignity and protection from ill treatment and prohibit any form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment. On April 26th 2012, the 9th Parliament passed into law the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Bill, 2010. This law on torture among other things provides to victims of torture, mechanisms of redress against acts of torture committed by individuals, non-state actors and State actors.

In Uganda, the commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture will be held under the theme: **“Together, Let’s Implement the Anti-Torture Law!”** As we once again commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on Tuesday June 26th 2017, it is an occasional call on all stakeholders particularly the Government of Uganda – as a Member State of the UN that has ratified and domesticated the Convention Against Torture – civil society organizations, and all individuals everywhere to unite and hold perpetrators of torture responsible in support of the many people around the world– and here at home–who have been victims, and or continue to suffer torture.

The Coalition Against Torture - the Uganda Human Rights Commission, The African Center for the Support of Torture Victims (ACTV), Human Rights Center – Uganda, Human Rights Network – Uganda, the Refugee Law Project and many other human

