

UNAFRI



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

- Joint Activities and Strategies
- Advisory Services to Governments
- Information And Documentation
- Training And Human Resource Development
- General Direction and Management



BILINGUAL NEWSLETTER- English

**THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO CREATES
A NATIONAL CRIME OBSERVATORY**

NEWSLETTER

July-September 2023

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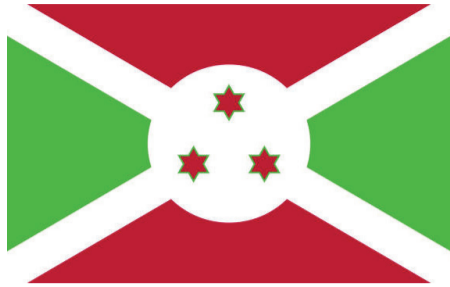
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Do you know UNAFRI? UNAFRI IS A UNIQUE EXPERTISE SERVING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The African Institute of the United Nations for Crime Prevention and treatment of offenders (UNAFRI) is a true source of pride for the African continent because of its numerous missions and its strategic, attractive website with many advantages for its users. Anyone who has visited UNAFRI wants to come back because of its paradisiacal landscape, which is also seen on its website.

I. UNAFRI Missions

The creation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) in 1989 by its founding fathers remains something memorable. Until then, no institution in Africa dealt with crime prevention and criminal justice at the regional level. Today, UNAFRI's expertise is unique on the continent. The missions of UNAFRI are multiple.

□ **Legal assistance mission to States**

Through its legal advisory mission, UNAFRI assists States in developing policies and programs for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders within the context of overall national development planning. The program also includes a special focus on combating juvenile crime and delinquency and the treatment of juvenile offenders.

□ **Training mission**

The training of trainers constitutes one of the essential activities of UNAFRI. As such, the Institute designs and organizes training programs for different categories of personnel dealing exclusively or partly with criminal justice. These programs are aimed in particular at political decision-makers, administrators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and prison officials, teachers, social service personnel, researchers, etc.

In this framework, special interdisciplinary courses, workshops,

seminars, refresher courses, internships, study trips, conferences are organized in order to strengthen this sector of public service and provide new knowledge and skills.

□ **Study and research mission**

Crime prevention and the development of criminal justice policies are essentially based on studies and research aimed at explaining the crime phenomenon. In this capacity, UNAFRI is a research center that undertakes studies and research activities focused on policy development and priority problems in the region. Within the framework of this program, the Institute has several objectives:

- collecting information on crime trends and their impact on development and crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programs in the region. The ultimate goal is to provide an empirical evidence base for policy development and decision making.

- The creation of a secure framework for the establishment of a database in criminal matters. The main objective here is the promotion, exchange and transfer of knowledge, technical skills and experiences and the dissemination of information to governments, specialists, implementing agents, researchers and organizations dealing with prevention of crime and criminal justice.

□ **Mission to promote scientific innovation**

As a research center, UNAFRI must be at the forefront of scientific innovation. New methods of preventing emerging crimes must be mastered and taught to law enforcement authorities. In this capacity, the Institute contributes to the promotion of innovations in crime prevention and criminal justice reforms in accordance with United Nations standards and guidelines, drawing on African traditions and policies as well as emerging developments in this field.

□ **Cooperation mission**

UNAFRI is an international institution integrated into the United Nations system. It is part of the family of regional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice recognized by the United Nations system. Its mission in this context is to promote cooperation between the governments of the region for the development of common policies and the implementation of joint actions on issues of mutual interest, in the field of prevention and fight against crime, including signing of any appropriate legal agreements and practical arrangements, at regional and sub-regional levels. Major cooperation partners include States, the General Secretariat of the African Union, other regional or inter-regional institutes with similar objectives,

II. The strengths of UNAFRI

UNAFRI has undeniable assets that make it a benchmark institute in crime prevention and criminal justice.

□ **A well-stocked documentation center**

The UNAFRI documentation center includes about 4000 documentary resources that can facilitate the work of researchers. These books can be consulted online on the Institute's website. The new governance of UNAFRI intends to strengthen this documentary collection by acquiring new works on crime prevention and criminal justice in order to transform this center into a reference research center in Africa.

□ **A 100-seat conference room**

UNAFRI has a conference room with a capacity of 100 people, and modern toilets. The new management of UNAFRI has made the renovation and extension of the toilets a priority. In addition to the conference room, the Institute has a meeting room that can accommodate approximately 20 people. These rooms may be requested by other institutes or organizations for their scientific events. This can be done by contacting the Institute via one of the addresses given below to inquire about the terms of use of these facilities.

□ **A high-speed Internet access via Wi-Fi**

The new governance of the Institute has just carried out a complete reconstruction of the UNAFRI Internet network in order to offer users the best conveniences for their activities. The line that had been built more than twenty years had become defective and no longer allowed it to work well, let alone satisfy the participants in the training sessions. Urgent action was needed to adapt the connection to training facilities through videoconferencing. Indeed, since 16 May 2023, UNAFRI has entered a new progressive phase with the implementation of international conferences via Zoom. This successful experiment must continue with a high-speed Internet connection. With a view to the continuous improvement of the reception infrastructure, it is even planned in the future to build a new, more modern and more spacious classroom in order to take full advantage of the space offered to the Institute by Uganda, the host country.

□ **Sufficiently spacious and unbeatable parking**

One of the peculiarities of UNAFRI courtesy of the host country is the strategic location in the heart of Kampala, particularly in Naguru, near the police headquarters. This site has a large green area with trees of all kinds and well-trimmed grass. The car park in a secure perimeter can accommodate up to 200 vehicles. This is an exceptional offer that defies all competition since such facilities are rare in Kampala. Users of the UNAFRI conference room are fully entitled to other facilities such as high-speed Wi-Fi and secure parking.

□ **A 20 KVA power generator**

Nothing is more shocking than to suspend or stop a training session or simply work because of a power outage! The new Director of UNAFRI has made continuity of service a priority. By purchasing a 20 KVA power generator, he intended to definitively solve the problems of power failure that were hampering the proper functioning of the service.

□ **A downloadable Newsletter**

To publicize its activities worldwide, UNAFRI publishes its Newsletter quarterly. The publication highlights institutional activities and informs the public about what is happening in African countries in terms of crime prevention and criminal justice. It is distributed free of charge to public authorities and can be freely downloaded online. Now, to strengthen the momentum of perseverance and support the Institute in its activities, States, societies, organizations, institutions and all souls of goodwill can donate to the Institute, by contacting it through one of the references below. As the Newsletter is initially targeted at the ruling elite on the continent, large companies, banks and other important organizations can publish their products and services as additional support.

In view of these numerous advantages, partner institutions and organizations may request the facilities of UNAFRI for the organization of training, workshops, seminars, conferences and other scientific events. The facilities are available for your use.

Visit us to find out about our recent and upcoming activities:

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THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO CREATES A NATIONAL CRIME OBSERVATORY

UNAFRI EXPERTISE REQUESTED

On 24 January 2023, the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Abdellatif OUAHBI, sent a letter to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) requesting its technical support, as part of the steps taken for the creation of the National Crime Observatory within the Ministry of Justice in Morocco. This request naturally fell within the framework of UNAFRI's technical assistance mission for the benefit of Member States. Through this judicious choice, the Kingdom of Morocco has favored African expertise by granting a special place to UNAFRI which is the only Institute in the Africa region mandated to help African countries in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

To respond to this request, UNAFRI had to coordinate with the Moroccan authorities in the Ministry of Justice to organize a consultative mission by its experts. This was to support the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco, in starting the Observatory, in particular through exchange of expertise and technical support, aimed at developing the skills necessary for this purpose.

Following this, Dr KITIO Édouard, Director of UNAFRI, set up a technical team composed as follows:

- 1- Mr. KITIO Édouard, Super Scale Magistrate, Doctor in Business Law, Director General of UNAFRI;
- 2- Mr. Moktar ADAMOU, Lecturer, Associate Professor of the Faculties of Law and Criminal Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University of Parakou (Benin);
- 3- Mr. NTONO TSIMI Germain, Associate Professor of Private Law and Criminal Sciences, Director of Academic Affairs and Cooperation at the University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon).

The mission took place at the large complex of the Training Center



for Judicial Institutions of Morocco on 4, 5 and 6, June 2023. It began on 4 June 2023, with the protocol phase at the Ministry of Justice; an occasion during which the Minister, along with his closest collaborators, received the UNAFRI team in his office in Rabat, and emphasised the importance of trusting African institutions, before resorting to complementary foreign expertise. The Minister reiterated his deep willingness to open Morocco to other African countries for an African approach to penal reforms. He then expressed his firm desire to allow all judicial and extrajudicial professions to benefit from the numerous opportunities that Morocco offers, including conferences and other meetings or training in Morocco.

After the conversation with the Minister, a working session took place in the Conference Room of the Directorate of Criminal Affairs and Pardons, with the Director and all his technical directors, including certain essential collaborators. On this occasion, Mr. Hicham Mellati, Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons and Crime Surveillance, presented to the experts, all of Morocco's criminal policy; the responsibilities of the directorate (created in 1957), the current and ongoing reforms; perspectives, and the place of the National Crime Observatory in Moroccan penal policy. He noted that his services have also developed several documents, resulting from conferences and thematic research. A guided tour of Management was provided by the Director.

The technical phase of the mission began with the presentation of UNAFRI and its international cooperation mechanisms, by the Director of UNAFRI. The session learned that UNAFRI is a pan-African institution with a broad mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice. Its missions cover, among other things, training and capacity building of authorities, responsible for applying criminal



law, research, technical assistance for the benefit of African States, collection and dissemination of crime statistics from member States for scientific innovation in crime prevention.

The National Crime Observatory was presented by Ms. BENYAHIA SOFANA, who is its Coordinator. We learnt from her presentation that the idea for the creation of the Observatory came from the Speech of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Revolution of the King, and the people, of 20 August 2009. The idea was then implemented through regulatory texts, notably the Charter for the Reform of the Judicial System, of July 2013, sub-objective no. 92; Decree No. 2-22-400 of 21 Rabie 1, 1444 (18 October 2022) establishing the responsibilities and organization of the Ministry of Justice; Decision of the Minister of Justice No. 22-1501 of 22 Rabie 1, 1444 (19 October 2022) establishing the responsibilities and organization of the divisions and services attached to the Central Directorates of the Ministry of Justice.

By virtue of the decision mentioned above, the National Crime Observatory (ONC) is responsible for collecting statistical data from the parties concerned, specializing in monitoring the crime phenomenon. It is also responsible for proposing solutions for preventing and combating crime. To this end, the Observatory exercises the following responsibilities: data collection; analysis and interpretation of data; the production of statistics and indicators; the preparation of reports and studies; the dissemination of information; collaboration and coordination.

The ONC has six services: Crime Monitoring Service; Department Study and analysis of the crime phenomenon; Crime Prevention Service; National Criminal Records Service; International criminal records exchange service; Documentation Department. Its internal environment is made up of the central directorates of the Ministry of Justice, regional directorates, courts (registries) and auxiliaries of justice. As for the external environment, we noted the Superior Council of the Judicial Power, the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the General Delegation for Prison Administration and Reintegration, the General Directorate of National Security, etc.

The experts notably focused their presentations on "Panorama of some anti-crime observatories" (Prof. ADAMOU Moktar); "The Observatory for the fight against crime and the two criminologists" (Prof. NTONO TSIMI Germain); "General crime and its factors" (Prof. ADAMOU Moktar); "Looking at crime in Morocco" (interactive exchanges); "Production and dissemination of criminal statistics: methods and issues" (Prof. NTONO TSIMI Germain).

All these presentations were followed by enriching debates.

At the end of the mission, the Moroccan authorities and UNAFRI agreed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to crystallize their partnership in terms of training and technical assistance.



Working visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the Minister of Internal Affairs in Uganda on 26 July 2023

During this visit the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Major General Kahinda Otaffire welcomed the Director of UNAFRI Mr. Kitio Édouard to Uganda and wished him success in his duties and assured him of the support of Government in his mission on crime prevention and treatment of offenders. Both dignitaries shared the view that crime prevention was a tool for the realization of (i) prosperity and peaceful well-being, (ii) unity and integration in the African continent.

It was further noted that Africa is inhabited by people who share a common ancestry (the Bantu, Arabic, Hamites/Nilo-Hamites), but had through migration patterns, settled in various regions and various countries. It was therefore easy to find effective mechanisms of governance to unite Africa, defend its sovereignty based on African identity and common value system. UNAFRI is a pan-African institution that works to achieve this objective through innovative interventions in the matter of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The two dignitaries discussed strategies for crime prevention with a focus on poverty eradication in Africa through social and economic transformation of the continent. This would be the entry point for prosperity in Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, to be spearheaded by Africans themselves. If help comes from elsewhere, it should only be secondary, to supplement our own efforts in the continent.

During their exchange they also talked about the means of reducing inequalities in society, improving standards of living of populations, to avoid unemployment, particularly among the youth. It is therefore paramount to address the challenges of rapid population growth and prioritize improvement of habitats and availability of basic necessities of life such as water, sanitation, electricity, providing social security and protection.

Emphasis was also directed towards the need to stop migrant labour from Africa to the Middle East, Europe, and USA. The unexploited potential in Africa is immense and can handle the diversity of needs of the youth and other groups who are being exploited in labour externalization projects away from home. The programme activities of the Institute will help re-orient the mindset of the youth to useful projects which will sustain them to live a quality life in their own countries. Governments in Africa need to invest in exploiting Africa's natural resources for Africa's benefit. The future will condemn the present generation if there is no effort in this regard.

Workshop between UNAFRI and the Faculty of Law of the University of Birmingham on 11th July 2023

The University of Birmingham in collaboration with UNAFRI organized a workshop to prepare for the continental conference on indigenous approaches to the regulation of digital assets and Artificial Intelligence in Africa to be held in Kampala in 2025. The said conference will also look at the regulation of distributed ledger technologies (2017 Kampala Declaration) and the lessons learned from the regulation of Artificial intelligence in Africa. The workshop also helped to evaluate the Fintech policy proposals (2019) that were presented to the Ministry of Finance by the working group which comprised UNAFRI as a member.

The workshop took place at Protea Skyz Hotel in Naguru, Kampala. It was attended by representatives from the following organizations: Financial Intelligence Authority, Makerere University, Uganda Revenue Authority, Astral Advocates, United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), KTA advocates, Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO), Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution (ODPP)

The Director of UNAFRI, Dr. KITIO Édouard in his speech thanked Dr. Maureen Mapp for the partnership with Birmingham university. He further explained to the members the role of UNAFRI in implementing activities in research, training, advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice. He added that although the digital revolution is beneficial, it is a source of numerous risks of insecurity particularly in terms of transnational organized crime such as terrorist activities, illicit firearms trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime. He therefore called upon institutions for concerted efforts in combating the vice in particular, through appropriate regulation.



The Secretariat of UNAFRI proceeds to the reconstruction of the internet connection to facilitate the implementation of activities.



On August 23rd, 2023, the Director of UNAFRI received at the Secretariat of the Institute, a technical team to enhance the internet connection that had been in use for a decade. There were concerns that the institution had been operating with an under-capacity internet connection; with employees inevitably tolerating slow internet speeds and frequent disruptions arising therefrom. Zoom meetings were often plagued by disturbances, while critical data transfers were unnecessarily taking a long time to complete. Therefore, the Director convened a meeting with a technical team to assess the existing infrastructure, identify weaknesses, and develop a plan to comprehensively upgrade the internet connection.

The renovation of the internet network line lasted almost three weeks and provided a high-speed connection appropriate to the operations of the services and the implementation of online activities. The impact was immediate and significant. Employees noticed a substantial increase in their productivity because they can now work without stress due to the quality of connection. Zoom meetings and other virtual activities are now smoother and have considerably improved with high-quality video and clear audio signal, promoting better communication within and outside the institute.

Meeting of the Governing Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC)

UNAFRI was invited to attend the ISPAC Assembly via zoom that convened on the 17 July 2023 to renew the status of its elected Board of directors. The meeting discussed strategies for strengthening collaboration among the Programme Network of Institutes for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (PNI) in order to accomplish identified projects. It was acknowledged that capacity for project implementation by the PNI may vary according to availability of resources for each institution. A close collaboration between institutes in the implementation of projects and programs is therefore necessary.

ISPAC gave an overview of activities implemented in the period 2022-2023. Priorities in the activities was given to trafficking in cultural property, economic crime, corporate criminal liability and environmental crimes. It was noted that these crimes would be central in the discussions during the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

PNI may have an interest in exploring a collaborative relationship with ISPAC to pursue projects of mutual interest in the aforementioned areas. In this regard, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (NAUSS) made an offer to host a PNI event regrouping members of the PNI network.

The significance of good governance was emphasized as a vital tool for guidance and oversight roles in setting the agenda for programme implementation. The need for professionalism was crucial in selection of the Governing Board members. In this regard, due to the performance of the sitting members of the Board. they were re-elected to continue with Board duties.



The UNAFRI Library



Working visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the Country Manager of the African Development Bank on 19th July 2023

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is a financial institution that is responsible for promoting economic development and social progress in African countries through the promotion of investments.

The main objective of UNAFRI is to promote socio-economic development by supporting and encouraging crime prevention measures to be incorporated in the national planning mechanisms of African governments. Development should be safeguarded against challenges which would otherwise undermine its steady prevalence. Crime threatens peace and security on the continent, in a vicious and self-perpetuating cycle, damaging governance and eroding the rule of law. Instability caused by conflict is a significant impediment to an effective path of growth in all sectors of life. Economic development and improved living conditions reduce the risk of delinquency.

Due to the similarity of the objectives of the two institutions, the Director of UNAFRI and the country Manager of AfDB came together to study the prospects of a partnership with a view of boosting the activities of UNAFRI.

The Country Manager of Africa Development Bank, Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan thanked the Director of UNAFRI for considering partnership with the bank, but he stated that in the current activity programs, the possibility of financing projects linked to crime prevention and criminal justice are difficult to envisage. He however reminded that he could put the institution in contact with certain partners for possible financial assistance.



Working visit of the delegation of Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) to UNAFRI on 19th July 2023

The Director of UNAFRI, Dr. Kitio Édouard hosted a delegation from the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) at the Secretariat of the Institute in Naguru. It comprised of Mr. Cyrus Barigye, Director of ICT Systems and Security, Ms. Margaret Nabukeera, Senior Legal officer and Mr. Ivan Bwire.

Officials from UNAFRI and FIA discussed the possibility of organizing joint activities on common programs in order to strengthen their collaboration. The sophistication in the level of crime requires a harmonized institutional approach for efficacy and efficiency. FIA has competences which should be harnessed to give proactive interventions to technologically engineered crime.

Money laundering has been identified as a major source of finance for illicit activities particularly in transnational organized crimes, such as terrorism. The fight against this security problem requires increased awareness and appropriate training of the authorities

responsible for law enforcement. UNAFRI experience in training and capacity building in this regard is of paramount importance.

FIA has majored in the fight against illicit digital transactions which would fuel terrorism, and other transnational organized crimes. FIA has put in place proactive strategies to stem all practices which are directly or indirectly linked to money laundering. These measures are in accordance with international practices and reinforce the duty toward vigilance of financial institutions' managers and assimilated in legitimate banking transactions.

The synergy between UNAFRI and FIA allows the exchange of experiences in order to strengthen the legal monitoring system through training and capacity building of stakeholders. A memorandum of understanding is envisaged between the two institutions to define the conditions of a better collaboration.



UNAFRI ADDRESSES UNTIMELY ELECTRICITY CUTS

To cope with the multiple power cuts which are hampering the proper functioning of UNAFRI, the secretariat acquired a 20 KVA power generator on August 16, 2023. This device came at the right time since the institute has been organizing international online conferences on Zoom as well as its videoconferencing platform since March 2016. The disruptions caused by numerous power outages were likely to discourage online participants, and compromise the implementation of planned activities. With the generator in place, not only will continuity of services be guaranteed, but the Institute's credibility with partners who often use its facilities will be enhanced.





PROTECTION OF THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF CHILDREN IN CYBERSPACE: CAMEROON SETS AN EXAMPLE.

By Dr. Édouard KITIO, Super Scale Magistrate , Director of UNAFRI.

On July 25, 2023, the Cameroonian Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, promulgated Law No. 2023/009 of July 25, 2023, establishing the Charter for the Protection of Children Online in Cameroon. This law applies to all activities involving children in cyberspace. This text of 49 articles aims to safeguard children against numerous deviations observed in online publications that could compromise their future. The word «child» is defined in the text as any person under the age of eighteen (18) years. Cyberspace is defined as the global network connecting telecommunications resources, server computers, and clients, intended for the exchange of electronic messages, multimedia information, and files using a common protocol allowing the transmission of messages in independent packets. The role of public authorities and the private sector is crucial in: (I) protection mechanisms, and (II) operator responsibilities are subject to sanctions.

I- Role of Public Authorities and the Private Sector

Chapter 2 of the law addresses the role of public authorities (A) and the private sector (B).

A-Action of Public Authorities

Public authorities ensure the establishment of an appropriate framework for secure internet use by children. In this regard, the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications, in collaboration with other relevant administrations, develops and implements a National Action Plan for the Protection of Children Online. This action plan aims to:

- Ensure secure internet access for children for their learning, the development of their potential, and their well-being.
- Raise awareness among actors in child protection about the negative effects of the internet.
- Consider child protection in the processing and dissemination of information by audio-visual professionals.

The implementation of this action plan requires coordinated efforts from the ministries responsible for Telecommunications, Education and Youth, Women and Family, and Social Affairs. This collaboration revolves around training and awareness.

Training efforts target not only children but also parents, educators, and social affairs personnel. Responsibilities are well distributed. The ministries responsible for Education and Youth collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications to develop training curricula on the

responsible use of internet and social media with a focus on child protection (Article 6). The Ministry responsible for Women and Family, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications, develops training modules for parents on internet use as part of positive parenting programs (Article 7). The Ministry responsible for Social Affairs, on the other hand, provides appropriate training to personnel involved in child care on the prevention, detection, and management of abuses that children may face online (Article 8).

Sensitization efforts require the involvement of the Ministry responsible for Communication. The said ministry is tasked with raising awareness among media and ensures that they are providing appropriate content for children (Article 9). This action is reinforced by the regulatory body for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This body is authorized to deploy preventive and punitive measures necessary for the protection of children in the national cyberspace (Article 10).

B- Action of the Private Sector

With the liberalization of the communication sector, several private actors provide information to the public without always considering the vulnerability of certain social groups. Children are often exposed to unworthy and disrespectful content inappropriate for their young age. The Cameroonian legislator on protection of children online has not overlooked this aspect. Collaboration between the private sector and public authorities is required to make the national cyberspace safer for children, including respecting their rights and contributing to their education as well as that of their families and communities. Failure to meet obligations by Internet service providers entails liability and exposes them to various sanctions.

II- Responsibility and Sanctions

Cyberspace operators are held responsible for the content they disseminate and may face administrative and criminal sanctions for violating legal provisions.

A- Responsibility of Internet Service Providers

The responsibility of individuals involved in cyberspace is precisely determined, and sanctions are provided for. At the discretion of competent authorities, they may suspend internet access or content for a consumer who is the source of publishing content that undermines the dignity or integrity of children. Internet service providers are obligated to bring acts of child pornography to the attention of competent authorities and suspend sites identified as harmful to children's dignity and integrity.

Online advertising should not, except for legitimate reasons, depict children in vulnerable situations. It must never exploit the inexperience or naivety of children. Furthermore, online advertising targeting children must not compromise their education or present aspects that could cause them physical or moral harm. Moreover, it must not exploit, distort, or undermine the trust or respect that children have for their parents, educators, or other individuals responsible for their moral or intellectual development.

Internet service providers must implement best practices in cyberspace, including developing access and guidance materials on content and activities that could harm children's dignity and integrity. They also implement parental control tools and procedures to ensure such control.

B- Overview on penalties incurred

Administrative and criminal sanctions are established for violating the obligations stipulated by the law. Administrative measures include putting an end to acts that harm a child's integrity or dignity, issuing a warning to comply with legal provisions, and, in case of non-compliance with the warning, imposing a penalty ranging from one million to ten (10) million CFA (Article 29).

From a punitive perspective, Articles 33 and subsequent laws enacted, spell out offenses and penalties applicable to the authors of offenses against a child's dignity and integrity committed through the internet.

The penalties are particularly severe for those who publish sexual content. Thus, Article 41 punishes anyone who commits an act of indecency against a child via electronic communications with imprisonment from ten (10) to twenty (20) years and a fine of ten million (10,000,000) to twenty million (20,000,000) CFA francs, or either of these penalties only

Article 43 punishes anyone who records, transmits, disseminates, or broadcasts, for a fee or for free through electronic communications or an information system, sexually explicit content involving a child, with imprisonment from five (05) to ten (10) years and a fine of five million (5,000,000) to ten million (10,000,000) CFA francs, or either of these penalties only. The same penalty applies to anyone who offers or makes available sexually explicit content involving a child. These penalties are doubled in cases of recidivism.

Several other offenses are provided for in the text, clearly showing that Cameroon is genuinely committed to fighting social media excesses. Strict adherence to the text is essential to restoring morality to families and society.

Working Visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) on 20 July 2023

The Director of UNAFRI Mr. Kitio Édouard paid a courtesy call on the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Ms. Mariam Wangadya. The visit was aimed at consolidating the existing relations between the two institutions, with prospects of collaboration on identified thematic programs.

Previous efforts at collaboration, in activities implemented by UNAFRI in 2021, highlighted the advantages and importance of the inter-organizational collaboration on similar projects. Human rights and crime prevention are at the center of UNAFRI's activities and form the core of programs by UHRC. The proposal for partnership between UNAFRI and UHRC is part of a series of high-level UNAFRI engagements that aim to affirm and strengthen relationships with a number of stakeholders in the criminal justice sector within and outside Africa.

In the area of training, UNAFRI intends to offer comprehensive programs which will integrate the action plans and address the

concerns of both institutions. While UHRC has delivered courses to the military, prisons and police about human rights, the Director of UNAFRI noted the importance of pooling efforts to implement training programs involving both institutions for greater efficiency.

The need for training follows the outcry and reports reaching UHRC about violations of rights of individuals by state agencies.

Capacity building of officials responsible for law enforcement should be done in a consistent manner between training institutions in order to avoid redundancies that could affect the infatuation of participants. Furthermore, pooling skills ensures the best quality of training and achieves good results.

At the end of the discussions, the Director of UNAFRI and the chair person of the Human Rights Commission agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions.



Working visit of the delegation from the North Carolina Central University to the Director of UNAFRI on the 24th July 2023



The Director of UNAFRI, Dr Kitio Édouard received at the Secretariat of the institute a delegation from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) of the United State which was led by Dr. Harvey L. McMurray, Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminal Justice and Director General of the Institute for Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss opportunities for future cooperation in different projects such as the fight against community violence, radicalization, emergency management initiatives and violent extremism as well as other projects related to the mandate of both institutions. The discussions included program implementation of identified activities, on the basis of shared responsibility, including strategies for mobilizing the resources needed. Discussions are ongoing with a plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.



Working Visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the Embassy of the United States of America in Uganda, on August 03, 2023

During this working visit the Director of UNAFRI Dr. Kitio Édouard, met with the Chief, Political/Economic Section, Mr. Jamal Jafari and the Deputy Chief, Political/Economic Section, Mr. Carlton Philadelphia.

The discussions focused on the security challenges that face the African continent and the need for UNAFRI to play its role for the benefit of African States.

It was pleasing to note that like UNAFRI, the US Government supports projects that fights illicit trafficking of firearms and drugs, particularly in schools of higher education. The US Government support is equally evident in juvenile justice programs, the respect for human rights, the fight against environmental crime and in helping African countries to fight transnational organized crime.

Through international cooperation there will be sustainable measures necessary to defeat transnational threats in particular and in strengthening legitimate and effective public safety, security, and criminal justice institutions; as well as promoting universal values through robust policy in areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Working visit of The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Makerere University to the Secretariat of UNAFRI on 3rd of August 2023.

The meeting was purposed to create a mutual working environment between the Faculty of Social Sciences of Makerere University and UNAFRI. The delegation led by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Justus Twesigye, included Prof. Peter Atekyereza and Mr. Gordon Ainebyona, while UNAFRI delegation was composed of the Director, Dr Kitio Édouard, Barrister Andrew Munanura, the Head Training, and Mr. Patrick Mwaita, Program Manager of Research and Training.

Areas of common interest were discussed. These include capacity development through training, as well as research and information dissemination. The dignitaries of the two institutions emphasized the importance of immediately utilizing the information that comes from research and its impact in policy formulation and legislative reforms and regulations.

There was a call for a reactivation of the African Journal of Crime and Criminal Justice, a publication of UNAFRI which helped to disseminate useful information packaged in articles on various aspects and findings of experts and scholars of criminology, and criminal justice. A collaboration on the implementation of specific projects such as the social reintegration of ex-prisoners (From Prison Back Home) could be envisaged. In this case students from the Faculty of Makerere could assist in the implementation of identified areas for social reintegration of ex-prisoners, while the experts from the faculty could guide the penitentiary personnel in the process of rehabilitation through talks, capacity building programs and conferences. Social Work profession was seen as a crucial ingredient in the process of resettlement of ex-prisoners back into communities. If it is well managed, it could help in reducing re-offending, and cut back on the budget for prison management. In Japan, UNAFEI has integrated

students, from Social Sciences who have been a crucial factor in the prevention of re-offending (recidivism), a project they have managed successfully and can disseminate it as best practice in other jurisdictions. Since UNAFRI is in the process of establishing a data bank of experts on crime prevention and criminal justice, the Faculty of Social Sciences and indeed the relevant Faculties of Makerere University will be of significance in this matter. These experts will be vital in accomplishments of the projects on terrorism, human rights and rule of law which were emphasized by the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

There is so much unexplored and unexploited ground for knowledge dissemination to the public sector, useful in directing policy guidelines to the benefit of governments. The Faculty in this regard is offering papers, presentations, courses to the military, police and other law enforcement agencies, the legal officers on critical aspects of public administration and conduct of public affairs on the basis of ethics and professionalism. Courses in psychology, sociology, contemporary criminology, economics, and anthropology have been appreciated by the learners in the forces of Uganda. These courses have emphasized the humane aspect of social transformation, mend the exclusion tendencies affecting the youth, boost knowledge of morals of society.

Areas of need for joint collaboration were identified. These include a proposal on drug use in schools and institutions of higher learning and the need for new initiatives to attend to victims of crime and witnesses of crime.

It was agreed that for the implementation of joint programs, a Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted.





Visit of the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Uganda to the Director of UNAFRI on August 8, 2023

The Director of UNAFRI Dr. Kitio Édouard received the High Commissioner of the Republic of Pakistan, H.E Muhammad Hassan Wazir on August 8, 2023, at the Secretariat of the institute in Naguru. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the High Commissioner of UNAFRI's activities and consider the prospects for establishing cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan.

In his welcome address, the Director gave an overview of the mandate and objectives of UNAFRI. He also described some of the programs that have already been implemented and their importance in achieving the goals set by the United Nations for sustainable development. These programs are funded through financial contributions from member states and cooperation agreements with partner institutions. With regard to the programs which have not yet been implemented, the Director requested the assistance of the High Commissioner in order to strengthen the capacity of the institute during its interventions in African countries, particularly in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Director also briefed the High Commissioner on the relationship between the UN and UNAFRI and finally thanked the High Commissioner for honoring his invitation.

The High Commissioner was pleased to meet the Director and to see that the Secretariat had spacious offices for training and research. He expressed satisfaction with the Institute's publications that ensure visibility of the institution and its activities to the benefit of the member States.

He said that in his short time in Uganda, he witnessed great potential for development in a number of areas. The High Commissioner stated that his country has developed a new diplomatic initiative aimed at establishing relations with African countries. Pakistan's policy is to take advantage of the enormous economic potential offered by this continent. He mentioned that five diplomatic missions have been opened in various African countries, and the Pakistani government intends to focus more on strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations with Africa.

According to the Diplomat, Africa is closer to Pakistan than it is to the Western world and Japan, and it is in Pakistan's interest to take advantage of this proximity to support African countries in their development efforts. Pakistanis live peacefully in Africa mostly in Uganda, where there are more resident Pakistanis (about seven thousand) than in any other African country, including Malawi, Kenya, Ivory Coast, and Ghana.

Pakistan has many advantages, some of which can be made available to Africa to exploit its vast waters and rivers, coastline and cities, natural resources, including mining potential.

Pakistan's growing middle class is a powerful driver of socioeconomic transformation in Africa. Through investments in Africa, Pakistani businesses, especially agribusiness are driving growth and creating jobs through manufacturing, retail, health, information technology, mining, science, and education. The informal economy is also dynamic.

Pakistan has made tremendous progress in restoring macroeconomic stability, a key condition for economic success. Pakistan and Africa are geographically well-positioned to capitalize

on each other's advantages - Pakistan has the capacity for expertise, while Africa has the resources for exploitation, and both are strategically located to connect with the largest economies, China and India. All this presents a good opportunity and a beneficial platform for the people of Africa and Pakistan.

Regarding the needs of UNAFRI, Pakistani universities will be happy to provide their expertise in identified areas through joint programs. Pakistan is able to work with UNAFRI by providing capacity building experts as well as sharing knowledge on best practices in counter terrorism, law enforcement, investigations, judicial requirements, and corrections.

The challenges of human trafficking raised serious concerns for the High Commissioner, who sought advice on the matter. The Director of UNAFRI informed him that the Institute has the capacity to conduct a study on the issue based on available resources. The result of such a study could be used to guide policies and decision-making. The High Commissioner assured the Director of his willingness to help UNAFRI wherever possible.





«Violation of Human Rights in Uganda: The Government Compensates Victims»

According to the New Vision newspaper released on 18 August 2023, the government of Uganda has taken commendable action by giving monetary compensation to 88 individuals who were subjected to human rights abuses at the hands of public officials and security officers. This gesture represents an important step towards recognizing the responsibility of public officials in the matter. By this salutary act, the government shows its good faith and compliance towards international obligations and attests that the violations of human rights result from the unfortunate actions of a few officials and not from government directives. In any event, the forces maintaining order are required to act in accordance with international conventions ratified by Uganda. Human rights violations constitute criminal offenses that require the state intervention to put an end to it.

According to the Human Right Watch report of March 2022, Uganda has struggled with a history of human rights abuses in which security officers were held responsible for a number of crimes against defenseless individuals. These violations included occurrences of torture, unlawful executions, arbitrary incarceration without charge, etc. The government is trying to restore trust between the citizens and the authorities, by repressing human rights violations while compensating victims as far as possible. The payment of damages,

repairs the suffering endured by these people and expresses the State's commitment to promoting individual liberties in a civilized and respectful society, conscious of fundamental rights of citizens.

The Compensation process will involve individuals, companies, and organizations that won court awards in jurisdictions on the violation of their fundamental rights by public authorities or defense forces.

However, the payment of compensation by the state would not serve as a justification for lack respect towards the agents in charge of enforcing the laws. We have indeed often noted that certain abuses by law enforcement forces are provoked by reprehensible behaviors of the victims. In a state governed by the rule of law, if law enforcement agents are required to respect human rights, citizens in return must also respect the established authority and avoid actions that could lead to the violation of their rights

The Commitment of the Uganda government in respect of observing human rights is a demonstration of adhering to the principle of good governance based on the rule of law. The government's response serves as a good practice for other countries facing comparable problems. It emphasizes how crucial it is to acknowledge past wrongs, make amends, foster healing, and prevent further violations of human rights.

Working visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the Commissioner General of Prisons in Uganda on August 10, 2023



The meeting between the Director of UNAFRI, Dr. Kitio Édouard and the Commissioner General of prisons Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, was an opportunity to consolidate existing relationship, evaluate the programs that have been jointly implemented in the past while considering new prospects for the future of the two institutions.

There is a growing need to enhance the capacities of criminal justice systems to facilitate reforms in prison administration, with a focus on human rights and the well-being of prisoners. In this regard,

UNAFRI is committed to strengthening the skills of Ugandan prison staff to ensure the respect of detainees' rights. This involves enabling personnel, in particular, to acquire new knowledge and adopt best practices in the management of detainees. It is envisaged that this intervention will serve as a basis for the implementation of a set of programs aimed at fundamentally transforming the justice system and promoting human rights.

The Director emphasized that the Institute collaborates with international organizations with similar mandates. He also mentioned that the Institute has a well-stocked library with documents from various countries, which is open to researchers, academics and interested parties.

The Commissioner General informed the Director of the Institute that Uganda has a good reintegration system and a very low recidivism rate.

Appreciating Uganda's efforts in this regard, the Director of UNAFRI responded that the community needs to be educated and sensitized on the reintegration of former prisoners. He also added that it is necessary to establish a legal framework for monitoring committees that facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of former prisoners.

Both officials committed to continuing and strengthening their existing working relationship to improve the treatment of detainees, facilitate their social reintegration and serve as a model.



Working visit of the Director of UNAFRI to the UN Resident Coordinator on the 24th August 2023

The United Nations is tasked with the global responsibility, inter alia, to maintain International Peace, Security and Protect Human Rights and Support Sustainable Development. In fulfillment of this responsibility the United Nations recognizes the importance of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation. In this regard, various legislative mandates have created a number of institutions. UNAFRI falls under the network of institutes which was established by the Secretariat of the United Nations, in agreement with the Member States, to assist the international community in strengthening international cooperation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice at the global, regional, and international level.

The collaboration between UNAFRI and the UN Coordination opens up to opportunities which help to explore ways and means of responding to the security challenges of Africa particularly in strengthening the funding of the institute.

As UNAFRI is the only specialized United Nations agency in the African region for crime prevention and criminal justice, collaboration with the United Nations office in Kampala is entirely natural. In this context, the Director of UNAFRI, Dr. Kitio Édouard and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations agencies in Uganda, Ms. Susan

Namondo Ngongi held a working session on August 24, 2023, to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions. It is important to mention that the UN Coordinator Ms. Susan Namondo had paid a courtesy call at the Institute in February 2023, just on the advent of Dr Kitio's assumption of office in March 2023.

Topics discussed during the second meeting included:

- a) commitment and new dynamism towards addressing a wide range of issues related to crime prevention and treatment of offenders through but not limited to training programs, seminars, conferences, studies, and research on crime trend in the region and their impact on development, assist in the development of effective policies and programs in favor of states.
- b) Emphasis on the need for collaborative efforts to address the ever-evolving challenges in crime prevention, with a focus on current projects of both institutions and their specific needs for proper completion and implementation.

Both parties decided to maintain close contact to follow up on common projects.



Working visit of the Deputy Director of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the Embassy of the US in Kenya to the Secretariat of UNAFRI on the 28th August 2023

The Director of UNAFRI Dr Édouard Kitio had the opportunity to host the Deputy Director of INL Ms. Parvathy Sankar at the Secretariat of the Institute in Naguru. The Deputy Director came specifically in Uganda to discuss with the Director of UNAFRI about the activities in relation to transnational organized crime.

The INL Bureau has the mission to ensure security by countering international crime, illegal drugs, and instability abroad. Furthermore, INL helps countries deliver justice and fairness by strengthening their police, justice systems, and penitentiary administration. These efforts reduce the amount of crime and the circulation of illegal drugs reaching U.S. shores while helping African countries to fight the insecurity that slows down the development of the continent.

This meeting was very significant to UNAFRI as an entity of the United Nations, with a complementary mandate to help the international community to strengthen cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice through information exchange,

research, trainings, and advisory missions on request by member states.

The Director reaffirmed the mandate of the Institute and the activities realized since the beginning of the year, including the upcoming activities. He gave a brief on his vision for the Institute, including several measures he is taking to revamp the infrastructure and his plans to strengthen the human capacity in the sector of professional personnel.

Madam Parvathy Sankar informed the Director that INL Bureau has a regional office in Kenya and that its scope of work covers a certain number of East African countries. She promised that the Bureau could provide funding from the US for UNAFRI projects related to transnational organized crime. Furthermore, she added that the good impression she had of UNAFRI, its management and its activities allows her to defend the cause of the Institute and develop useful contacts for the implementation of its activities.

Working Visit of the Director of UNAFRI to GIZ on the 11 September 14, 2023



The Director of UNAFRI, Dr Édouard Kitio had the pleasure of meeting with the Country Director of GIZ, Mr. James Macbeth Forbes.

GIZ is mechanism of cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany that offers services in the field of sustainable development and international education. The fundamental principles of cooperation between Uganda and Germany are about good governance, transparency and accountability, adherence to human rights, including the rights of vulnerable groups and sexual minorities and support of civil society.

GIZ supports the Africa Union (AU) Agenda 2063, in peace building and conflict prevention, governance and migration, among others. GIZ works with research Institutions, businesses, and civil society actors, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other priority sectors. As a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, GIZ is dedicated to shaping a better future around the world.

With such a commendable mandate, The Director of UNAFRI considered it important to include GIZ in his vision of collaboration and partnership with any institution that can provide crucial assistance to UNAFRI and its member states. The Director stated that in 2018 GIZ formerly known as GTZ partnered with UNAFRI and the Ugandan Prisons in one of its programs named " FROM PRISON BACK HOME" which is mainly about the smooth re-integration of ex-prisoners in the community. He also mentioned several projects that could be of interest to GIZ in the application of law and justice.

The Director of the German Cooperation promised his support to UNAFRI on projects that fall within the scope of GIZ. The meeting ended with hope of future collaboration, mostly in the area of skill development.





Working Visit of IOM delegation to UNAFRI on the 14 September 2023

The Director of UNAFRI, Dr Édouard Kitio received a delegation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Secretariat of UNAFRI. The delegation was led by Mr. Richard M Kavuma who is the Public Information Officer and Ag. IBG manager.

As an Agency of the United Nations, The IOM works with the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the wellbeing and fundamental rights of migrants. The IOM cross-cutting activities include: the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migrant's health etc.

IOM in partnership with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) has a wide range of projects that are of interest to UNAFRI in countering Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) in the region, with a special focus on Lake Victoria.

While Lake Victoria is a very useful resource in the region, it unfortunately fosters a wide range of crimes such as human and drug trafficking, smuggling, theft of goods, as well as firearms trafficking.

During the discussion, it was evident that, based on the complementarity of the mandates of both organizations, a collaboration between the two institutions could certainly be beneficial in fighting the crimes stated above. As IOM focus on strengthening the capacities of border authorities in detecting and deterring TOC through different channels, there is still a need for governments to agree on standard procedure and put in place a legal framework to enable the authorities to fight these crimes to significant impact. It is, therefore, imperative to have a convention on extradition signed by all member states in order to prevent certain criminals from escaping criminal prosecution.

Consequently, UNAFRI can partner with IOM in training judicial personnel in handling all issues regarding human trafficking and irregularities in immigration. The institution can as well approach communities around the lake in a joint program that will create awareness on the risks associated with crime and their vulnerability. Adapted solutions can result from research and studies carried out among the population by the IOM if necessary, with the support of UNAFRI. With that, the meeting ended with the promise of future collaboration on joint programs.



UNAFRI'S 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme: "The judicial competences in the pursuit and repression of terrorism offenses, possession and trafficking of firearms: What place for international law?"

The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) organized its second international conference by videoconference on Zoom on the 18 of July 2023.

1. Objectives:

The conference had the following objectives:

- Highlight the links between terrorist activities and the illegal possession and trafficking of firearms, and their impact on national and international security;
- Identify in the African judicial systems, the jurisdictions competent for the prosecution and judgment of terrorism offenses and the illegal possession and trafficking of firearms;
- Assess the procedural safeguards for the successful investigation, prosecution and judgement of terrorism offenses and the illegal possession and trafficking of firearms under international law;
- Consider international judicial cooperation and take advantage of it to research, identify tips for better training for judicial and prosecutorial officers against terrorism;
- Analyze the conditions of detention of perpetrators of terrorism offenses and illegal possession and trafficking of firearms and the prospects for their social rehabilitation.
- Encourage university teachers, students and other researchers to undertake research on issues related to the investigation, prosecution and judgement of terrorism offenses and the possession and trafficking of firearms.

2. Sub theme of the conference:

- Axis 1: Offenses of terrorism; illegal possession and trafficking of firearms: particularities, links, issues and challenges for national & international security (Prof. NTONO TSIMI Germain, Cameroon).

- Axis 2: Overview of jurisdictions competent in the prosecution and repression of terrorism offenses and illegal possession and trafficking of firearms in Africa (Prof. MOKTAR ADAMOU, Benin).
- Axis 3: Procedural guarantees in the investigation, prosecution and judgment of terrorism offenses and illegal possession and trafficking of firearms (Prof. Babacar NIANG, Senegal).
- Axis 4: International judicial cooperation and tips for better training of a prosecutor and an anti-terrorism judge (Prof. SPENER YAWAGA, Cameroon).
- Axis 5: Conviction of perpetrators of acts of terrorism, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms and prospects for resocialization (Prof. ADAMOU Rabani, Niger).

3. Expert and Panel members

Introductory speech:

- Prof. Kalieu Elongo Yvette Rachel, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Titular Professor at the University of Dschang (Cameroon)

Presentation of the sub themes:

- Prof. NTONO TSIMI Germain, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Yaoundé II, (Cameroon)
- Prof. MOKTAR ADAMOU, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Parakou, (Benin)
- Prof. Babacar NIANG, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, (Senegal)
- Prof. SPENER YAWAGA, Titular Professor of Universities, teacher-researcher-consultant, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, University of Maroua, (Cameroon)
- Prof. ADAMOU Rabani, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tahoua (Niger)



UNAFRI'S 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme: "MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES"

- The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) organized its third hybrid International Conference on the 19 of September 2023.

1. Objectives:

The conference had the following objectives:

- To present the efforts of the African States in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- To assess the strengths and weaknesses of the control framework and consider opportunities for improvement.
- Raise awareness among banks, similar financial institutions and other stakeholders in the enforcement framework of their obligations and the sanctions incurred.
- Assess the impact of terrorist activities on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.
- Encourage academicians and other researchers to research issues related to terrorist activities.

2. Sub theme of the conference

- Communication No.1: The challenges of the digital revolution and the explosion of electronic currencies and how they facilitate illicit financial flows (Prof. Sizwe Snail Ka Mtuze, South Africa).
- Communication No.2: The response of States with regard to international legislative, international Human Rights Law: legislative aspects, institutional and repressive aspects (Dr. Steven. William Kayuni, Malawi).
- Communication No.3: Obligations of Bankers and other professionals in the Fight against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (Ms. Marietta Naiga, Uganda)

- Communication No.4: Challenges of the Fight Against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism for African Economies in general and Financial Institutions in particular (Prof. Kenneth Wyne Mutuma, Kenya).
- Communication No.5: Ways for improving or better controlling the fight against terrorist activities in the East and Southern African sub region. (Lady Justice Susan Okalany, Uganda).
- Communication No.6: Current Situation, challenges and strategies to disrupt and tackle money laundering and terrorism financing. (Mr. Lazarus Mukasa, Uganda).

3. Expert and Panel members

Introductory speech:

- Dr. Édouard KITIO, Super scale Magistrate, Director of UNAFRI.

Presentation of the sub themes:

- Prof. Sizwe Snail Ka Mtuze, Nelson Mandela University - South Africa.
- Steven. William Kayuni, Principal Secretary, Ministry of homeland and Security, Private Bag 331 - Malawi.
- Ms. Marietta Naiga, Chief Risk Officer. In charge of money laundering, Housing Finance Bank Uganda – Uganda.
- Prof. Kenneth Wyne Mutuma, University of Nairobi - Kenya.
- Lady Justice Susan Okalany, Deputy Head of the International Crimes Division, High Court of the Republic of Uganda.
- Mr. Lazarus Mukasa, Director Analysis and Monitoring, Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) – Uganda.



Human Trafficking in Uganda: How to Strengthen the Control Mechanism?

Child trafficking is an extremely concerning issue that continues to torment societies worldwide. Unfortunately, Uganda is currently facing a disturbing increase in child trafficking. Child traffickers continuously develop new strategies to evade security checks and law enforcement. This article sheds light on the alarming rise of child trafficking in Uganda, the evolving tactics of traffickers, and the urgent need for a solution.

According to the New Vision released on the 16th of August 2023, child traffickers use more discreet modes of transportation, including small taxis, vehicles with tinted windows, and even motorcycles known as «boda boda» in Uganda to evade law enforcement. These means of transport allow them to bypass security checkpoints without arousing suspicion, making it more challenging for authorities to intercept them. Traffickers often take advantage of the vulnerability of their victims by promising them work and a good education in the capital. Many children are subjected to forced labor, including begging on the streets of the capital to collect money for their masters. This exposure to destitution has detrimental effects on their health, education, and future. Some resort to debauchery to survive, or engage in drug consumption. According to the New Vision, the director of Butabika Hospital, Dr Juliet Nakku, said that mental health issues have been

on the rise in Uganda. Other children are forced to work as helpers in private households. In all cases, these children are denied their fundamental rights, including education and a safe environment.

Other forms of trafficking involve adults. This occurs when traffickers promise them a better future in a foreign country, especially in the United States. Recently, the Ugandan press revealed the presence of around fifty Ugandans currently in a Kenya camp were snatched from the hands of traffickers who claimed to be leading them to the USA. Some sold all their possessions (cars, land, houses, and other assets) to pay for this uncertain journey. To make matters worse, some moved with their families, facing uncertain future. Not only can they not reach their destination, but also returning home becomes difficult due to lack of means. Some women, caught off guard, are sexually exploited by traffickers. Other victims perish as a result of organ trafficking, and so on.

In response to this alarming trend, the Ugandan police have called on the public to be vigilant and proactive in reporting suspicious activities involving children. Collaboration between law enforcement and the community is crucial in the fight against child trafficking. The traffic police are encouraged to

pay special attention to vehicles and individuals traveling with children, especially under suspicious circumstances.

Although fighting human trafficking in Uganda is a complex challenge, several strategies can help battle this phenomenon:

Awareness Campaigns: In collaboration with non-governmental organizations, administrative authorities can launch nationwide awareness campaigns to educate communities about the dangers of child trafficking and how to recognize potential traffickers. Local authorities should be called upon to detect any suspicious movements of people, especially those aimed at taking children away from their places of residence. They should alert the public authorities when families inexplicably sell off several of their assets.

Strengthening Legislation and Enforcement: Special emphasis should be placed on child protection legislation and parental responsibility. Tougher penalties should be imposed by judicial authorities against traffickers. In addition, victims should receive psychological, financial, and material support. Witnesses and whistleblowers should be protected throughout the prosecution and enforcement process.

Community Vigilance: Communities should be more vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activities involving children to the authorities.

Access to Education: Another solution is to improve access to quality education in rural areas to reduce children's vulnerability.

Support for Vulnerable Families: Authorities should implement programs that provide economic and social support to families in disadvantaged regions to reduce the likelihood of enrolling them in illicit activities. Furthermore, rehabilitation centers should be established to accommodate child trafficking victims. These centers could provide a safe space for victims and offer psychosocial support. Implementing programs such as reintegrating these children into the community, as well as vocational and sports education programs would be beneficial.

International Cooperation: Engage in regional and international cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, especially child trafficking, focusing on sharing information and best practices and coordinating measures to control trafficking networks.

Research: Invest in research and data collection to better understand the dynamics of child trafficking. This information contributes to the development of political strategies and interventions.

Collaboration between the government, civil society, organizations, and international partners is generally a crucial element in the fight against child trafficking, which is a serious violation of human rights. This requires immediate attention and concerted effort. By raising awareness, strengthening laws, and supporting vulnerable families, Uganda can work towards the eradication of child trafficking and ensuring a better future for them.





