

COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE: STAKEHOLDERS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR JUSTICE REFORMS AND IMPROVED PRISON CONDITIONS



Acting Principal Judge Lady Justice Okuo Jane Kajuga led a high-level delegation to Luzira Upper Prison to assess conditions and address justice delays. The group, including representatives from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda Police Force, Avocats Sans Frontières, and Penal Reform International, was supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Received by Mr. Bryan Corr Mbaziira, Senior Superintendent of Prisons (OC - Upper Prison), the delegation learned the facility houses over 3,000 inmates, including 93 on death row. Inmates raised concerns about missing case files, delayed judgments, and the psychological toll of prolonged incarceration. Lady Justice Kajuga highlighted Judiciary efforts like the Daily Hearings project, Justice for Her, plea bargaining, and Alternative Dispute Resolution to reduce case backlogs, urging inmates to consider plea bargaining and calling for more legal aid support.



UHRC Chairperson Mariam Wangadya advocated reviewing the Condemned Section's conditions and name to align with human rights standards.

Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to justice reforms. Deputy Director George William Byansi promised streamlined prosecutions, while ADC's Bernd Brünner and Dr. Katja Yvonne Kerschhaumer pledged continued support. The visit ended with a tour and direct inmate engagement, with inmates expressing hope for swift action.