



Criminal Justice Reforms and Pre-Trial Detention in Uganda: A Survey Analysis

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Abstract

Pre-trial detention is a significant issue in Uganda's criminal justice system, contributing to high incarceration rates and undermining fair trials. The research employs a mixed-methods approach including surveys and interviews with judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys, and incarcerated individuals. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. Recent reforms have led to a reduction in pre-trial detention by an average of 25% among defendants who are charged but not yet convicted. While the reforms show promise, there is still room for improvement, particularly in addressing systemic issues that contribute to prolonged detention. Further research should focus on understanding and mitigating factors contributing to pre-trial detention. Policy recommendations include enhancing alternative measures such as conditional release schemes.

Keywords: *African geography, pre-trial detention, judicial reform, criminology, legal anthropology, mixed methods, incarceration rates*

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