



# Criminal Justice System Reforms and Pre-Trial Detention in Uganda: A Qualitative Study,

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## Abstract

This study examines reforms in Uganda's criminal justice system aimed at reducing pre-trial detention periods. Qualitative research methods, including interviews with legal practitioners, court officials, and selected litigants, were employed to gather data on reform implementation and effects. Findings indicate that there is a significant reduction in the average duration of pre-trial detention from 12 months prior to reforms to approximately 6 months post-reforms, reflecting improved efficiency and judicial processes. The study concludes that while initial results are encouraging, sustained monitoring and further legal reforms are necessary for long-term effectiveness. Recommendations include ongoing evaluation of the reform measures, enhanced training for judicial staff, and possibly extending the scope of pre-trial detention review mechanisms to ensure fairer outcomes.

**Keywords:** *Criminal justice, Uganda, Pre-trial detention, Legal reform, African criminology, Qualitative methodology, Community engagement*

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