



Reducing Pre-Trial Detention in Uganda's Criminal Justice System: A Reform Agenda

Kabwili Musoke¹, Mukasa Namugenyi^{2,3}, Ssemogerere Nakizeya⁴

¹ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)

² Department of Advanced Studies, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)

³ Busitema University

⁴ Department of Research, Kampala International University (KIU)

Published: 16 June 2000 | **Received:** 13 January 2000 | **Accepted:** 18 April 2000

Correspondence: kmusoke@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18722877](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18722877)

Author notes

Kabwili Musoke is affiliated with Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Mukasa Namugenyi is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Ssemogerere Nakizeya is affiliated with Department of Research, Kampala International University (KIU) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

Uganda's criminal justice system is characterized by a high rate of pre-trial detention, which can lead to human rights abuses and delays in delivering justice. The study employs a qualitative approach by analysing existing laws, court practices, and case studies from Uganda's legal archives. Findings indicate that approximately 60% of detainees awaiting trial remain in custody for more than three months, highlighting the need for systemic changes to mitigate prolonged detention. The current system disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as minors and women, necessitating targeted reforms aimed at reducing pre-trial detention periods. Recommendations include revising bail laws to enhance judicial discretion in granting or denying bail, implementing mandatory time limits for pre-trial detention, and establishing clear guidelines for prosecutors regarding the use of pre-trial detention measures.

Keywords: *African geography, Pre-Trial Detention, Restorative Justice, Community Supervision, Sentencing Reform, Accountability Measures, Alternative Dispute Resolution*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge