



# Criminal Justice Reforms and Pre-Trial Detention Reduction: An Action Research in Uganda

Mulumba Oketch<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Makerere University, Kampala

**Published:** 11 January 2006 | **Received:** 13 August 2005 | **Accepted:** 11 December 2005

**Correspondence:** [moketch@hotmail.com](mailto:moketch@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18838495](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18838495)

## Author notes

*Mulumba Oketch is affiliated with Makerere University, Kampala and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

## Abstract

This study examines criminal justice reforms aimed at reducing pre-trial detention in Uganda's legal system. An action research approach was employed, involving qualitative interviews with judicial officials, prosecutors, defence attorneys, and detainees. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. The analysis revealed a significant reduction in pre-trial detention periods by approximately 30%, particularly among cases handled through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The reforms have contributed to shorter detention times but challenges remain in fully integrating these changes into the existing legal framework. Further research should explore sustainable policy options and community-based alternatives to reduce pre-trial detention.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Legal reform, Pre-trial detention, Stakeholder engagement, Qualitative analysis*

## 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](mailto: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](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge