



Pre-Trial Detention Reform in Uganda: Insights from Criminal Justice System Reforms

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Abstract

Pre-trial detention in Uganda's criminal justice system is a significant issue, with lengthy periods often leading to social and economic burdens for individuals and their families. Qualitative research methods were employed, involving semi-structured interviews conducted in Uganda's capital city. Data collection focused on perspectives from various sectors within the criminal justice system. Interviews revealed a notable reduction in pre-trial detention times by approximately 20% over the last two years, attributed to increased judicial efficiency and community support programmes. Despite initial improvements, challenges remain such as resource constraints and systemic inefficiencies that need further attention to sustain reform progress. Strengthening judicial training, enhancing financial resources for legal aid services, and fostering public-private partnerships are recommended strategies.

Keywords: *African geography, qualitative methodology, justice reform, pre-trial detention, criminal law principles, social impact studies, criminology*

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