



Pre-Trial Detention Reform in Uganda's Criminal Justice System: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Pre-trial detention has been a significant issue in Uganda's criminal justice system, leading to prolonged periods of incarceration for accused individuals before their trials commence. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with legal practitioners and quantitative analysis of court records from selected districts. Comparative data is gathered from peer countries for context. A notable finding indicates that while reforms have led to a reduction in pre-trial detention by around 30%, there are still disparities across different regions and types of crimes, necessitating further targeted interventions. The current reform efforts show promise but require localized adjustments based on regional differences and specific crime patterns. To achieve sustainable improvements, the government should prioritise training for judicial personnel, enhance data collection systems, and implement community-based diversion programmes in high-risk areas.

Keywords: *African criminology, pre-trial detention, incarceration rates, legal reform, procedural justice, restorative practices, comparative jurisprudence*

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