



Reduction Strategies in Pre-Trial Detention within Uganda's Criminal Justice System: A Socio-Legal Analysis

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Abstract

The Uganda Criminal Justice System (UCJS) is characterized by lengthy pre-trial detention periods that can exceed legal limits and disproportionately affect marginalized communities. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with administrative data analysis to assess detention trends and propose reforms. Analysis revealed a significant proportion (42%) of detainees exceeding legal limits, predominantly affecting vulnerable groups such as women and minors. Findings suggest overburdened court systems and inadequate resource allocation are key factors. Pre-trial detention durations in UCJS are excessive, impacting marginalized populations disproportionately. Socio-legal reforms are needed to align with international standards and reduce unnecessary detentions. Implement structured pre-trial detention review processes, allocate resources equitably across courts, and enhance community-based alternatives for low-risk detainees. Criminal Justice System, Pre-Trial Detention, Socio-Legal Analysis, Uganda

Keywords: *African geography, Pre-trial detention, Socio-legal framework, Criminal justice reform, Community engagement, Legal anthropology, Restorative practices*

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