

Uganda Police News

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According to a survey done by HRNJ last week, more than 20 journalists especially photojournalists were unlawfully arrested, tortured and attacked by police and rioters during the three-day riots in Kampala and several parts of Buganda region. HRNJ findings indicate that Police committed 80 per cent of the offences registered during the riots. "All cases recorded were acts of unlawful arrest and detention, torture, cruel inhuman and degrading treatment which undermined articles; 24 and 29(1) of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda and other regional and international treaties to which Uganda is a party," Geoffrey Wokulira Ssebaggala, HRNJ-Uganda Programme Coordinator said. The Kampala Metropolitan Police deputy public relations officer, Mr Henry Kalulu on Saturday said: "I have not received a copy of the survey and therefore I cannot comment." The riots which were sparked off by the government's refusal to allow the Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi to visit Kayunga District left at least 24 people dead and hundreds injured. The number of the victims is likely to go higher as some victims continue to withhold information, according to Mr Ssebaggala. The survey revealed that Police and other security organs which were performing their duties at the behest of Police put reporters at gun point, assaulted, illegally arrested and detained them for reporting about tortured victims and people shot during the riots, according to HRNJ. The attackers confiscated reporters' belongings while others were forced to destroy photographs taken before they were released.