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ACRONYMS

AMI- African Media Initiative
AJWS- American Jewish World Service
CEON- Citizens Elections Observation Network - Uganda
CCEDU- Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy in Uganda
DGF- Democracy Governance Facility
DPI- Defenders Protection Initiative
FOE- Freedom of Expression
FOE-I Freedom of Expression and Information
HURINET-U- Human Rights Network- Uganda
HRNJ-Uganda- Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda
IECs- Information Education and Communication Materials
IIBMS- Institute of International Business and Media Studies
MLDI- Media Legal Defence Initiative
MUK- Makerere University
OSIEA- Open Society Initiative East Africa
UIBMS- Uganda Institute for Business and Media Studies
UMCAT- Uganda Media Consultants and Trainers
UHRC- Uganda Human Rights Commission
A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

HRNJ-Uganda has continued to defend and promote media freedom in Uganda. It’s vivid that the media in the country has experienced challenges in the recent past which calls for critical analysis and intense action and interventions.

HRNJ-Uganda takes cognizance of the fact that there are many violations of journalists’ rights and media freedom such as interference with opinion held or expressed, censorship, confiscation of media equipments and property, violent attacks, lack of equal access to the media, self-censorship, summary termination of journalists contracts and thriving impunity of perpetrators.

As an organization, we seek to work with partners and find solutions while advocating for a favourable operational environment for journalists and the media as underscored in national, regional and international human rights instruments. Am glad that we are making strides of engaging partners through our networking strategy at the national level such as CEON, CCEDU, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders, AFIC, to mention. We are also strongly networking regionally and internationally with organisations such as AFEX, AFIC, AMI and IFEX.

HRNJ-Uganda has continued to further cause through monitoring and documentation of abuses, offering free legal aid to victim journalists, training and educating journalists and students, exchange programmes and establishing strong institutional arrangements. I would like to extend my gratitude to DGF, Open Society Initiative East Africa (OSIEA), MLDI, American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Embassy of Finland (Nairobi), Lifeline, Embassy of Canada (Nairobi), Freedom House and IFEX who have been the main funders of our programmes and projects.

To all journalists, partners and the general public, the challenge to defend the media and promote journalists’ rights for effective realization of Freedom of Expression and Information in our country is still with us and we must not give up the struggle since it’s fundamental in entrenching democracy and good governance in the country.

Mr. Esegu Julius

Chairperson,
HRNJ-Ugandaganda Executive Board
A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

On behalf of HRNJ-Uganda staff and on my own behalf, I wish to sincerely thank our Executive Board, esteemed members, development partners, media practitioners, consultants, advisors and well-wishers that have unreservedly supported HRNJ-Uganda in executing her activities in accordance with its core values of integrity, team work, equality, courage and transparency.

The year 2014-2015 presented major challenges as well as opportunities in terms of advancement of the HRNJ-Uganda vision and mission. This annual report highlights the growth of the Organisation institutionally, in context and content. HRNJ-Uganda has five (5) thematic areas; Advocacy and Networking, Research and Documentation, Capacity building and Institutional Growth, Legal Aid and Support, and Finance and Administration.

To all our colleagues in the network, technical partners, donors, mass communication students in our partner universities and institutions and the entire civil society spectrum in Uganda, we are greatly indebted to you for the achievements reflected in this report. HRNJ-Uganda field monitors, national and regional members, National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, National Freedom of Expression and Information, Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy (CCEDU), Citizens Elections Observers Network (CEON-U), African Media Initiative (AMI) in Nairobi, African Freedom of Information Center (AFIC), the African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX), International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI), East and Horn Human Rights Defenders Project, HURINET-Uganda, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Human Rights Center-Uganda to mention but a few, are all commendable key partners which HRNJ-Uganda implores to continue creating new standards and confront the common challenges we face especially from those that perpetrate abuses against journalists. To the secretariat staff, your tireless efforts have yielded tremendous results amidst serious challenges; you always keep propelling HRNJ-Uganda to greater heights.

We are grateful to our donors, namely; Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI), Finish Embassy (Nairobi), Freedom House, Lifeline and IFEX, who have made it possible for us to implement activities and offered sufficient technical support.

ROBERT SSEMPALA

HRNJ-Uganda National Coordinator
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda-Uganda (HRNJ-Uganda) remains on course as it continues to grow from strength to strength. Its mandate has remained unique given that it is one of the outstanding organizations promoting and defending media freedoms and rights of journalists in Uganda.

The reporting period between Dec. 2014 and Nov. 2015 was another challenging year for HRNJ-Uganda. There were persistent violation of journalists’ rights and harassment. Journalists have been physically abused, shot, held incommunicado, tortured, had their gadgets destroyed, summarily terminated from work, endured hash bad conditions, intimidated and harassed. The legal regime has not been helpful either because most of the unfriendly media laws remain unamended and the operational context remains abysmal.

In spite of the challenging operational context, HRNJ-Uganda continued to analyze bills and laws that infringe media and press freedom with a view of making recommendations to policy and law makers. Advocacy work on situations in which journalists operate continued through networking and consultative engagements. These provided the Network with the platform to air out concerns in respect to the working environment of journalists and create new alliances nationally, regionally and internationally.

HRNJ-Uganda continued to research, monitor and document issues affecting journalists in Uganda. A country situational report – the Press Freedom Index (2013-2014) on press freedom was released which highlighted the challenges and violations that journalists encountered. This report helped HRNJ-Uganda and the general public to understand the plight of journalists and forge possible strategies informed by the findings.

HRNJ-Uganda produced Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on the plight and responsibilities of journalists. The materials included t-shirts, banners and fliers published in English. It was imperative that the messages reach a wider public.

The Network built capacities of journalists on professional and ethical reporting, personal physical and digital security essential for staying safe both off and online as they expedite their work. It also created platforms of dialogue with media owners and relevant government institutions to her work.

HRNJ-Uganda undertook legal action against errant public officials and members of the public that violated and abused journalist’s rights. The District Police Commanders of Old Kampala and Wandegeya Jorum Tusingwire and Julius Ceaser Tusingwire have been taken to court for assaulting journalists Andrew Lwanga and Mulindwa Mukasa respectively. A host of cases remain on course in different courts of law and others at the tribunal of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) in search of justice for victim journalists. A number of journalists have been released from police with the intervention of the HRNJ-Uganda team and others compensated out of amicable settlement of their cases with HRNJ-Uganda leading in the mediation.

The Network plans to continue striving for the full realization of her mandate by contributing to the promotion, protection and fulfillment of journalists’ rights, media freedoms and people’s rights.
Our Vision
An informed and respectful society of human rights free from abuse

Our Mission
Enhancing promotion, protection and respect of human rights through defending and building capacities of journalists to effectively exercise their constitutional rights and fundamental freedoms

Our Values
Team work,
Non-discrimination,
Equal opportunity,
Being visionary,
Determination to succeed,
Perseverance
2.0 ADVOCACY, DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH:

Peaceful Demonstration to Protest against Police Brutality

In January 2015, HRNJ-Uganda conducted a peaceful protest in the aftermath of the assault of WBS Television journalist Andrew Lwanga by the former Old Kampala Police Commander Joram Mwesigye. We mobilized over one hundred (100) journalists in a peaceful walk from Hotel Triangle at Buganda Road in Kampala to the police headquarters in Naguru to petition the Inspector General of Police (IGP) over the incident. Despite the protest turning violent and a few journalists arrested by police along the way including the HRNJ-Uganda National Coordinator Ssempala Robert, the petition was delivered at the police headquarters in Naguru and received by the then Director of Operations Andrew Felix Kaweesa. As a result, Joram Mwesigye was suspended with immediate effect, investigations were ordered by police into the matter and commitment was made to arrange a meeting between journalists and the IGP who was out of the country. Joram was taken to court and hearing is on-going.

The Press Freedom Index Report 2014

In April 2015, HRNJ-Uganda released the Press Freedom Index report 2014. The report is a systematic compilation by the Network that summarizes the state of Press and Media Freedoms in the Country. It was launched by Mr. Richard Mugisha, the Open Society Eastern Africa Country Head. In attendance at the launch also, was the Media Programmes Manager of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) Ms Barbara Musoke Ntambi. The event was also attended by a wide range of stakeholders from the media fraternity, police, government, the donor community, diplomatic missions and the wider civil society. The report indicated that the
status quo did not change as much given that about 124 cases of violations and abuses against journalists were recorded just as in the previous year. Police and the judiciary were highlighted as the main perpetrators. The index was supported by the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) and the Finnish Embassy (Nairobi).

Monitoring and Reporting Violations and Abuses

Throughout the year, the Network monitored and documented violations and abuse of journalists’ and media freedoms. Over eight (80) alerts were written and released about these incidents as reports from all parts of the country by the field monitors. This intervention permitted timely reaction to the victims and publicity of their plight with a view of achieving remedial action.

Survey; State of Journalists Safety, Security and Professionalism in Uganda

HRNJ-Uganda commissioned a research in January, 2014 to scrutinize the relationship between journalists’ ethical conduct and their personal security. The research was an attempt to respond to lingering questions about the conduct of journalists in Uganda that has been questioned by various sections of government and the people generally. HRNJ-Uganda set out to systematically study this perception and as result the survey made glaring findings. It established that while there are violations meted against journalists in Uganda, not all of them stem from non-professional conduct. It revealed that some journalists are indeed not conversant with the legal frameworks that govern the profession; some indulge in taking bribes, compromise on revealing their sources, lack adequate reporting skills among others. The survey was conducted by Paul Kimumwe (Lead Researcher) and a team of research assistants that included; Benon Kanamwangye, Ivan Mpaata, Sam Lawino, Julius Esegu, Eddie Bindhe, Brian
Luwagga, Kibwika Saleh, Diana Nandudu, Emmanuel Magambo and Ninsiima Enid, among others.

**Media Campaign:**

The Network undertook various campaigns through print and electronic media which complemented the advocacy efforts for effective defence and promotion of journalists’ rights. These included;

**a) Press Conferences**

Five (4) press conferences were held to counter attacks on journalists and the media. The press conferences also provided a platform to depict HRNJ-Uganda position on such attacks with a view of ensuring that journalists and media freedoms are enjoyed and protected.

Table showing press conferences held

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Month</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 13th 2015</td>
<td>Condemnation of police brutality on Journalists in the aftermath of the attack on Andrew Lwanga of WBS TV by Joram Mwesigye DPC Old Kampala</td>
<td>Hotel Triangle Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13th 2015</td>
<td>Proposed suspension of experienced journalists from covering parliamentary business</td>
<td>Hotel Triangle Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6th 2015</td>
<td>Condemnation of HRNJ-Uganda office break-in by suspected security operatives</td>
<td>Hotel Triangle Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1st 2015</td>
<td>Condemnation of Criminal Libel</td>
<td>Hotel Triangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14th 2015</td>
<td>Condemnation of criminalization of journalist’s work by the police</td>
<td>Hotel Triangle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b) Radio and Television Talk Shows

HRNJ-Uganda considers the media as a strategic platform for advocacy to engage the public in her various campaigns. The Network held multiple radio and television talk shows to raise awareness about journalists’ freedoms and respond to abuses and attacks on media. Cognizant of the fact that the Ugandan society largely depends on the media for information, education and entertainment, HRNJ-Uganda used this platform majorly to campaign for a conducive operational environment for journalists in the country and sensitizing the general public about the role and importance of the media as a way of contributing to an independent and secure working environment for the media in the country.

HRNJ-Uganda was hosted on the following media outlets;

Top TV, NBS TV, Record TV, Channel 44 TV, NTV, Urban TV and WBS TV, 93.3 Kfm, Pearl of Africa 107.9 fm, Top Radio 89.6 fm, Radio Sapientia, Prime Radio, Inaman radio Kasubi, Power fm, Voice of Africa, Bulaade FM-Masaka, Innerman radio, Voice of Teso- Soroti, Baba Fm, Hits FM(Fort Portal) Kingdom FM, Mama FM, Radio Simba, Ssuubi FM, Gulu Fm-Gulu, CBS FM, Radio One, among others.
c) Website and social networks:

HRNJ-Uganda has maintained and updated its website –www.hrnjuganda.org, facebook profile –hrnjuganda, facebook page –human rights network for journalist uganda, Twitter - @hrnjuganda, Toll freeline 0800144155, Emergency line 0754226158. This has enabled the organization to maintain an online presence depicting adaptability to new technologies in advancing strategies aimed at amplifying HRNJ-Uganda mandate online.

Multi-stakeholder Consultative Meetings

In the advent of perceived unethical conduct of journalists, HRNJ-Uganda with support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), created space for national and regional multi-stakeholder consultative meetings aimed at discussing the common ethical dilemmas for journalists in order to find common solutions. The meetings also sought to underline systematic linkages relevant in addressing journalistic problems through interactive dialogue. In total, seven (7) meetings were held across the country; in Central (Kampala), Northern (Gulu), North Western (Arua), North Eastern (Soroti), Eastern (Jinja) Southern (Masaka) Western (Fort Portal). The meetings were attended by a wide range of stakeholders that included the police, army, local governments’ representatives, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), cultural heads, judiciary and representatives of the wider civil society. In total over seventy (70) stakeholders were met and major recommendations made that included; establishing a regular forum for interface, engaging media owners on professionalism and welfare of journalists, conduct further trainings for journalists on ethical conduct, sharing ethical codes with media houses among others. Some of the key stakeholders engaged were; the Minister of Internal Affairs, Jinja LCV Jinja Fredderick Ngobi Gume, Masaka LCV Joseph Kalungi, Kabarole LCV Rwabuhinga Dan, RDC Masaka Linos Ngopeke and RDC Kabarole Stephen Asiimwe. The meetings were facilitated by HRNJ-Uganda staff with the respective Board members.
Production of Information, Education and Information Materials (IECs)

HRNJ-Uganda takes cognizance of the significance of IECs in educating and sensitizing the public about journalists and media freedoms. Accordingly, the Network produced IEC materials about the rights and freedoms of journalists and the media. These included 200 T-shirts, 4 drop down banners, 2 hanging banners, 1000 posters and 500 fliers. The IECs were widely
disseminated at workshops and other public gatherings to all HRNJ-Uganda stakeholders. However even visitors and prospective clients of the Organisation were given the publications.

![Image](image_url)

*Some of the IEC materials developed by HRNJ-Uganda for professionalism, safety and security, and general media campaigns*

### Development of a journalists Handbook on Safety and Security

As elections draw close, HRNJ-Uganda with support from the DGF developed a security and safety handbook for journalists in Uganda. The handbook was developed to enhance security of journalists during the election period with a view of minimizing risks and threats. The tool is easy to use and portable at all circumstances and it's expected that journalists will make important use of this handbook to enhance their personal safety and security.

### 3.0 CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Training; Journalists Ethical and Professional Conduct

Between the months of April and August 2015, HRNJ-Uganda under the auspices of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) conducted six (6) trainings to enhance ethical and professional conduct of journalists in Uganda. The trainings were a culmination of the undertaken survey “*The state of Uganda Journalists’ Safety, Security and Professionalism*” that made glaring findings about existing flaws that have affect the media industry. The trainings took place in West Nile (Arua), Northern (Gulu), North Eastern (Soroti), Eastern (Jinja), Western(Fort Portal) and Southern (Masaka). Each training on ethical conduct comprised just
over fifty (50) bringing the total to three hundred (300) journalists that benefitted. The workshops were facilitated by Mr. John Bosco Wasswa and HRNJ-Uganda staff.

Follow up Meetings on the Training; Ethical and Professional Conduct

HRNJ-Uganda undertook five (5) follow up meetings in relation to the aforementioned trainings of journalists on Ethical and Professional Conduct in five (5) different regions of the country between July and November, 2015. The meetings aimed at assessing best practices in the aftermath of the training of the training and application of the knowledge acquired during the actual trainings between the months of April and August 2015. HRNJ-Uganda also set out to assess prevalent gaps and challenges regarding ethical conduct of journalists in Uganda. Over 250 beneficiaries of the trainings were met and further discussions ensued that depicted application of the knowledge although some journalists confessed that some ethical dilemmas still existed. During the follow ups, some positive lessons were reported that included; one journalist in Zombo who secured a scholarship by applying the knowledge acquired in the training, luke Kamwa a journalist based in Jinja who works with Busoga Fm was able to demand for formal police letter requesting for his programme recordings that he personally attributes to the training on professionalism and in Pader, journalists revived their local association to collectively demand for their freedoms after attending the training.

Training; Personal and Digital Security

In the Month of October and November, HRNJ-Uganda carried out three (3) trainings on personal and digital security in three (3) different regions of the country. They were held in
Soroti for journalists from North Eastern Uganda, Jinja for journalists from the Eastern part of the country and Masaka for journalists from Central Uganda. The security trainings aimed at enhancing journalists’ capacities on management of personal and digital security as the country draws towards the 2016 presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. Each training attracted 50 journalists and in total 150 were able to benefit. Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI) in conjunction with HRNJ-Uganda facilitated the trainings. Consequently, journalists in the targeted regions acquired relevant skills and knowledge of averting risks and threats while covering the upcoming elections which could minimize on the number of victims in a period that is synonymous with rise in abuse and violation of journalists’ freedoms judging from previously held elections in Uganda.

Regional Exchange Programme

HRNJ-Uganda is cognizant of the importance of exchange studies and programmes in developing journalists’ capacities and competences. In July, a team of ten (10) journalists and staff of HRNJ-Uganda travelled to Nairobi -Kenya for an exchange study programme with likeminded organisations under the auspices of the Finnish Embassy (Nairobi). The team comprised of; Esegu Julius (Teso Broadcasting Service and Chairperson HRNJ-Uganda), Ssempala Robert the National Coordinator, Francis Tumwekwasize (AP and Treasurer HRNJ-Uganda), Enid Ninsiima (Daily Monitor), Moses Magoola (HRNJ-Uganda), Bahati Remmy (NBS TV), Sadab Kitata (The Observer), Mulindwa Mukasa (Associated Press and Former Chairperson of HRNJ-Uganda), Emmanuel Magambo (HRNJ-Uganda) and Ernest Wisdom Kiyonga (NTV). The team was hosted by the African Media Initiative (AMI) -a continental body based in Nairobi to which HRNJ-Uganda is a member. Throughout the one (1) week, the team visited the African Media Initiative (AMI) Secretariat, the Kenyan Media Council, the Kenyan Human Rights Defenders Coalition, Kenyan Administrative Police Headquarters, and a seasoned Kenyan Human Rights Activist Hon. John Gitobu. Consequently, best practices were learnt, experience shared, networks established and opportunities created. In relation to the above, a participant of the exchange Bahati Remmy of NBS Television was able to land an opportunity to do live
reporting of the visit of the US President to Kenya in July, 2015, and also landed a training opportunity on the role of new technologies in journalism shortly after the exchange. Also, HRNJ-Uganda was invited to the African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF) in November 2015.

USA Fellowship: In September, the HRNJ-Uganda National Coordinator was solely selected from over seventy (70) other distinguished Ugandans to attend an International Visitors Learning Program (IVLP) on ‘Engaging Citizenry through Social Media’ supported by the US Department of State. The fellowship program targets emerging leaders across the globe, and selection is on merit as determined by the US Embassy officials of the respective countries. The program was co-attended by 13 other participants from Africa and Asia.
National, Regional and International Linkages

HRNJ-Uganda considers networking at the national, regional and international levels a major institutional imperative in amplifying violations and concerns of journalists at the continental and global levels for solidarity and collective action. This year, the network maintained her membership in different national, regional and international networks. Nationally, HRNJ-Uganda maintained her status as a member of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, CCEDU and joined CEON-U a new elections observatory coalition formed by 15 powerful national human rights and governance civil society Organizations.

At the continental level, the Network retained its membership status with the African Media Initiative (AMI), African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX) and the African Freedom of Information Center (AFIC). HRNJ-Uganda was this year represented at the Annual African Media Leaders Forum (ALMF) organized by AMI in Johannesburg South Africa and was represented by the National Coordinator and the Programmes Manager.
Internationally, HRNJ-Uganda is a member of IFEX and this year in October, attended the Annual General Meeting that was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

And going forward, the Network has applied to join the Global Media Development Forum (GMDF) with a view of seeking support to address common concerns with other global players in the media fraternity.

**Strategic Plan Review Meeting**

In August, 2015, the Network with support from Freedom House hired a consultant Tusiime Patrick to spearhead a process to review and revise the old HRNJ-Uganda strategic plan with a view of developing a new one for the institution. The current Strategic Plan (2012-2015) comes to an end this year and it’s integral to develop a new plan to act as the overarching framework to guide the Network’s interventions in the period 2016- to 2019. The consultant has undertaken a desk review of HRNJ-Uganda documentation and held a meeting with staff and Executive Board of the Organisation to identify prevalent needs so as to develop a Strategic Plan that is well informed by the memberships and addressing core needs of the organization as reflected in the diverse literature and those views shared by the members.

**Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA)**

In September, HRNJ-Uganda with support from Freedom House undertook an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) to establish prevalent capacity gaps. The assessment was facilitated by Freedom House Capacity building Officer Bob Wanyama aided by a tool designed to identify capacity gaps. The tool was participatory and aided staff to systematically assess twenty four (24) capacity areas with a view of prioritizing five (5) major ones that required urgent attention. Staff recommended the following areas for urgent attention; Personal and organizational security, Resource mobilization, Learning and Evaluation, Human Resource Management and Governance.
Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP)

In October, an Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP) was developed for HRNJ-Uganda. This Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP) emanated from the comprehensive organizational capacity assessment (OCA) above that clearly articulated and analyzed the entire institutional capacity elements, identifying the capacity gaps and technical approaches to capacity development for HRNJ-Uganda. Consequently, the ISP will help HRNJ-Uganda strengthen its systems and capacity to implement quality and sustainable programs as an organization but also use ISP as a fundraising tool for organizational capacity development.

Organizational Communication Strategy

The Network's communication’s policy was developed in March, 2015 and currently guides all forms of communication of the organization. It has immensely improved communication both internally and externally.

Resource Mobilization and Fundraising Plan

In operationalizing the HRNJ-Uganda resource mobilization plan of 2012 that was aimed at diversifying her funding sources and institutionalizing fundraising as a core component of the institution, the Network continued to attract new funding and potential funders. This year, Freedom House came on board to offer additional support to the legal department that was constrained with insufficient resources to handle court cases. Also, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) joined many other funders that support HRNJ-Uganda with programme and administrative support aimed at interesting journalists in matters of ethical and professional conduct. And, DGF together with lifeline contributed to compensation of damaged and stolen property when HRNJ-Uganda secretariat office was broken into.
4.0 LEGAL AID AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Analysis of the proposed Amendments to the Press and Journalists Act

This reporting year, HRNJ-Uganda conducted an analysis of proposed amendments to the Press and Journalists Act. The analysis aimed at establishing the unfriendly clauses that infringe journalists and media freedoms. It was conducted by Dan Ngabirano a lecturer of law at Makerere University who was assisted by a team of lawyers and media experts that work closely with HRNJ-Uganda. The analysis has been developed containing suggested alternative clauses that once adopted could improve the Act.

Sensitization Workshop of Journalists on Defamation

HRNJ-Uganda conducted a one (1) day sensitization workshop for Journalists on defamation laws and the media legal environment in Uganda. Thirty one (31) journalists (13 female and 18 male) from Masaka, Kalangala, Bukomansimbi, Sembabule, Rakai, Kalungu districts attended. The workshop was facilitated by the HRNJ-Uganda lawyers Diana Nandudu and Kenneth Ntende. They were assisted by Haruna Kanaabi a seasoned journalist. They were able to equip participants with knowledge on both civil and criminal defamation, the genesis of defamation and types of privileged statements that do not amount to defamation.

Sensitization Workshops; Human Rights, Justice and the law

Between October and November 2015, HRNJ-Uganda conducted three (3) follow up workshops on previously conducted trainings on human rights, justice and the law. The workshops were held in Gulu for the Northern Uganda journalists, Arua for the journalists in West Nile and Mukono for those from Central Uganda. Each workshop was attended by 50 participants and
over 150 journalists and media practitioners benefited. The methodology was practical compared to the previously conducted trainings that were more theoretical in content about judicial and justice systems of Uganda. This time round, HRNJ-Uganda made it more practical by identifying facilitators and presenters from the Justice, Law and Order Sector and judicial institutions to not only deliver papers but practically synergize with journalists in an interactive forum. The facilitators were drawn from the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Police Force (UPF) and the Judiciary. HRNJ-Uganda critically identified the presenters from the regions within which the workshops were conducted with a view of maximizing context specific interactions. The workshops were also designed this way to create a platform of dialogue for journalists and justice/ judicial representatives who are essential in promoting justice for journalists a feat that resonates with HRNJ-Uganda mandate. Some of the facilitators included; Regional Police Commanders (RPCs), Heads of Regional Human Rights Offices, and Magistrates/ Judges from courts.

**Court Matters**

Several cases are before courts of law involving violations of journalists’ rights and restrictions on media freedom and freedom of expression. Most of the cases are criminal in nature ranging from criminal libel to treason. Some involve journalists who had run to court in pursuit of justice as a result of violation of their rights. Among the most widely publicized case, is one of a WBS TV journalist, Andrew Lwanga who was assaulted by the then Division Police Commander of Old Kampala police, Joram Mwesigye, as he covered a peaceful procession of the unemployed youth who were heading to the police headquarters to petition the Police Chief. Journalists and other rights organisations led by HRNJ-Uganda held a press conference demanding for action, they later matched to the police headquarters at Naguru, but were intercepted by the police along Jinja road, in the process HRNJ-Uganda’ National Coordinator...
Robert Ssempala was arrested together with Ivan Mpaata and another Journalist Ronald Bukenya. Andrew was fundamentally disabled, and he is still on treatment; he walks on clutches, he has not resumed work to date. A case of assault and malicious damage to property against Mwesigye is still going on at the Buganda Road Magistrates Court.

On the regional front, HRNJ-Uganda is in the East African Court of Justice challenging the Constitutionality of the law of criminal defamation. HRNJ-Uganda is working on the case with Chapter Four led by Lawyer Nicholas Opio. Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI) and the African Union Special Rapporteur, among others have joined HRNJ-Uganda in moving court to nullify the challenged law. Hearing is in the offing. The court sits in Arusha, Tanzania. Ronald Ssembuusi of CBS was convicted with defamation; he died after appealing against his conviction and sentence.
The table here below is a list of some of the victim journalists and the cases they are faced with; some were successfully challenged while others are still on-going.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Media house/ Institution</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Adrian Bbale Bwanika</td>
<td>Bukeede TV</td>
<td>Disobeying lawful orders.</td>
<td>Dismissed for want of prosecution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Nyakahuma Timothy Kalyegira</td>
<td>The Uganda Records</td>
<td>Publishing defamatory publications against the President of Uganda over bombs</td>
<td>Dismissed for want of prosecution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ronald Ssembuusi</td>
<td>Freelance journalist attached to CBS fm</td>
<td>Defamation</td>
<td>The appeal at the High Court abated after the demise of Ssembusi on 1st January 2015. A reference was also filed by the late Ssembusi at the East African Court of Justice in Arusha challenging criminal defamation. A legal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Mulindwa Mukasa V Ceaser Tusingwire | Associated Press | Assault | Matter is in High Court and is under mediation. It is coming up on 29th January 2015

5. Uganda v Ssegawa Tamale & ors | Red Pepper and Bukedde Publications | Criminal defamation against city tycoons Ephraim Ntaganda and Drake Lubega | One witness, Ephraim Ntaganda has so far testified against the journalists.

6. HRNJ- Uganda v Attorney General | Challenging provisions of the Press and Journalists Act | Date for hearing is yet to be fixed by the registrar.

7. Mulindwa Mukasa | Associated Press | Obstruction | Mulindwa Mukasa was acquitted on 22nd June 2015.

8. Augustine Okello | Rhino FM Lira | Treason | The case has never been cause listed for hearing. We have however outsourced a lawyer to file an application seeking to review the stringent bail conditions under which Augustine was released.

9. Uganda v Joram Mwesigye | WBS TV | Assault | Last prosecution witness will be testifying on 10th December 2015.

Cases before the Uganda Human Rights Commission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Media House</th>
<th>Complaint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Gideon Tugume</td>
<td>Freelance</td>
<td>Shot in the leg and gadgets confiscated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Hasifa Nakyanzi</td>
<td>WBS</td>
<td>Lost her front teeth after a tear gas canister was thrown at her in Jinja.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE PROGRAMME

The Network continues to strengthen the operational and policy context with the purpose of strengthening its systems, structures and programmes in order to enhance output.

Executive Board Meetings

Two (2) Executive Board meetings were held in February and November 2015. This allowed the board to offer requisite oversight and strategic guidance to the Network.

Improvement of the Comprehensive Finance Manual

HRNJ-Uganda was able to review the Finance and Accounting Manual with the help of a consultant in order to make it more comprehensive and detailed. The aim was to improve the process of adherence to right financial and accounting policies/procedures, and management of grant funds received by the institution.

Compliance with Statutory Obligations

After undertaking a comprehensive tax audit in 2014, the organization was able to clear all its statutory arrears and currently complies with national Tax and Social Security obligations. This critical area was supported by the American Jewish World Services.
The Website

A home page of the newly designed HRNJ-Uganda website, showing a Delta TV journalist lying helplessly on the ground and bleeding profusely from a suspected rubber bullet gunshot while covering the arrest of the Kampala Lord Mayor, Erias Lukwago, at Wakaligga in Kampala. Isaac Kugonza was hospitalized in critical condition. He sustained a ICM long crack on his skull and a severe blood clot.

The website was redesigned this reporting year to:

- Track software on the website to produce user defined site log reports.
- Embed with streaming content from institutional social media platforms/accounts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, YouTube etc.
- To incorporate a fully interactive feature with feedback forms.
- Install a user friendly content management system that permits non-technical staff to instantly update the website content with specific pages.
- And, enable easy site navigation that eases finding of information on the website.

This was intended to enhance the Networks online presence and adaptability to new technologies that have become more relevant in modern journalism.
Recruitment

This reporting year, HRNJ-Uganda recruited two new staff, Kenneth Ntende a lawyer that replaced Catherine Anite who went for further studies and Prossy Ogwang a new Project Officer handling the Project "Bolstering professional capacities of journalists to enhance their personal safety and security to minimize risks and threats”

6.0 FINANCIAL REPORTS SUMMARY.

The financial department develops and implements control systems for financial analysis reporting for a transparent and effective management of resources. In the reporting period, HRNJ-Uganda books of accounts were audited by Gold Gate Auditors.

HRNJ-Uganda continued to receive donations from funders which enabled it to carry on with its activities throughout the reporting period.

In 2013-2014 financial year, HRNJ-Uganda received funding from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) OSIEA, AJWS, MLDI, the Embassy of Finland (Nairobi), Freedom House, Lifeline and IFEX in supporting programmes and projects.

7.0 CHALLENGES

1. Office Break-in

On the night of 29th June 2014, the HRNJ-Uganda secretariat premises were broken into by robbers. Five (5) million shillings was taken and property worth thirty (30) million was damaged. Some staff continued to be intimidated and harassed and this constrained the smooth management and running of the organisation. Recovery efforts were however taken, and the Secretariat shortly after resumed normal operations, thanks to DGF and Lifeline who supported us on this front.

On the left is the safe box of HRNJ-Uganda that was recovered from Rubaga Police post and on the right is the National Coordinator’s window which unknown people entered through
2. Bulging Expectations

As HRNJ-Uganda continues to grow, demands from journalists for its services grow along. It was not able to effectively meet all expectations of journalists in the country. HRNJ-Uganda is working around the clock to expeditiously deal with emerging issues of journalists as they occur within her means.

3. Insufficient Funding

HRNJ-Uganda still had funding gaps and this presented a big challenge. The network still survives under project funding which is not sustainable and flexible. However, a robust fundraising plan was initiated to help secure funds needed to effectively achieve its objectives.

HRNJ-Uganda also needs an emergency fund to enable it respond to ever bulging journalists’ urgent needs and actions

4. Compromise

Victim journalists are compromised by their perpetrators to withdraw cases from court which wasted resources of the organization given that cases were not pursued to their logical conclusion.

5. Delay of Justice:

The cases involving journalists have continuously been dragging and this has delayed justice for the victims, while some journalists have in turn given up on court processes.

6. Transport:

Transport is still a big challenge given that the organization still lacks an institutional car.

8. Delayed Membership Subscription:

Most members of HRNJ-Uganda have always delayed to renew their annual membership subscription, even after kind reminders of the respective officer in charge of membership.
8.0 SUCCESS INDICATORS:

1. Some security operatives have been suspended as a result of HRNJ-Uganda advocacy.

2. HRNJ-Uganda has been able to win some court cases thus delivering justice for the victimized journalist.

3. Having a committed and enthusiastic team towards the organization’s work.

4. Cohesion within the team and gaining a lot of experience in the media defence and promotion work.

5. Ownership of the Network’s interventions by a huge number of journalists in Uganda.

6. Recognition and acknowledgement of the Network by national, regional and international stakeholders.

7. HRNJ-Uganda is a model organization in the media defence and promotion work, and therefore it comes in as a reference point for media practitioners and other Human organizations, Embassies and foreign missions.

8. HRNJ-Uganda admission to various continental and international networks indicates continental............
**APPENDIX:**

**HRNJ-Uganda SECRETARIAT STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ssempala Robert</td>
<td>National Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Magoola Moses</td>
<td>Programmes Manager/Capacity building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Diana Nandudu</td>
<td>Acting Legal Aid and Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Michael Kasozi</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Keneth Ntende</td>
<td>Litigation Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Prossy Charlotte Ogwang</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Magambo Emmanuel</td>
<td>Media and IT Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Nakigudde Moureen</td>
<td>Administrative Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mpaata Ivan</td>
<td>Clerk, legal department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HRNJ-Uganda BOARD MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Esegu Julius</td>
<td>Board Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Johnson Mayamba</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Saul Wokulira Wambuzi</td>
<td>Board Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Francis Tumwekwasize</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Gladys Kigozi</td>
<td>Deputy/Vice Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Enid Ninsiima</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Tom Kalumula</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tom Kalumba</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>