

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 23rd -29th July, 2018

Two weeks of #ApaoccupyUN; UN breaks Silence



Some of the scenes at the UN office Norbert Mao the DP president was one of their visitors

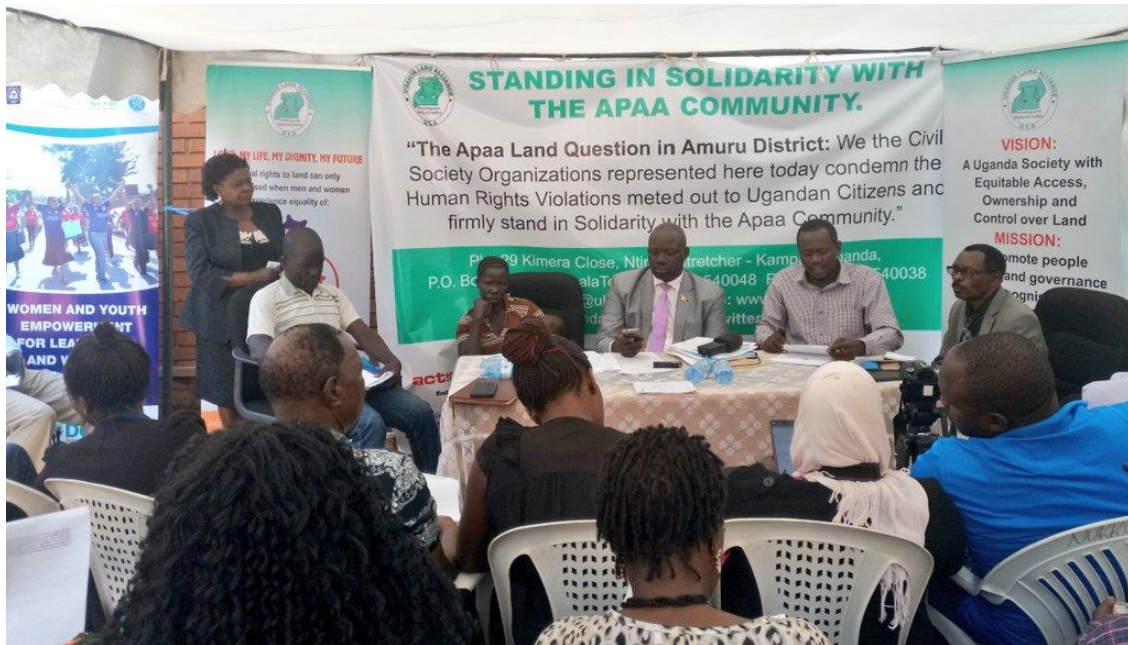
Community petitions all Uganda UN agencies

By Flavia Nalubega

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR has broken silence on the Apaa evictions expressing concern on the displacement of people and destruction of property. This they did in a press statement released on Wednesday July 18, 2018. The UN organization unfortunately did not disclose how it intends to address the problem. "OHCHR management is equally concerned, and working to address the issues you raise," reads an email from Mr Awine Bernard, Public Information Officer Communications, OHCHR in response to an email from journalists.

As they await their fate, the victims have petitioned the diplomatic missions in Uganda. In letters to 4 embassies, they switched their prayer to donors after realizing little support from the human rights agency. "We have sent letters with our concerns to the embassies of Netherlands, Denmark, United States of America and the European Union to come to our rescue. If our land is not given back and security vacate, donors should cut aid to Uganda," said Mr Silvester Odoki, the chairman of Apaa Community. It is been over One week since about 200 residents evicted from their land in Apaa, Amuru district camped at the United Nations office in Gulu demanding donors to cut funds to key government agencies they accuse of their displacement, the locals are yet to get help. They demanded for compensation for injuries, life and property lost. The community is however yet to despair, despite that no person is allowed to visit them at the UNOHCHR Gulu office without permission from UN authorities. Twice water at the office has been disconnected and denied access to food from Gulu woman MP Betty Ocan, moves to frustrate them. They have vowed not to go anywhere unless their demands are met. The UNOHCHR is a United Nations agency that works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

Solidarity with Apaa: CSOs Speak Out!



AAU Campaigns Manager and Interim Board Chair ULA Fredrick Kawooya(2nd Right) reads out a joint press release on behalf of of the CSO fraternity. 2nd left is the MP for Kilak North Hon. Anthony Akol.

Courtsey Photo

By Brenda Namirembe

On Friday 20th July 2018, Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) in partnership with the Civil Society fraternity working on land rights held a press conference at the ULA offices to show solidarity with the people of Apaa as they occupy the UN offices in Gulu demanding for justice.

There were representatives from the Apaa community including the L.C 1 and the area Member of Parliament for Kilak north Hon. Akol Anthony. All panellists called upon fellow Ugandans to stand with the people of Apaa as they are facing gross violation of their right including blocking their voices as they try to get justice.

It was noted that this in not only happening in Apaa but there are vast land evictions in other areas like Buliisa, Kayunga, Mubende among others at the expense of the local communities

There were a series of recommendations to find a lasting solution to this catastrophe including evidence collection to get a fair hearing from higher Courts of law - the International Criminal Court.

For now **let's stand in solidarity with the people of Apaa to protect their rights from being violated #justice4Apaa.**

AAU Gives Relief to Katakwi Flood Affected Families



Ms Akol Anna Immaculate very happy after receiving emergency relief items from AAU. These were handed over by the Vice District Chairperson. Photo by B. Tukei

By Benjamin Tukei

Last week the community of Katakwi was filled with joy and this could not stop praising AAU for coming to their rescue.

AAU provided assorted non- food items which included woolen blankets, Tarplins and soap to 1200 flood affected households in Katakwi. These were distributed to 100 villages drawn from the four most affected sub counties of Magoro, Palam, Ngariam and Usuk.

This followed heavy rains that ravaged the district in the east in the month of May to June destroying over 5000 houses and displacing 455 families and forced to seek temporal shelter in the nearby schools. The fast running water washed away 126 community access roads and 5 major roads were cut off with Magoro, Kapujan and Ongongoja sub counties rendered inaccessible. The rains also affected sanitation in the affected communities as it destroyed over 96 latrines.

The distribution was officiated by the district leadership and subcounty leaders of the affected subcounties.

However, while ActionAid has put smile on the faces of the affected community, they still appeal to government and other development agencies to come in and support especially in the provision of food relief since most of the gardens got submerged and food destroyed. The community has been forced to survive on one meal a day and in most cases, nothing.

This week AAU-Katakwi offices will support 1000 affected families from the worst affected sub-counties of Magoro, Palam, Ngariam and Usuk with food stuffs.

Agricultural Trade Show- Youth Get a Feel of the Sector's Model Practices



Young farmers from YESSSEN project enjoy a photo moment at the 2018 Agricultural show in Jinja. Photo by Simon Wolumeri.

By Norah Nakyegera

Youth under the Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self-Employment for National Development project went for a cross learning visit at the Jinja agricultural show for two days. The show was graced by people from all walks of life such as pupils, students, youth, adults, farmers' associations, cooperatives and government institutions.

At the agricultural show a couple of things were show cased such as seed varieties, demonstration gardens, Farm equipment, organic manure, finished products such as pumpkin porridge , pineapple juice, amaranths snacks among others. During the show the two Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture pillars that stood out the most were water management and soil conservation.

During the review meeting, the youth from Amuru, Kotido, Lira, Pader and Nwoya shared their learning's from the show such as the importance of proper spacing of crops since most of have always used broad casting to brood casting.

Harriet Gimbo, the Director Programs in her closing remarks stated that this visit was very timely. 'Share the knowledge you have gained with the rest of your fellow farmers so that they too benefit and bring

about change in their communities.'

Dismantling Community, Institution and Family Challenges to Address Violence Against Young Women



ASP Francis Ogweng from Child and Family Protection Unit and the “He for She Champion in Uganda was one of the main discussants at the meeting organised by Akina Mama W’ Afrika to discuss GBV .
Courtesy photo

By Joy Lwanga

ActionAid Uganda was invited to share experiences in an advocacy forum on Violence against Young Women organised by Akina mama wa Afrika together with Tu Wezeshe Akina Dada “My Rights My Freedom”. The overall objective of the forum was to locate young women within policy and program interventions tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV) and build a young women-led movement advocating to end of violence against women and girls at all levels. During this fora AAU young women learnt about the impact of the culture of impunity within universities that has left majority of perpetrators free.

During this fora baseline findings from a survey conducted on violence against women in institutions of higher learning were disseminated. Professor Sylvia Tamale, the Chairperson of Makerere University Committee investigating sexual violence lightened some of the challenges young women encountered on a day to day basis ranging from rape by boyfriends, bureaucracies within the education system, the campus environment, sex in exchange for marks, use of obscene language and the culture of silence due to stigma and fear of retribution associated, as well as low levels of awareness on the existing policies and legal frameworks compounded with exposure of young women to exploitation limits their speaking out about the problem.

Professor Sylvia Tamale questioned the increasing femicides compounded by a back clash to those that try to speak out rendered justice to vulnerable young women denied and she linked to the lack of rule of law within Uganda.

ASP Francis Ogweng from Child and Family Protection Unit the “*He for She Champion in Uganda*” high lightened the trafficking of young women to the Middle East and other countries as contributing to exposure of young women to exploitation. He shared with the forum new developments with the new Police leadership to expect a Gender Policy within the Uganda Police which will guide officers on how they must be gender responsive during arrest, investigations and provide quick response and support to GBV survivors and victims.

Anna Adeke the Youth Member of Parliament shared with the fora actions undertaken by parliament in addressing violence against young women ranging from tabling a motion before parliament which lead to the speaker of Parliament making a pronouncement on violence against young women. The Sexual Offences Bill (2015) will soon be tabled before parliament for the 3rd reading which will greatly address the loop holes in the existing legislation.

Oil Debates-Schools Excited About the Next Round



The Extractives Governance Project staff in a meeting with Paidha PTC students and teachers, discussing how they have carried forward the learnings from the inter-school debates on oil that were carried out last year and early this year. **Courtesy photo**

By Flavia Nalubega

Schools in Nebbi, Packwach and Zombo districts still have fond memories of inter school debates competitions that took place last under the oil and gas theme.

They could not hide their excitement when they saw familiar faces from AAU as they shared their progress since the exercise. Some like confirmed that oil and gas has become one of the most debates topics in line with natural resources governance, an every Friday exercise.

From Paidha Primary Teachers' College in Zombo, the teachers incharge confirmed the growing love for debates since the competitions that were funded by AAU.

'The money you gave us was used to buy a cow and we celebrated. Since then the number of debators

has gone up, from 48 to 162' Rev Ozelle Ponsi the incharge of debates at Paidha Primary Teachers' College.' Said.

They however expressed the need for more reading and visibility materials to attract more students into loving debates and expand knowledge about the sector. AAU, through its Youth Having a stake in Extractives Governance Project-funded by Ford Foundation has been organizing inter-secondary and tertiary institutions debates in the oil rich areas as a tool of expounding information sharing about the oil, gas and mining sector in Uganda. The next round scheduled shall be an inter-district school debates competition, that will consider the best schools in each oil district to faceoff each other.



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Global Platforms is ActionAid's network for youth-led activism. We support movements, youth networks, organisations and individuals who promote progressive social, political and economic change around the world.

Through capacity building and support to various youth-led initiatives, we seek to promote young people as drivers of change towards a more just, sustainable and democratic world.

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