



## **UGANDA LAW SOCIETY (ULS) STATEMENT ON THE FORCEFUL ARREST OF KAWESI MURDER SUSPECTS RELEASED ON BAIL**

The Uganda Law Society is deeply concerned about the events that occurred on November 07<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Spear Motors in Nakawa, a few meters away from Nakawa Magistrate's Court. Several media outlets have reported that armed personnel in civilian clothes arrested four of the eight suspects in the murder of former police spokesperson Andrew Felix Kaweesi. These suspects had just been released on mandatory bail by the presiding Grade One Magistrate Noah Sajjabi after spending six months on remand without being committed for trial. The released suspects were: Umar Magada, Ahmed Ssenfuka, Hassan Tusiime, Ibrahim Kisa, Asuman Mugove, Abdul Hamid Magambo, Majid Ojegere and Musa Ntende. By last evening it was not yet clear who had arrested the suspects or where they had been taken.

Pictures particularly show Mr. Ssenfuka, one of the suspects being brutalized and undressed as he was being forced into a car. This was a blatant infringement of his right to dignity.

We find it unacceptable that these arrests were carried out without following due process and in violation of the rights of the accused persons by unidentified persons and unknown reasons. It is also unacceptable that the arrests were conducted in a cruel, inhuman and/or degrading manner.

We condemn in the strongest terms possible this act of lawlessness and we request the security forces to review the incident with a view of holding to account all the individuals involved.

We refuse to accept illegal actions that undermine the independence of the Judiciary and the rule of law in Uganda. We demand that the Government of Uganda ensures that the rights of citizens are respected, and that the independence of the Judiciary is protected at all times.

ULS is in contact with lawyers of the accused persons with a view of giving them further legal support to ensure that these criminals are positively identified and brought to book in the event of no positive action by the Government.

We are all safe when we respect the rule of law at all times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by the name 'Gimara' written in a cursive script.

**Francis Gimara**  
**President, Uganda Law Society**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**