RADICAL NEW BAR

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE ORDER RNB NO. 10 OF 2026

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECTION 3(C) COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF ADVOCATES: DEFENDING THE BAR AGAINST MILITARIZATION

WHEREAS the Uganda Law Society was established in 1956 and celebrates seventy years of service to the legal profession and the rule of law in Uganda;

WHEREAS Section 3(c) of the Uganda Law Society Act, Cap. 305, mandates the Society "to represent, protect and assist members of the legal profession in Uganda as regards conditions of practice and otherwise";

WHEREAS recent events, including the abduction, detention, reported torture and prosecution of members of the Bar, as well as interference with the practice of law, threaten the independence of the legal profession and access to justice;

WHEREAS the Society recognises the need for structured, proactive mechanisms to monitor, respond to, and build resilience against military interference and other emerging threats to the practice of law;

NOW THEREFORE, the Governing Council of the Uganda Law Society, led by Radical New Bar President Isaac K. Ssemakadde, SC, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 3 and 10 of the Uganda Law Society Act, Cap. 305, hereby orders as follows:

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement

1.1 This Order may be cited as the Section 3(c) Committee and International Solidarity Programme Order, 2026, and may be referred to as the "3C-ISP Order, 2026".

1.2 This Order shall come into force on the date of signature by the President and Head of the Bar.

2. Interpretation
2.1 In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires —

a) ‘‘Advocate’’ means an advocate enrolled on the Roll of Advocates of the High Court of Uganda;

b) ‘‘Committee’’ means the Section 3(c) Committee established under section 3;

c) ‘‘ISP’’ means the International Solidarity Programme established under section 6;

d) **‘‘Threat’’** includes —
i) Arrest, detention, abduction, enforced disappearance, assault, or killing;

ii) Intimidation, harassment, or retaliation against an advocate, their family, or staff;

iii) Denial or unreasonable restriction of access to a client, court, or detention facility;

iv) Search, seizure, surveillance, or interception of files, devices, communications, or accounts, including cyber attacks, hacking, spyware, doxxing, and digital surveillance;

v) Prosecution of civilians in military tribunals, or transfer of cases to forums lacking judicial independence;

vi) Judicial intimidation including threats, transfers, sanctions, or adverse decisions targeting an advocate for representations made in good faith;

vii) Administrative harassment including arbitrary suspension, deregistration, tax audits, licensing interference, or denial of practising certificates without due process;

viii) Abuse or weaponisation of laws, including but not limited to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Anti-Terrorism Act, Penal Code Act, and Protection of Sovereignty Act, 2026, particularly through:

- Designation of advocates or clients as ‘‘foreign agents’’ or ‘‘persons acting on behalf of foreign principals’’;
- Freezing of bank accounts, asset seizures, or financial surveillance based on receipt of international funding, grants, or pro bono support;
- Criminalisation of legitimate legal representation, advocacy, or funding under terrorism, money laundering, or sovereignty offences;

ix) Violation of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession, including interference with independence, confidentiality, or freedom of expression of lawyers;

e) "Militarization" means the excessive intrusion of military forces, tactics, or jurisdiction into civilian justice processes and democratic exercises;

f) "UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers" means the Principles adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 1990;

g) "IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession" means the Standards adopted by the International Bar Association in 1990;

h) "Protection of Sovereignty Act, 2026" means the Act of Parliament cited as the Protection of Sovereignty Act, 2026.

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

3. **Establishment of the Section 3(c) Committee**
3.1 There is hereby established a committee of the Uganda Law Society to be known as the Section 3(c) Committee.

4. **Purpose and objectives**
4.1 The purpose of the Committee is to protect advocates and conditions of practice amid militarization, lawfare, and other emerging threats.

4.2 The objectives of the Committee are to —
a) Provide immediate protection and legal response to members facing threats;
b) Defend constitutional guarantees under Chapter Four and advocate privilege;
c) Document, verify and analyse patterns of interference with legal practice, including abuse of legislation;
d) Build member capacity on digital security, rights assertion and risk mitigation;
e) Engage justice actors to secure protocols respecting the independence of the Bar;
f) Coordinate bar-to-bar solidarity, evacuation, shelter and exchange programmes under the ISP.

5. Functions of the Committee
5.1 The Committee shall —
a) Operate a 24-hour hotline and rapid deployment system for members in distress;
b) File habeas corpus, bail applications and other urgent court processes;
c) Maintain a confidential Incident Register, including digital incidents, and publish quarterly bulletins on trends;
d) Issue Know Your Rights materials, Digital Security Protocols and Family Emergency Scripts;
e) Monitor courts and detention facilities for denial of access and fair trial violations;
f) Monitor, document, and challenge the misuse of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Anti-Terrorism Act, Penal Code Act, Protection of Sovereignty Act, 2026, and other legislation against advocates and their clients, including through litigation, petitions, and protective advocacy;

g) Perform such other functions as the Council may assign to safeguard conditions of practice.

6. International Solidarity Programme

6.1 There is established within the Committee the ULS International Solidarity Programme (ISP) to manage bar-to-bar solidarity in respect of Section 3(c) related activities.

6.2 The ISP shall —
a) Coordinate evacuation, temporary shelter and safe relocation programmes for advocates facing imminent risk;
b) Liaise with regional and international bar associations, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) and UN mechanisms to mobilise protective advocacy;
c) Organise exchange programmes, secondments and peer-learning on defending the rule of law under militarised conditions and lawfare;
d) Secure international funding and pro bono support for emergency assistance and legal defence, including defence against financial restrictions and "foreign agent" designations;
e) Submit anonymised data to international human rights mechanisms and collaborate on global reports on threats to lawyers, including abuse of national security and anti-terror laws.

6.3 The ISP Coordinator shall report quarterly to the Committee and the Council.

PART III – COMPOSITION, POWERS AND PROCEDURE

7. Composition of the Committee

7.1 The Committee shall consist of 12 to 15 members appointed by the Council for a term of five years, renewable once.

7.2 The Committee shall comprise —
a) A Chairperson, being an advocate of not less than 10 years' post-enrolment experience;
b) A Vice Chairperson;
c) A Secretary;
d) An ISP Coordinator;
e) 8 to 11 other members with experience in criminal defence, human rights, anti-money laundering law, counter-terrorism law, and digital security.

7.3 The ULS Secretary or his/her designate shall serve as ex-officio Secretary without voting rights.

7.4 The Inaugural Section 3(c) Committee shall comprise the following members:

1. Lillian A. Drabo — Chairperson
2. Steven Kalali — Vice Chairperson
3. Amina Acola — ISP Coordinator
4. David Oluka
5. Arnold Musinguzi
6. Ayesiga Rabecca
7. Mishele Geoffrey
8. Yasin Ssentumbwe Munagomba
9. Calvin Kilama
10. Joy Moureen Adiru
11. Olanya Isaac Ronald
12. Mujoma Abdallah Abdurahman
13. Spinoza Achom
14. Hon. Ssali Babu, Ag. Secretary (ex-officio)

8. Powers of the Committee

8.1 The Committee may —
a) Demand immediate access to detained members and clients in accordance with Article 23(5) of the Constitution;
b) Issue statements and advisories in defence of the Bar;
c) Instruct and brief counsel on urgent applications and constitutional petitions challenging abuse of legislation;
d) Request information from public bodies subject to law;
e) Administer funds allocated from the Legal Assistance Fund for emergency interventions, including legal defence against "foreign agent" or terrorism charges.

9. **Meetings and procedure**
9.1 The Committee shall meet at least once every month and may hold emergency meetings within two hours of a critical incident.

9.2 Quorum for meetings shall be six members, including the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

9.3 The Committee may establish sub-committees, including a Rapid Response Team, a Documentation & Data Team, and a Lawfare Monitoring Team.

10. Reporting

10.1 The Committee shall submit quarterly reports to the Council and publish anonymised bulletins to members and the public, with specific data on threats related to abuse of the AMLA, Anti-Terrorism Act, Penal Code, and Protection of Sovereignty Act, 2026.

10.2 The Committee shall submit an annual report on the state of conditions of practice not later than 31st January each year.

PART IV – MISCELLANEOUS

11. Budget and Secretariat support

11.1 The Council shall allocate funds from the Legal Assistance Fund for the operations of the Committee and the ISP.

11.2 The Secretariat shall provide administrative, communications and data management support to the Committee.

12. Publication and revocation

12.1 Any prior administrative directive inconsistent with this Order is revoked.

12.2 This Executive Order shall be published immediately on the ULS website and circulated via official email to all ULS members.

Issued by the ULS Governing Council at ULS House, Kololo, this 25th day of June 2026.

Isaac K. Ssemakadde, S.C.
President, Uganda Law Society

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

Ssali Babu
Ag. Secretary, Uganda