



## **STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY STATE SECURITY OPERATIVES**

**Rt Hon Speaker,**

**Hon Members of Parliament,**

This statement is made in response to reports of alleged human rights violations by state security operatives.

Rt. Hon Speaker, Hon Members, Government wishes to make its response as follows:

- Criminal offences in Uganda are a creature of the law. So too are the procedures of arrest of suspected offenders. Political party affiliation does not invite criminal liability under our laws. Breach of due process in enforcement of the law also has remedies for those who feel mistreated or unlawfully treated.
- Government does not know and doesn't intend to know the political inclination of all the suspects in custody. Nobody is above the law and any attempt to politicize the handling of offenders would be in breach of the spirit of the constitution and the impartial administration of justice. It would also promote impunity. Those suspects the Hon Members of the opposition claim to speak for and indeed all the suspects in custody, are entreated to have recourse to the remedies provided for in our laws in pursuing the management and conclusion of their cases.

The Minister of Security received a list of names with no other particulars. This list was given to the police and each matter is being investigated separately. The challenge is that the list has only names with no material particulars and it is difficult to search and identify a person only by name. The investigations are ongoing.

All the persons in the custody of the government agencies can and will be accounted for in accordance with the law.

Torture is not a policy of government nor is it even a method of interrogation. The law on this is very clear. The President has in his own words stated the position and policy of government.

Any person who conducts himself or herself in such a manner does so in his or her personal capacity and shall be handled in accordance with the law.

In respect to the charges vide MSK/00/CR/AA/0228/2021, Uganda v Hon. Ssegirinya Muhammad (A6), Hon. Allan Ssewanyana Aloysius (A5) together with 4 others namely A1 Sserwadda Mike, A3 Wamala Bulo, A4 Mugerwa John and A7 Kanyike Jackson i.e. terrorism, aiding and abetting terrorism, 3 counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, the investigations were completed. Both Hon. Allan Ssewanyana Aloysius and Hon. Ssegirinya Muhammed have since been committed for trial in the High Court at Masaka. The state carried out and completed inquiries.

Once court cause lists the cases, the state shall be ready to adduce evidence at the trial.

I submit Rt. Hon Speaker and Hon Members.

Dated at Kampala this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.



Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa

**MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**