

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

Saturday, 17th June 2023

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK BY ADF REBELS ON LUBIRIHA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MPONDWE-BWERA, KASESE DISTRICT.

Kampala Uganda: The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda has with profound sadness received the news of the merciless, gruesome, and cruel massacre of innocent students of Lubiriha S.S in Mpondwe-Bwera, Kasese District. An act allegedly attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

The IRCU in the strongest terms condemns these acts of terrorism, lawlessness and extreme violence meted against innocent students. These barbaric acts are not only against the 1995 Constitutional Provisions requiring respect to the sanctity of life but also against the Holy Scriptures. We are reminded in **Exodus 20:3** '*Thou shall not commit Murder.*' and the **Holy Quran 6:151** '*Do not take a 'human' life—made sacred by Allah—except with 'legal' right.*'

No one has a right to take another person's life. The Council calls upon the members of the armed forces especially the UPDF and the Uganda Police Force to fast track investigations into these horrific murders and bring the culprits to accountability through established legal mechanisms.

We further implore government through the office of the Prime Minister to reach out to the bereaved families and those who are currently hospitalized with the essential support and supplies. We are coordinating our local structures to reach out to the bereaved families, the school, and the authorities to work out an arrangement for decent burial of the demised.

The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda prays for the quick recovery of survivors of the attack who are currently hospitalized.

To the parents who have lost their young people, we grieve with you nonetheless find strength in the word of God. We also further condole with the Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere and all the people in the Rwenzori region upon this tragedy. **Psalm 147:3** - '*He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.*' **Al-Isra, 17:82** '*And We sent down in the Quran such things that have healing and mercy for the believers.*'

This occurrence has robbed the people Kasese of their joy and excitement regarding the freedom of their King, His Highness *Charles Wesley Mumbere*, the Omusinga wa Rwenzururu. Nevertheless, the IRCU calls upon the members of the public to remain calm, united, and vigilant and to further cooperate with security agencies in providing the necessary information aimed at facilitating investigations.

The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda will organize National Prayers for the Bereaved families and the Country at large at a later date to be communicated.

May the Almighty God, continue to uphold and protect our nation from the forces of darkness and lawlessness.

For and God My Country

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

Signed

The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu

Archbishop, Church of Uganda

Chairperson, IRCU Council of Presidents

His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje

Grand Mufti of Uganda

Co-President, IRCU

Rt. Rev. Joseph Antony Zziwa

Bishop Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese

Chairman, Uganda Episcopal Conference

Co-President, IRCU

His Eminence Metropolitan Jeronymos Muzeeyi

Archbishop, Uganda Orthodox Church, Co-President, IRCU

Pr. Dr. Moses Maka Ndimukika
Archbishop, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Uganda
Co-President, IRCU

Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda
Presiding Apostle, Born Again Faith in Uganda
Co-President, IRCU

Bishop Joshua Lwere
National Overseer,
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Co-President, IRCU

Msgr. Charles Kasibante
Vicar General, Archdiocese of Kampala
Chairperson, IRCU Board

Joshua Kitakule
Secretary General
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About us

IRCU is an indigenous, national faith-based organization founded in 2001, uniting the efforts of seven religious institutions to jointly address issues of common concern. IRCU's member organizations are the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Uganda, the Uganda Orthodox Church, the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, Seventh-day Adventist Uganda Union, the Born-Again Faith in Uganda and the Association of Pentecostals and Evangelicals in Uganda. IRCU's Vision is "A divinely peaceful, united, prosperous Uganda where all people enjoy full health and freedoms for the common good." and our Mission is "To promote peace, reconciliation, good governance, and holistic human development through interfaith action and collaboration, advocating for the empowerment of member bodies for the common good."