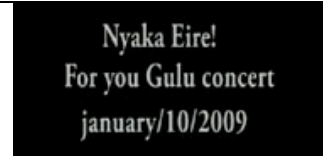


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Uganda Government News: Uganda grapples with homosexual rights issues

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Ultimate Media

As the government of Uganda comes under increasing pressure to stop the spread of whimsicality in the country, Human Rights Watch has called upon the government of Uganda to investigate the alleged detaining and torture of a gay rights activist on trial for protesting against discrimination last month.

Usaam Mukwya and two other gay rights activists were arrested and charged with trespass last month after staging a protest during a global HIV/AIDS conference in Kampala to complain of discrimination.

In a statement today, HRW alleged that Mukwya was last Ferriday picked up by police and taken to an undisclosed location where he was mistreated.

According to the statement, one of the women officers scraped Mukwya's knuckles with a razor-like object, while another tied him to a machine that stretched his arms.

Quoting Mukwya, the New York based human rights watchdog says he was forced to strip to his underwear, asked if he was a man or a woman and made to walk around the room in his underwear before being freed.

Scott Long, HRW's director for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Programme accuses the Uganda government of promoting homophobia against people believed to be gay, instead of protecting all its citizens against HIV/AIDS.

But Police Spokesperson, Judith Nabakoba refuted reports that Mukwya was arrested and tortured. She challenged Mukwya to report the matter formally to the police so that investigation can be carried out.

The government has of recent been grappling with reports of

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increasing homosexuality in the country, with reports that it is being carried out in mostly single sex schools.

Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda and it is punishable by up to life imprisonment. The government is under pressure from human rights groups not to lay a hard hand on homosexuals, while religious leaders and many Ugandan bodies are urging the government to deal the heaviest blow it can on homosexuality describing it as "immoral".

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