



Breaking Through, Building and Binding

## ANALYSIS OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON CASES OF SEXUALISED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA

### 80-year-old woman raped

Police in Masindi District allegedly raping an 80-year-old woman. The victim, who is receiving treatment, said she was threatened by the perpetrator during the struggle.

Makerere

By Milton Tumusiime

A CITY medic is being held at Makerere University Police Station on allegations of rape, assault and threatening violence.

The suspect has been identified as Richard Ekong, a laboratory technician at LANCET Laboratory on Kana Road in



Ekong at police

on Saturday morning. This attack came several months after he had sent her messages threatening to kill her.

"I married him but I ignored him because I wasn't interested in him," Awori said. She says that despite her reluctance, Ekong somehow located her and began stalking her.

"When I stuck to my guns, he started sending me messages threatening to kill me unless I accept his advances," she said.

In fact, one of the messages that she showed the police read, "I will kill you if you don't accept to love me". Scared by the messages, Awori totally cut off communication with Ekong. On Saturday morning, Ekong

but shortly after I came out, I was shocked to find him waiting in my sitting room. He immediately closed the door and told me to either accept to have sex with him or lose my life," Awori narrated. The student added that she was only saved after she raised an alarm and her fellow students rushed to her rescue.

In his statement, Ekong accepted beating the girl and sending her the text messages. He however claimed that he was only threatening her out of desperation but had no intention of killing her.

Makerere University Police boss Kabona Muchunguzi said police have

### Cop Nabbed For Raping Woman held over defiling grandson

By Jackson Kitara

The Police in Nwoya district are holding a 55-year-old woman suspected to have defiled her 14-year-old Primary Four grandson.

The district Police commander Moses Okello identified the suspect as Rose Auma, a resident of Ceke ward in Anaka town, who was arrested on Saturday.

Okello said Auma was arrested after the boy narrated his ordeal to the uncle, who re-

ported the matter to the Police. "The boy claims his grandmother has been defiling him since last year but she warned him not to tell anybody," Okello said.

"She confessed that she is on ARV drugs and defiled the boy under the influence of alcohol. We are waiting for the boy's medical examination report so that she can be prosecuted," he said. Okello said the boy looked traumatised and will be taken for a medical examination in Anaka Hospital today.

"The boy reported the issue to his uncle when he started

seeing changes in his life such as feeling tired after playing with his colleagues, chest pain, cough, headache and feeling pain in his private parts when urinating," Okello said. Okello added that Auma is a widow and was staying with her grandson, who also lost a mother.

The boy reportedly said his grandmother used to return home drunk late in the night and force him into sex. Okello requested NGOs to take care of the boy since he has nowhere to stay at the moment.

(January-December, 2013)

ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT

# Foreword

*Today, just about everyone depends on information and communication to keep their lives moving through daily activities like work, education, health care, leisure activities, entertainment, travelling, personal relationships, and the other stuff with which we are involved.*

*It's not unusual to wake up, check the cellphone for messages and notifications, look at the TV or newspaper for news, read emails, make phone calls, and make decisions based on the information that we gather from those mass media and interpersonal media sources.*

Hence, given this agenda setting role, media informs our beliefs and attitudes about Sexual Violence before any particular event as well as after an event becomes news. Research suggests that media representations of sexual violence can excuse perpetrators, portray survivors as victims who are hopelessly damaged forever.

Crimes of sexual violence are among the most underreported crimes in our society. Compounding the problem is that media coverage of these crimes often perpetuates stereotypes and cultural myths, rather than providing context and increasing understanding or awareness of sexual violence.

On a regular basis, women and girls experience sexual violence. Media practitioners cannot therefore avoid such a complex and challenging topic. However, covering sexual violence requires putting everything into context — an understanding of who perpetrates these crimes, who is affected, and how sexual violence can be prevented. It also requires sensitivity, compassion and professionalism, both in interviewing survivors and in choosing the words to honestly and clearly describe these crimes.

During the analysis, ACFODE appreciated the importance of having community vigilantes who use media to report sexual violence cases and have had some of the perpetrators brought to book. Because of this, the survivors are able to once again feel secure and enjoy their rights.

This analysis report highlights different forms of sexual violence such as rape, aggravated and attempted rape, defilement, attempted and aggravated rape, sexual harassment, incest and child prostitution.

By reading this report, I hope you will join the campaign against sexual violence by reporting cases to the relevant duty bearers, who in turn will do whatever it takes to address the cases reported to them to their conclusion.

**REGINA BAFAKI**

**Executive Director - ACFODE**

# Acknowledgement

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# Table of Contents

FOREWORD	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF ACRONYMS	viii
<b>SECTION ONE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 Justification	3
1.4 Overall objective	3
1.4.1 Specific objectives	3
1.5 Methodology	3
<b>SECTION TWO</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Sexual offences published in newspapers	4
2.2.1 Regional representation of sexual offences published	4
2.2.2 2013 Annual trend estimation	6
2.3 Background characteristics of the survivors and offenders	6
2.3.1 Sex and age of survivors and offenders	6
2.3.2 Relationship between offender and survivor	8
2.3.3 Education level attained by the survivors	8
2.3.4 Employment status of the survivors and offenders	9
2.4 Institution of reporting and status of the reported cases	10
2.5 Newspaper reporting of sexual offences	10
2.6 Terminologies and protection of identity of survivors and offenders.	11
2.7 Summary of the findings	13
<b>SECTION THREE</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>CHALLENGES, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Challenges	14
3.2 Conclusions	14
3.3 Recommendation	15
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>21</b>

# List of Tables

<b>Table 1:</b> Frequencies and percentages sexual offences published	4
<b>Table 2:</b> Education levels sexualised violence survivors and offenders	9
<b>Table 3:</b> Employment status of survivors and offenders	10
<b>Table 4:</b> Institutions where cases were reported and status of follow up of reported cases	10
<b>Table 5:</b> Terminologies used in description of violated persons	12
<b>Table 6:</b> Survivors' and offenders' ages, names and villages published	12

# List of Figures

<b>Figure 1:</b> Regional distribution of published sexual offences	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure 2:</b> Variations in sexual offences from January to December	<b>6</b>
<b>Figure 3:</b> Sexualized Violence offenders by age	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure 4:</b> Survivors of sexualized violence by age	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure 5:</b> Newspapers that published articles on cases of sexualised violence	<b>11</b>

# List of Acronyms

<b>ACFODE</b>	Action for Development
<b>BMZ</b>	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development
<b>CODERASH</b>	Combating all forms of Defilement, Rape and Sexual Harassment
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>STD</b>	Sexually Transmitted Disease
<b>UBOS</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation



## Definitions of various sexual offences.

**Rape:** refers to forced (without consent, or with consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind or by fear of bodily harm) sexual intercourse, including vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by a body part or an object. The definition goes beyond the Penal Code Act (sec. 123) that considers only females as victims.

**Aggravated rape:** is a sexual offence committed by an offender who is infected with HIV or any other STD, is a serial offender, the victim suffers disability or if it is gang rape. This offence is not yet catered for in the Penal Code Act.

**Attempted rape:** this is an attempt to physically force penetration of the vagina or anus, using a penis, and sometimes including other body parts or an object (catered for; Penal Code Act, sec. 125).

**Defilement:** is where a person unlawfully has sexual intercourse with another person who is below the age of eighteen years. The definition goes beyond the Penal Code Act (sec. 129 (1)) that considers only girls as victims of defilement, but recognizes unlawful and indecent assaults of a boy under the age of eighteen years as indecent assault (sec. 147).

**Aggravated defilement:** a person commits the offence of aggravated defilement when the person against whom the offence is committed is below fourteen years, if the offender is infected with HIV, is a guardian or if the victim has a disability. This offence is not yet catered for in the Penal Code Act.

**Attempted defilement:** is an attempt to have sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of eighteen years (Penal Code Act (sec. 129 (2))).

**Incest:** this is where a person has a sexual offence with a relative as per Penal Code Act (sec. 149).

**Sexual harassment:** this is where a person persistently makes any sexual advances or requests which she/he knows or has reasonable grounds to know are unwelcome.

**Prostitution:** means a person who, in public or elsewhere, regularly or habitually holds himself or herself out as available for sexual intercourse or other sexual gratification for monetary or other material gain, and “prostitution” shall be construed accordingly (Penal Code Act (sec. 138)

**Child prostitution:** this is where a person who for monetary consideration, goods and other benefits knowingly permits any child to remain in any premises, for the purpose of causing such a child to participate in any form of sexual act. This definition goes beyond the Penal Code Act (sec. 136); it could be defined as harmful employment as per the Children Act (sec. 8).



# SECTION ONE

## Introduction and Background

### 1.1 Introduction

ACFODE in collaboration with EIRENE and with support from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is implementing the project “Prevention and handling of cases of sexualised violence against girls and women in the rural area of Kisoro district and enforcement of women’s rights on the national level in Uganda”. The main goal of the project is to socially, culturally and economically empower women and girls in the district of Kisoro, Uganda, to enforce their rights and suffer less from sexualised violence.

In a study carried out to determine whether the topic of “sexualised violence against women and girls” is presented in the media, cases of sexualised violence published in the Ugandan print media particularly Bukedde, Monitor, New Vision, Red Pepper and The Observer were recorded for the period of January to December (2013). This report therefore highlights the concept of sexualized violence and also presents findings from a collection of the various published cases of sexualized violence in Uganda for the period.

### 1.2 Background

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report on violence and health (2002), sexualised violence refers to any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work. Sexualised violence is a crime and also a serious public health problem and has a profound short or long-term impact on physical and mental health, such as an increased risk of sexual and reproductive health problems, increased risk of suicide, HIV infection, murder occurring either during a sexual assault or as a result of an honor killing in response to a sexual assault (Jewkes R et al. 2001, “Relationship dynamics and adolescent pregnancy in South Africa”, Miller M. A, 1999, “model to explain the relationship between sexual abuse and HIV risk among women”)

Sexualised violence includes acts of rape, aggravated rape, attempted rape, defilement, aggravated defilement, attempted defilement, incest, sexual harassment, indecent assault, forced under-age marriages, having sex with a woman during her postnatal period, sex in the presence of children, unwanted sexual touches and use of vulgar language. Highlighted on page (Viii) are the various forms of sexualised violence particularly those embarked upon by

this study. In order to establish potential areas for advocacy work, the definitions go beyond the provisions of the Penal Code Act.

Sexualized violence is a serious public health and human rights problem that whether it occurs in the context of an intimate partnership, within the larger family, community structure or during times of conflict, it is a deeply violating and painful experience for the survivor. Women who are victims/survivors of GBV including sexualized violence may have lower levels of productivity on the job and earn less. It may also lead to the inter-generational transmission of violence for example women who are victimized by physical violence whether at the hands of intimate partners or relatives are more likely to use violence in disciplining their children; much scientific evidence has revealed that children exposed to such violence are more likely to engage in violent and delinquent behaviors (World Bank, 2004).

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexualised violence in public spaces are an everyday occurrence for women and girls around the world in urban and rural areas, in developed and developing countries. According to the World Health Organisation Fact Sheet on intimate partner and sexualised violence against women (2013), the recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexualised violence in their lifetime, while 30% of those who have been in a relationship report to have experienced some form of physical or sexualised violence by their partner.

In Uganda, serious crimes have had a gradual reduction over the years from 2008 to 2011, however defilement remains the most common serious crime accounting for over 49.5% of all the serious crimes in 2011; 7564 cases of defilement were recorded in 2009, 7,360 in 2010, 7,690 in 2011 and 8076 in 2012 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics: Statistical Abstract 2013). It should also be noted that the total number of offences is unknown since a lot of cases go un-reported and/or are settled at family or community level.

Child marriage and forced marriage remain abundant in the developing world. More than 64 million girls worldwide are child brides, with 41% in West and Central Africa reporting that they married before the age of 18 (Black, M. 2001, "Early Marriage: Child Spouses"). Among women aged 20-49, 15% were married by age 15, and 49% were married by age 18. The proportion of women married by age 15 has declined over time; from 19% among women currently aged 45-49 to 3% among women currently aged 15-19 (UDHS 2011: 50).

ACFODE has undertaken a number of activities to increase the awareness on sexualised violence among women and men, girls and boys in Uganda and under this project, in Kisoro District in particular, including; training and formation of CODERASH (Combating all forms of Defilement, Rape and Sexual Harassment) committees in the sub counties of Busanza, Kirundo, Nyakanbande and Nyarusiza; training of Senior Woman and Senior Man Teachers of primary schools in the project area; networking with key stakeholders including law enforcers, local leaders and opinion leaders; and regular radio talk shows.

The qualitative and quantitative information about print media reports on cases of sexualised violence from January to December 2013 presented in this report will contribute to ACFODE's national level advocacy work. In addition, ACFODE's content analysis of the print media establishing the extent to which cases of sexualised violence are reported shall contribute to the project's monitoring and evaluation.

### 1.3 Justification

This study was carried out to enable the project implementers establish whether the topic of "sexualised violence against women and girls" is presented in the media and also how often this is done so as to provide guidelines in making conclusions for the advocacy work and the implementation strategies. The study was also to show that sexual offences in Uganda continue to occur and are no longer silenced.

### 1.4 Overall objective

The purpose of this study was to document evidence on how the topic (especially cases) of sexualised violence against girls and women is presented in Ugandan print media.

#### 1.4.1 Specific objectives

- To establish the frequency of newspapers reporting on sexual violence.
- To document the media reports on the process of responding to sexualised violence.
- To find out the language used by the media when presenting a sexualised violence case.

### 1.5 Methodology

Data was collected from the newspapers which included; Bukedde, Monitor, New Vision, Red Pepper and The Observer. It covered the period of January to December 2013 and captured cases of sexualised violence, different regions where they occurred, background characteristics of the survivors and offenders, place where the cases were reported as well as the case justification. Some of the data was recorded using ACFODE weekly round ups especially for Monitor and New Vision. This data was captured in Microsoft Excel and analyzed using SPSS to facilitate interpretation of findings and draw conclusions. A trend line was also fitted to establish the variation in the data.

# SECTION TWO:

## Analysis and Discussion of Findings

### 2.1 Introduction

This section presents the results from the study in form of tables and charts and also provides the interpretation of the findings. Shown in the sub sequent sections are; the frequencies of sexual offences that were published, their regional representation, the annual trend, background characteristics of survivors and offenders, institution of reporting and status of reported cases, the newspapers where cases were published and the terminologies used and protection of identity provided. A summary of the findings is also highlighted at the end of this section.

### 2.2 Sexual offences published in newspapers

From the newspapers, the study captured cases of rape, aggravated rape, attempted rape, defilement, aggravated defilement, attempted defilement, prostitution, child prostitution and sexual harassment. Among those mentioned above, also identified were incest and disability of the victim/survivor. Table 1 shows that aggravated defilement recorded the highest number of cases published (50.9%), followed by defilement (17.5%), rape (14.6%), aggravated rape (6.4%), sexual harassment (5.8%), attempted rape (1.8%), attempted defilement and prostitution (1.2%) and child prostitution (0.6%). The study also discovered that 10 of the

cases were for incest and in 8 cases the victim/survivor was a person living with disability.

**Table 1: Frequencies and percentages sexual offences published.**

Sexual offence published	Frequency	Percentage
Rape	25	14.6
Aggravated rape	11	6.4
Attempted rape	3	1.8
Defilement	30	17.5
Aggravated defilement	87	50.9
Attempted defilement	2	1.2
Prostitution	2	1.2
Child prostitution	1	0.6
Sexual harassment	10	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>

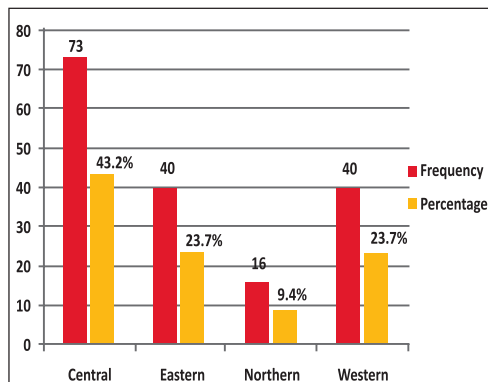
The high number of published aggravated defilement and defilement cases corresponds with the Police Record 2012, which also identifies more cases of unlawful sexual intercourse with minors reported than rape cases.

#### 2.2.1 Regional representation of sexual offences published

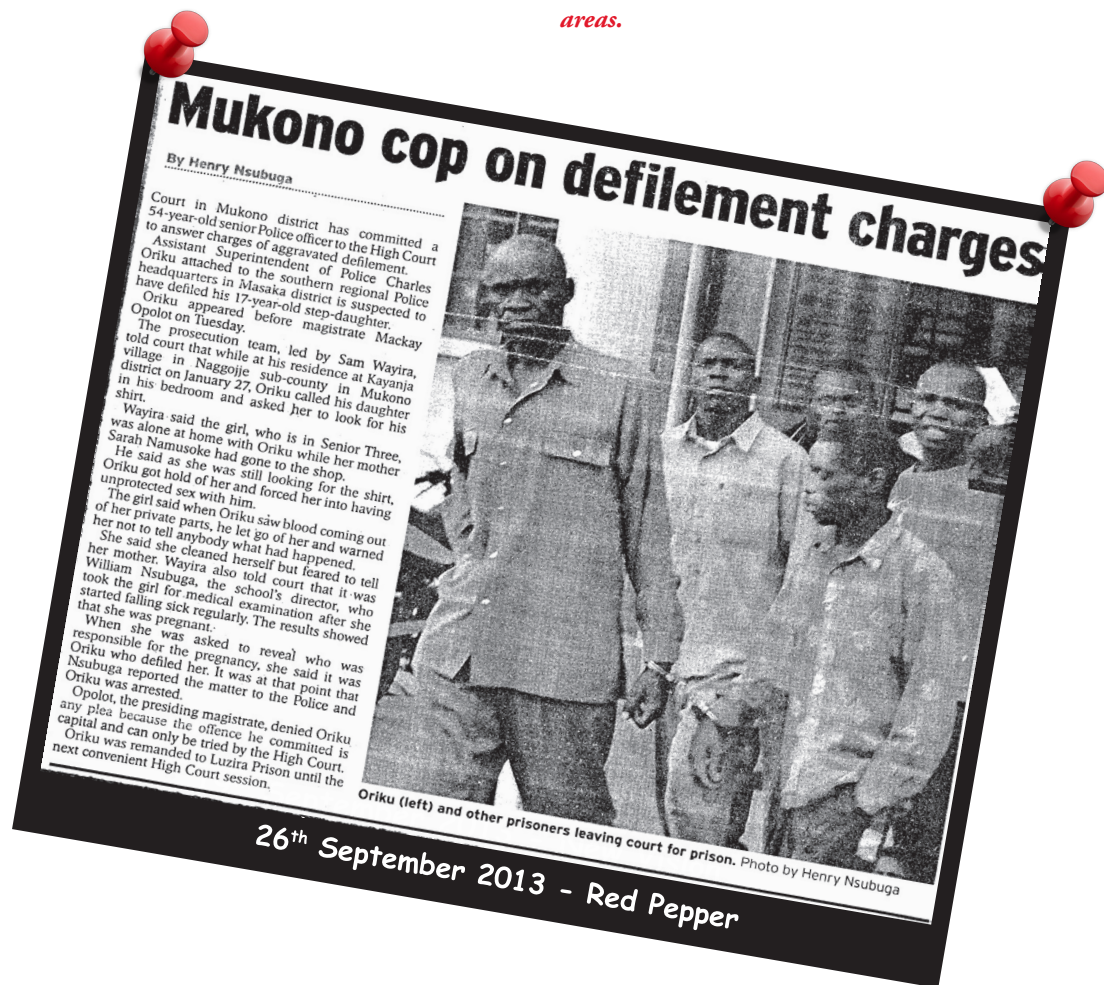
The study captured different districts where the cases were recorded and these were categorized according to the four administrative regions of Uganda which include; Central, Eastern,

Northern, and Western regions. Figure 1 shows the scores of sexual offences in the different regions.

**Figure 1: Regional distribution of published sexual offences**



From figure 1, it is noted that most of the sexual offences were recorded from Central region as indicated by the highest score (43.2%), this was followed by Eastern and Western regions with 23.7% and a few cases were recorded from Northern region (9.4%). In Central region, 34 out of 73 cases were recorded from Kampala district. Such a more or less half fraction shows a nearly significant evidence of high rate of sexual crime in urban areas of the country. However in contrary to the above, *it should be noted that it is much easier to record a case in and around Kampala since there are more journalists, media houses and a lot of influential people/organisations who can push for cases to be published unlike in rural areas.*

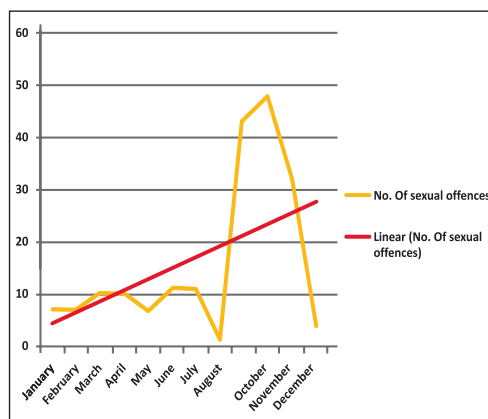


Out of the 40 published cases from the Western region none were recorded from the district of Kisoro. Data collected by the ACFODE field officer in Kisoro indicates that for the same time period, cases of sexual offences were reported at Kisoro District Police Post, and they included; rape (16 cases), defilement (61 cases), child neglect (32 cases), indecent assault (4 cases) and domestic violence (43 cases). Although some of these offences were not captured in the study data set for example; child neglect, indecent assault, domestic violence and child abuse; still defilement had the highest number of cases of sexual offences. Finally, it can be concluded from the above that the print media did not capture any of the reported cases of sexual offences from Kisoro district.

### 2.2.2 2013 Annual trend estimation

An analysis was carried out to realize the variation of publications on sexual offences according to the different months and this was computed for totals of the various cases at large. Although this study indicated an increasing trend of sexual crime rate over the months as observed from figures 2, it would require a long-term study to conclude that the statement is valid because the increase could be explained by a sudden trigger in the number of cases published in the second half of that particular year.

**Figure 2: Variations in sexual offences from January to December**



## 2.3 Background characteristics of the survivors and offenders

These included; sex and age of survivors and offenders, relationship of offenders with survivors, highest education level attained by the survivors and offenders as well as employment status.

### 2.3.1 Sex and age of survivors and offenders

According to this study, 95.3% of the survivors were females while 4.7% were males and 97.7% of offenders were males while 2.3% were females. The survivors and offenders' ages were categorized according to different age groups as shown in figures 3 and 4.





Figure 3: Sexualized violence offenders by age

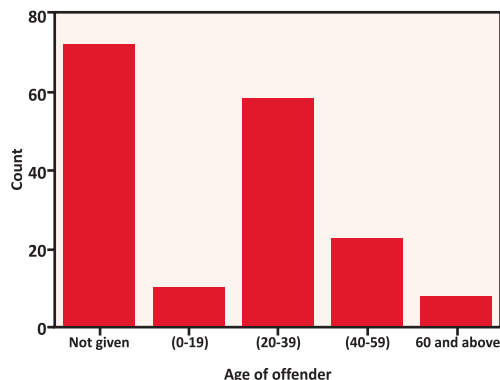
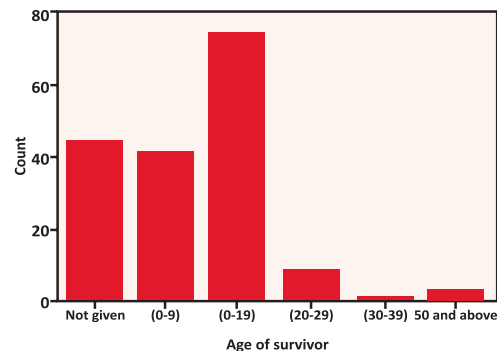


Figure 4: Survivors of sexualized violence by age.



From the figures 3 and 4, it is observed that in the majority of publications, the offenders' ages were not given as indicated by the highest count. Most of the offenders whose ages were given were in the age group 20-39, followed by 40-59, 0-19 and a few were 50 years and above. For the majority of the published cases, the survivors were observed to be between 10 and 19 years, followed by those whose ages were not given, those in the age group 0-9, 20-29, 50 and above, and the least number were aged 30 to 39 (one survivor).

The findings of this report could be a sign of the sexually very active men<sup>1</sup> between ages 20 and 39 being the most offenders. The enormous decline in number of cases published after the survivor reaches the age of 19 can be a sign of vulnerability of minors; it could also be a sign that upon reaching marriage age reporting an incident can be of a disadvantage to the survivor.

<sup>1</sup> Age group 25 to 49 (UDHS 2011:56)



Masindi

## 80-year-old woman raped

Police in Masindi District are holding a man for allegedly raping an 80-year-old woman at the weekend. The victim, from Kinuma village in Mirya Sub-county, is receiving treatment from a nearby health facility. She said the suspect entered her house and grabbed her by the throat before raping her. She said during the struggle, she lost her tooth and the suspect also inserted his finger into her eye. A search was mounted by LCs and the suspect was arrested in Masindi Town. [George Muzoora, Monitor]

20th September 2013 - Monitor

Further studies and engagement of media houses would be needed to establish the cause of this phenomenon.

### 2.3.2 Relationship between offender and survivor

The study also established different relationships that offenders had with survivors among which included; father, husband, headmaster, neighbour, guardian, teacher, employer and pastor. According to this study, in the majority of published cases, the offenders were strangers to the survivors/victims (86 out of 171).

### 2.3.3 Education level attained by the survivors

The variables used for highest education levels attained were P/S representing primary school, S/S representing secondary school and tertiary representing higher institution of learning. Findings revealed that the highest education levels attained by both survivors and offenders were not given in the analyzed publications as indicated by percentages 77.2 and 88.3 for the respective groups. Some articles provided information on education levels; a few more survivors attained primary level (14.6%), a few attained secondary (7.6%) and very few attained tertiary level; where the education level of the offender was given, they attained tertiary level of education (11.7%). Table 2 summarises the results for the above interpretation.

Milton Tumusiime

POLICE officer arrested to Central Police station is being held for rape.

The cop has been identified as Sgt. Denis Apochi. According to reliable sources, Apochi was dragged to Wandegaya Police Station after he allegedly nabbed a female suspect. Apochi's victim was

detained at CPS on charges of stealing shs3m from her boss.

It is said that on realizing her desperation to get out of the cells, Apochi approached her and offered to help her out. This was on condition that he would give her a half (Shs1.5m) of the

money she stole. Police sources say that deep in the night, Apochi summoned the suspect from her cell and told her to follow him to his office Room 54. On reaching there he tabled his request of the money but the suspect told him she didn't have it. He told her to go back. A few

minutes later, he went back and summoned her back to his office; claiming he was ready to help her free of charge.

When the woman reached his office however, Apochi descended on her and began ripping off her clothes. This forced the suspect

to raise an alarm that attracted other cops who came and arrested their colleague.

When contacted for comment, Wandegaya Police boss Caesar Tusingwire confirmed the officer's arrest. He added that he was detained at Wandegaya to save him from being harassed by other suspects at CPS. The case registered vide reference SD 29/22/10/201

## Cop Nabbed For Raping Suspect

22nd October, 2013 - Red Pepper

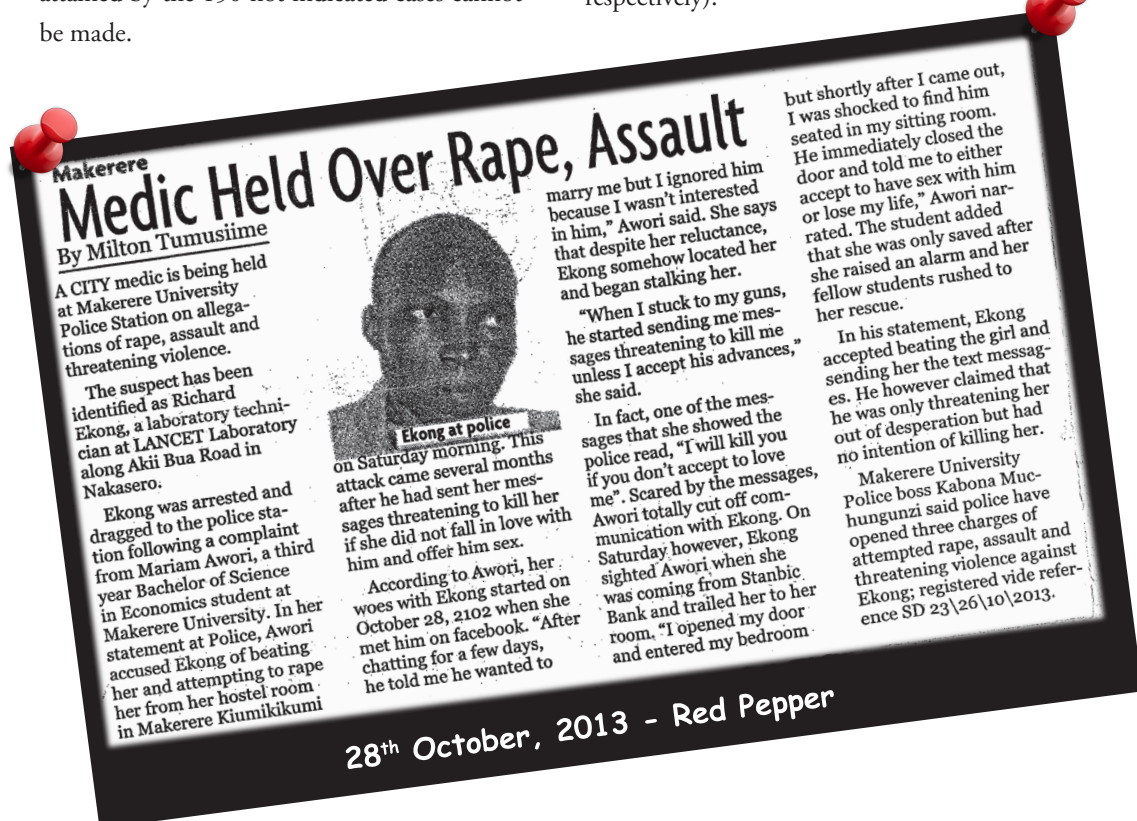
Table 2: Education Levels of sexual violence survivors and offenders

Education level	Survivor		Offender	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Not given	132	77.2	151	88.3
P/S	25	14.6		
S/S	13	7.6		
Tertiary	1	0.6	20	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Although the numbers are not representative, there is a trend of education level decreasing the vulnerability to sexualised violence among the survivors. Against expectations, the education levels of offenders were only given when the person had attained tertiary education. Since they are more than 10% it can be assumed that education may not prevent one from committing sexual offences. A proper estimation about the levels of education attained by the 150 not indicated cases cannot be made.

### 2.3.4 Employment status of the survivors and offenders

The study also captured the employment status of the survivors and offenders; the variables used were “yes” for those who were employed and “no” for those who were unemployed. However, the employment status for both the survivors and offenders was not given in majority of the cases published as indicated by a higher percentage in table 3 (97.1% and 69.6% respectively).



**Table 3: Employment status of survivors and offenders**

Employment status	Survivor		Offender	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Not given	166	97.1	119	69.6
Yes	5	2.9	47	27.5
No			5	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Some articles provided information on education levels; 2.9% of the survivors were employed as well as 27.5% of the offenders; a small percentage of offenders (2.9%) were unemployed as shown in table 3.

Since more than 1 in 5 offenders as presented by the newspapers were employed it can be assumed that employment may also not prevent one from committing any sexual offence.

## 2.4 Institution of reporting and status of the reported cases

This sub section highlights the referral points where the cases were reported and (to some extent) what happened after. Majority of the published cases were reported to the police (62.6%) as indicated in table 4, this was followed by those whose referral points were not given (28.7%), those that were reported to court (3.5%), those reported to a local authority (2.9%) and finally those that were reported to parents/guardians (2.3%). Table 4 also shows

the status of the reported cases for which 35.1%, the offenders were in prison though not sentenced, for 22.2%, the offenders were sentenced, 21.1% of the cases were reported to be in court, for 11.1%, the offenders were not sentenced and 10.5% indicates cases whose status was not given.

It was beyond the objectives of this study to establish the reasons related to why some of the offenders were not sentenced so the study cannot provide a valid conclusion regarding that particular subject.

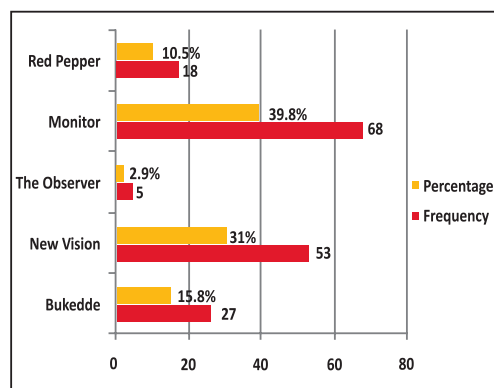
## 2.5 Newspaper reporting of sexual offences

As mentioned earlier in section one of this report, the study focused on particular newspapers that published articles on cases of sexualised violence. Figure 5 shows the extent to which different newspapers published articles on sexualised violence.

**Table 4: Institutions where cases were reported and status of follow up of the reported cases**

Where case was reported			Status of case/offender		
	Frequency	Percentage		Frequency	Percentage
Not given	49	28.7	Not given	18	10.5
Local authority	5	2.9	In court	36	21.1
Parent/guardian	4	2.3	Sentenced	38	22.2
Court	6	3.5	In prison	60	35.1
Police	107	62.6	Not sentenced	19	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 5: Newspapers that published articles on cases of sexualised violence.**



From the graph above, it is observed that Monitor published the highest number of articles on sexualised violence (39.8%), this was followed by New Vision (31%), Bukedde (15.8%), Red Pepper (10.5%) and the least number of articles are noted to have been published by The Observer (2.9%). However, during the first six months (January to June 2013) New Vision (25cases) had published more articles on sexualised violence than Monitor (19cases) which either simply received more reports of cases in the second half of the year or shifted focus on sexual offences. Bukedde, Red pepper and The Observer were not used in collecting data for the first half.

Considering the fact that same cases appeared in more than one newspaper, this study only sought to verify the number of articles published by each and not certainly because it was reported elsewhere<sup>2</sup>.

## 2.6 Language use and protection of identity of survivors and offenders

Terminologies can help to change inaccurate ideas about sexualised violence and work to counteract misperceptions of sexualised violence in the broader community. These describe whether the person involved in the case is a victim, survivor or offender. The term “victim” is a convenient short hand despite its negative association with powerlessness. “Survivor” is used to convey the meaning that a person has survived a violation of their human rights and dignity. (UNFPA: Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations-Inter Agency Field Manual).

The study considered terminologies used in description of persons involved in the cases. Such included ‘survivor’ or ‘victim’ and ‘offender’ or ‘perpetrator.’ Whichever of the above stated terms that happened to be used in describing the person involved in the case was recorded. In this study, a greater percentage (49.7) of persons involved in the cases was not described as indicated in table 5; most of the sexually violated persons were described as ‘victims’ (46.2%), a few were described as ‘survivors’ (2.3%).

Despite the fact that for every victim or survivor there’s always an offender, in only one (1) publication, the description of ‘offender’ was given and only two (2) were named ‘perpetrators’. While the survivors were mainly named “victim” a title with strong connection to the crime, the offenders/perpetrators were not.

<sup>2</sup> On 4th October, 2013, a case recorded from Kabale was published in both Red Pepper and Bukedde. On 28th October, 2013, a case recorded from Kabale was published in Red Pepper, Monitor and Bukedde. A similar case was published on 20th and 27th October, 2013 by The Observer.

**Table 5: Terminologies used in description of violated persons**

Terminology used	Frequency	Percentage
Not stated	88	51.5
Survivor	4	2.3
Victim	79	46.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For purposes of protecting the survivors' identity in the report, the study considered recording whether characteristics such as age, name and village were published. This was to find out whether the media usually protects people's identity or not. The variables used were "yes" for publishing and "no" for not publishing. Table 6 summarizes the frequencies and percentages of the survivors' and offenders' ages, names and villages that were published.

According to table 6 below, majority of the survivors' ages were revealed in the published newspaper articles on sexual offences (72.5%), while 27.5% were not. The majority of the offenders' ages were revealed (55.6%), while 44.4% were not.

The majority of the survivors' names were not revealed in the articles published (90.1%) while 9.9% were. 59.6% of the offenders' names were revealed while 40.4% were not.

Most of the survivors' villages were not revealed (61.4%) while a few (38.6%) were. A higher percentage of offenders' villages was revealed (61.4%) while less was not (38.6%).

The survivors' age published more often, exceeded that of the offenders' by 16.9%. At the same time, the names and villages of survivors were in fewer cases revealed than those of offenders (more by 49.7% for name, and 22.8% for village). According to the study findings, 60 of the survivors and 110 of the offenders can easily be identified since 2 or

**Table 6: Survivors' and offenders' ages, names and villages published.**

Age published	Survivor		Offender	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
No	47	27.5	76	44.4
Yes	124	72.5	95	55.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Name published</b>				
No	154	90.1	69	40.4
Yes	17	9.9	102	59.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Village published</b>				
No	105	61.4	66	38.6
Yes	66	38.6	105	61.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0</b>





more characteristics (of age, name and village) were published. However, the survivors seem to be relatively more protected since only in 6 cases, all 3 characteristics were published.

## 2.7 Summary of the findings

Aggravated defilement was the most published sexual offence (50.9%), Central region (urban area) recorded the highest number of published cases (43.2%) for which most of them were published by Monitor (39.8%). The findings indicated an increasing trend over the months with October being the peak. Findings also showed that in most publications the offenders were males (97.7%), strangers to the survivors (50.3%) and lied in the age bracket of 20-39 years. For most of the published cases, the survivors were females

(95.3%) and lied in the age bracket of 10-19 years. The majority of the published cases were reported to the police (62.6%), and 35.1% of the published cases that were reported to any authority including court, local authority and to parents were in court. Most of the persons violated were presented by the newspapers as victims of sexual offences (46.2%) whereby for most of them, their ages were published while names and villages withheld. More than one third of survivors (35%) and almost two thirds (64.3%) of offenders would be able to be identified since two or more relevant characters (age, name or village) were published. The survivors seem to be relatively more protected since only 6 articles revealed the survivors' name, age and village together.

*The Statistical Abstract 2013 states that 8076 cases of defilement were reported in the year 2012; considering this ACFODE study, defilement cases (including aggravated defilement) published in the newspapers (Bukedde, Monitor, New Vision, Red Pepper and The Observer) make only 1.5% of that total.*

# SECTION THREE:

## Challenges, Conclusions and Recommendations

### 3.1 Challenges

Different newspapers reported similar cases ultimately increasing the sample leading to an exaggerated estimation.

Most of the variables were less represented for example employment status of offenders and survivors, education level attained and offender's age hence leading to improper interpretation and conclusion drawing.

The study does not raise reasons why the accused were not sentenced and neither does it provide further information about the offenders who were not sentenced hence further studies are required for follow up of some of the cases.

### 3.2 Conclusions

Sexualised violence is not silenced any more the fact being that it is now an open issue in the media. It is also observed that coverage of the vice is higher in and around Kampala city.

As stated by the latest Uganda police annual crime and traffic/road safety report 2012, defilement cases have radically increased since 2009, with an average of 22 cases daily accounting for more than half of all the serious offences in 2012, hence making it one of the

eight leading crimes in Uganda. This therefore calls for every citizen to be alert and join hands in combating the evil act so to protect the future generation.

Alarming is that almost 3 out of 4 published defilement cases were cases of aggravated defilement and 30.6% of rape cases published were aggravated rape. Both call for a revision of the current legislation, an amendment of the Penal Code Act in particular.

*According to the newspaper articles reviewed in this study, women and girls are still far more likely to be sexually violated than males. This finding resonates with other studies<sup>1</sup>. Existing policies, programmes and actions to protect girls and women therefore need to be strengthened. This also serves as a call for sexually violated boys and men to speak up and share their experiences.*

<sup>1</sup> studies such as the Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2006, Studies by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development 2008 and the World Health Organisation 2013.



In general, the occurrences of sexualised violence in our society demand for reflection and dialogue on masculinity and femininity, privileges and expectations attributed to females and males. The media can play a crucial role in this discussion to over-come stereotypes.

***The fact that almost 50% of newspaper articles name the sexually violated person a victim shows that media houses are not aware about the negative impact on the public perception of survivors almost denying their capacity to live on but focusing on their vulnerability only. This requires engagement and sensitization of media houses.***

Finally, since less than 2% of all defilement cases (not counted the un-reported cases) appear in any newspaper, it is obvious that if all defilement cases reported to police would be covered in a newspaper, the media houses would rarely be able to publish anything else.

### 3.3 Recommendations

Based on the study, the following recommendations are made:

People of Kisoro district should be encouraged to utilize the media because cases of sexualised violence need not to be silenced. They should be made open to the public so that the culprits learn lessons about the consequences of the evil act.

Every Ugandan has a choice about whether to speak to the media or not. If you choose to speak with the media, it is important to understand that you will have little control over what is actually reported and how it is presented to the public.

ACFODE – together with other women's organizations, women activists and human rights defenders - needs to continue with advocacy on issues of sexualised violence and also raise awareness on gender inequality and power imbalance between men and women as a source of "the problem."

The community members need to work hand in hand with Police so that cases of sexualized violence are reported and not silenced in order to grant justice to survivors.



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# APPENDICES

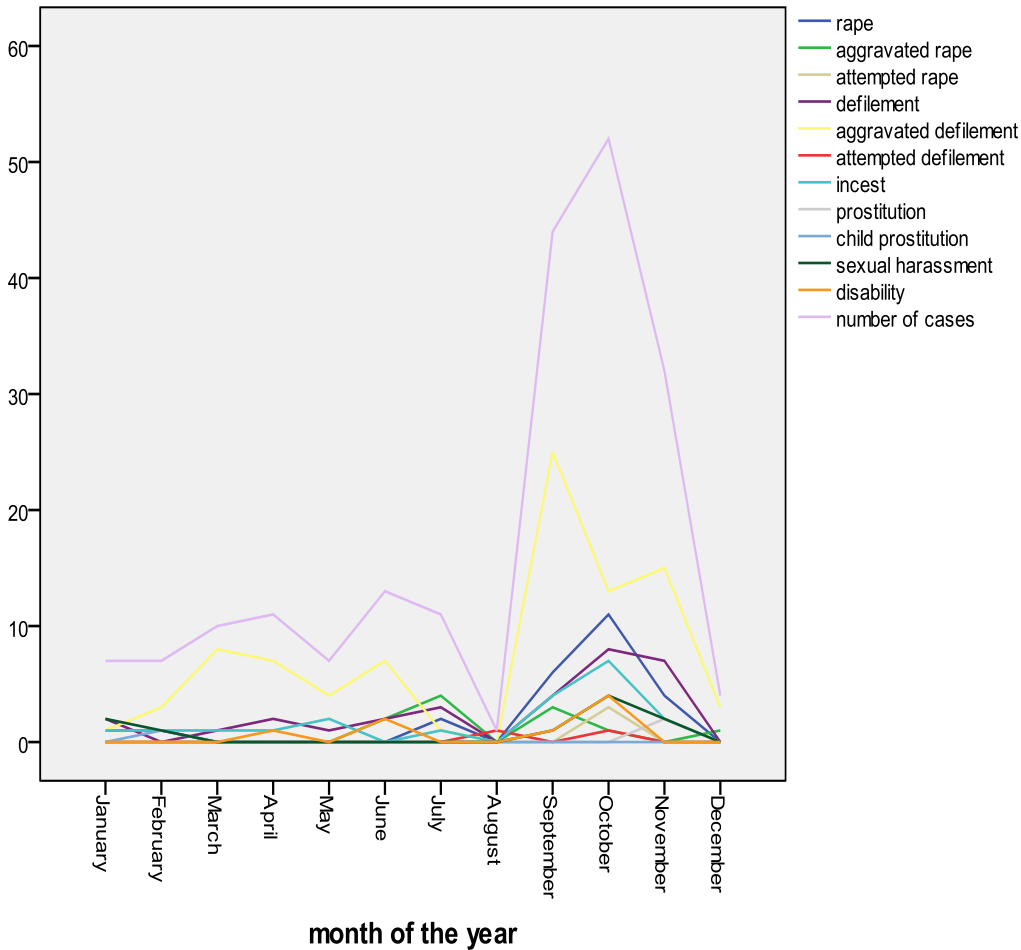
## Appendix 1

### Cases of sexualised violence according to districts and regions of Uganda

Central	No. of cases	Eastern	No. of cases	Northern	No. of cases	Western	No. of cases
Buikwe	1	Budaka	1	Amuru	1	Buliisa	1
Kalangala	1	Bugiri	2	Apac	1	Bundibugyo	1
Kampala	34	Butaleja	1	Arua	3	Hoima	2
Kayunga	1	Buyende	2	Gulu	5	Ibanda	3
Kiboga	2	Iganga	3	Lira	1	Kabale	10
Kyankwanzi	1	Jinja	5	Nebbi	2	Kabarole	2
Luweero	3	Kaliro	1	Nwoya	1	Kamwenge	3
Lwengo	2	Kamuli	3	Pader	2	Kasese	3
Lyantonde	2	Mayuge	9			Kibaale	1
Masaka	8	Mbale	4			Masindi	1
Mityana	1	Namutumba	1			Mbarara	6
Mpigi	1	Ngora	1			Mitooma	1
Mubende	1	Serere	1			Fortportal	6
Mukono	1	Soroti	2				
Nakaseke	1	Tororo	4				
Rakai	4						
Wakiso	9						

Appendix 2

Sequential plot of sexual violence cases



[illegible]



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