

Activists want inquiry into murders of muslim clerics

By John Agaba
and Farooq Kasule

Rights defenders affiliated to the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law have called for an inquiry into the murders of Muslim clerics and the subsequent arrests that seem "biased".

Sophie Kyagulanyi, a social justice policy analyst and a human rights advocate, said an inquest needed to be carried out to lessen public opinions that Muslims were targeted.

"If an inquest has to be called, let it be. It is true you will find Muslims and persons from other faiths in prison. However, it seems certain offences wear a certain face and faith. For example, for offences like terrorism it is Muslims who are accused," she said.

Kyagulanyi made the remarks during the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) conference on human

WHO WAS KILLED?

A total of 13 senior Muslim clerics were gunned down by unknown assailants travelling on bodaboda from 2012 to 2016. These are sheikhs Abdul Kalim Ssentamu, Mustafa Bahiga, Muhammad Kiggundu, Hassan Kirya, Abdul Rashid Wafula, Abdul Kadir Muwaya, Hajji Abubaker Kiweewa, Yunus Mudungu, Muhammad Maganda, Ismael Ssebugwawo and Abdul Jawali Sentuga.

The High Court acquitted 14 men, including Tabliq leader Sheikh Muhammad Yunus Kamoga of the murder of the clerics.

rights at Hotel Africana in Kampala on Tuesday.
MCJL president Jaffer

Senganda said 90% of suspects charged with treason, murder and terrorism in the country and who are on remand are Muslim.

"It is an irony because Muslims make only about 12% of the population of Uganda. That is why some people feel Muslims are targeted," Senganda said.

"We need the Police and the prosecution to arrest and detain a suspect when they have credible evidence," he added.

Kifampa Siraje Nsambu, the spokesman of the Tabliqs, alleged that many people were in detention without trial.

"These people have families and dependents who suffer when their bread winner has been taken away," he said.

Uganda Human Rights Commission vice-chairperson Meddie Mulumba, who was at the conference, said he would present the proposal to the rest of the commission to find the best way to approach it.