

Human Rights Day

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Harassing. Security agents including Police, have on several occasions been accused of harassing human rights activists, journalists and members of the Opposition.

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As the country marks the International Human Rights Day today, security agencies in the country continue to dominate the front pages of newspapers over abuse of human rights.

Over the recent years, police have come under criticism locally and internationally for what activists have described as high-handedness when dealing with members of the Opposition and human rights activists.

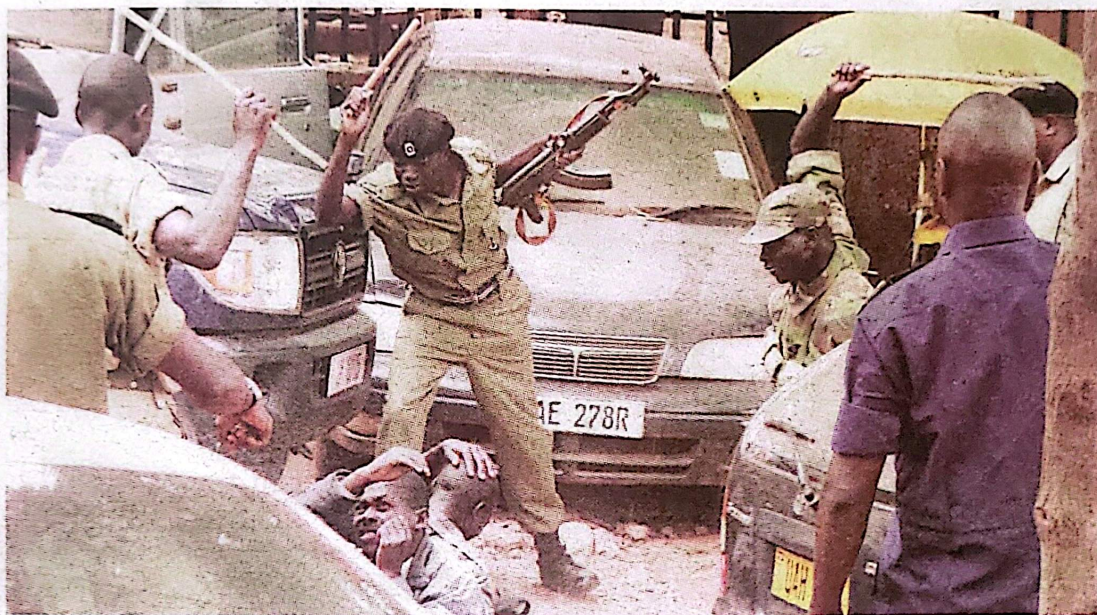
The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) 18th annual report released early last year shows that the police is the leading abuser of human rights in the country, the eighth time the Force is being named.

Cases

The UHRC report indicates that 385 of the 760 cases registered in 2015 were against the police, representing 50.65 per cent of the complainants.

Of the 486 complaints registered against the police, 219 were on the violation of the right to personal liberty (detention beyond 48 hours)

Security agencies remain top on list of rights abusers



Security personnel beat suspected rioters in Kampala recently. FILE PHOTO

while 200 were on torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The report indicates that complaints of torture or cruel, inhuman

and degrading treatment or punishment were the highest at 345 in 2015.

This was followed by complaints

on detention beyond 48 hours at 247, which is also a 35.17 per cent reduction from 381[complaints] in 2014.

Human Rights Day

According to United Nations, Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December, the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"This year, Human Rights Day kicks off a year-long campaign to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages," a statement from UN website reads in part.

Drafted by representatives of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.