

Uganda Overview

April to December 2018

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Glossary

CAR	Conflict Armament Research
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
MP	Member of Parliament
WFP	World Food Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Kampala	Low	<i>Whilst recent demonstrations have been violent, risk levels in the city remain at Low. However, an escalation in political violence is a concern and could increase levels.</i>	<i>The constitution was changed in 2017 to remove an age limit on the presidency. Many fear that this will enable President Yoweri Museveni, who has been president since 1986, to maintain his grip on power and turn Uganda into an authoritarian state. Opposition response to this and Museveni attempts to crush any viable opposition are the main threats to stability in Uganda.</i>
Uganda outside Kampala	Moderate	<i>Whilst Uganda is largely unaffected by conflict, its involvement in the African Union force in Somalia means the threat of a terrorist attack is present. The country's proximity to the troubles in South Sudan, DRC and CAR means there is the threat of cross border conflict. There are also several militia/rebels operating across the borders. The main risks faced by international humanitarian workers is from the threat of road traffic accident and crime. There are few inhibitors to reduce these due to a police force that has poor capacity and a poor reputation.</i>	

1. Domestic News



POLITICAL INTOLERANCE

Popular musician-turned-opposition MP Robert Kyagulanyi, known as Bobi Wine, was arrested in Aug 2018 and reportedly beaten in detention. The arrest sparking protests in Kampala which security forces dispersed forcibly leaving 1 dead, and dozens injured and arrested. Kyagulanyi was arrested with 3 other MPs for allegedly throwing of stones at the Presidents motorcade. On release Kyagulanyi was stopped by police from leaving the country when attempted to travel to the USA for treatment to the injuries he received whilst being held in prison. In Dec police stopped a concert by Kyagulanyi and raided the hotel the MP was staying at. The MP had left the hotel evading arrest. *Comment: The President's heavy-handed response to Kyagulanyi's popularity, especially amongst the young, suggests he sees Kyagulanyi as a real threat to his grip on power.*

REFUGEE NUMBERS EXAGGERATED

An official inquiry started in Mar 2018 by the office of the Ugandan Prime Minister and the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, found that Uganda hosts 1.1 million refugees rather than 1.4 million.

The investigation followed allegations that senior officials had inflated figures and mismanaged the funds meant to support them. The Commissioner for Refugees in the prime minister's office, and three of his senior staff were suspended over allegations of collusion with staff from the UNHCR and the WFP to inflate refugee figures. The officials allegedly created fake names in refugee settlements and defrauded millions of dollars in aid.

NAVIES CLASH IN LAKE ALBERT

In July 2018, the Navies of Uganda and the DRC exchanged fire on Lake Alber, which straddles the border between the two countries. One Ugandan soldier was killed. The Government of the DRC accused Ugandan military of shooting dead 12 Congolese fishermen and arresting 100. A DRC delegation visited Uganda to discuss issues related to the lake, but later Ugandan courts sentenced 35 DRC fishermen to upto 3 years prison for illegal fishing. In Nov tensions increased when DRC militiamen shot dead 7 Ugandan fishermen.

ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH SUDAN

Research by Conflict Armament Research (CAR), has shown the Ugandan government was probably involved in the illegal export of small arms and military aircraft to South Sudan's government, despite an EU ban on weapons exports to all sides in the South Sudan civil war. The multi-million-dollar deal originated in the EU countries Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania and the intended recipient was the Ugandan Ministry of Defence.

BOAT SINK ON LAKE VICTORIA

At least 35 people died when a boat sank on Lake Victoria in Nov. The boat was taking passengers on a pleasure cruise, a popular weekend activity people in Kampala, when it capsized close to shore. More than 90 passengers were onboard and 27 were rescued.

