

URGENT ACTION

UNIVERSITY LECTURER FREED ON CONDITIONAL BAIL

Dr Stella Nyanzi, an academic and feminist, has been released on conditional bail. She was arrested on 7 April and subsequently charged with insulting the president and violating his right to privacy. On 25 May, the Magistrate Court is expected to hear an application made by the state attorney to have a mental health examination done on Dr Stella Nyanzi.

Dr Stella Nyanzi, an academic and feminist, was released on conditional bail on 10 May. The conditions for her bail include a 10 million Ugandan shilling non-cash bond imposed on Dr Stella Nyanzi and five of her sureties, her passport has been handed over to the court for 'safe keeping', and she must appear in court on 25 May where an application for her to be subjected to a mental health examination will be heard.

Dr Stella Nyanzi was arrested and detained on 7 April for criticizing President Yoweri Museveni on her social media accounts and violating his right to privacy. Dr Stella Nyanzi appeared at the Magistrate Court on 25 April for a hearing on her application for bail and to get the mental health examination request by the state attorney dropped. The Magistrate Court adjourned until 10 May as Dr Stella Nyanzi's defence team were to make similar applications at the High Court the next day. The High Court judge, on 26 April, ruled that the Magistrate Court had the power to hear the bail and the mental health examination applications. The Magistrate Court granted Dr Stella Nyanzi conditional bail on 10 May and will on 25 May hear an application for a mental health examination made by the state attorney.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the Ugandan authorities to drop all charges against Dr Stella Nyanzi, as the charges are politically motivated;
- Urging them to comply with Uganda's Constitution and its regional and international human rights obligations to respect, protect and fulfil Dr Stella Nyanzi's right to freedom of expression.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 JULY 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice and Constitutional

Affairs

Major General (rtd) Kahinda Otafiire

Bauman House, Plot 5, Parliament

Avenue

P. O. Box 7183

Kampala, Uganda

Fax: +25641254829

Email: info@justice.go.ug

Salutation: Major General

Inspector General of Police

General Kale Kayihura

Katalima Road, Naguru

P. O. Box 7191

Kampala, Uganda

Fax: +256414255630

Email: info@upf.go.ug

Salutation: General

And copies to:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sam Kutesa

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2A/B Apollo Kaggwa Road

P. O. Box 7048

Kampala, Uganda

Fax: +25641258722/232874

Email: protocol@mofa.go.ug

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HER EXCELLENCY MRS JOYCE KAKURAMATSI KIKAFUNDA, Uganda High Commission, Uganda House 58-59 Trafalgar Square WC2N 5DX, 020 7839 5783, Fax 020 7839 8925, info@ugandahighcommission.co.uk, www.ugandahighcommission.co.uk

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 89/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr59/6060/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr Stella Nyanzi, a university lecturer, was arrested and detained on 7 April for criticizing the president on her social media accounts. She was charged in court on 10 April with insulting the president on her social media accounts and violating his right to privacy under the Computer Misuse Act of 2011. She pleaded not guilty and was remanded in custody. Her detention and prosecution violate Uganda's obligations under the country's constitution and international human rights law regarding the rights to liberty and freedom of expression.

During the hearing in which Dr Stella Nyanzi was charged, the state attorney requested for an examination of her mental health. To support his request, the state attorney said that there was evidence that Dr Stella Nyanzi had previously been a patient at Butabika Hospital, a mental health national referral hospital and has a history of mental health issues. The defence team asked the court for more time to respond to the claims by the state prosecution as the information presented against their client had not been shared with them. The magistrate accepted the defence team's request and adjourned the matter to 25 April.

Further information on UA: 89/17 Index: AFR 59/6284/2017 Issue Date: 22 May 2017