



## Press Release

THE JUDICIARY

Plot 2, The Square High Court Building  
P. O. Box 7085, Kampala Uganda

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON  
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO.

### Judiciary condemns assault of Masindi Chief Magistrate

**KAMPALA 15 December 2017:** The Judiciary has noted with concern the Wednesday morning physical violent attack on a female judicial officer by an irate litigant while she was presiding over a case.

Ms. Catherine Agwero, the Masindi Chief Magistrate, was physically assaulted and injured on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 by a one Fredrick Ford Kyogonza, who was produced before her to show cause why he should not be committed to civil prison for six months over failure to pay a Shs4,899,000 debt. Records in the Masindi Court indicate that Kyagonza, had earlier on lost a 2013 civil case filed against him by a one James Magadu and the court ordered him to pay costs of the suit to the latter, which he had since failed to settle.

The Judiciary understands following an order for his committal to civil prison for six months over the debt, a frustrated Kyagonza jumped over the dock and assaulted the female officer in her judicial seat.

The assailant rained blows on the magistrate's head unrestrained for a couple of minutes. He only relented after Prison Warders and a Court Orderly turned up, overpowered him and later handed him over to the Masindi Central Police for further management. The magistrate was discharged from hospital but she is still nursing injuries.

Kyagonza, 32, a medical clinician and resident of Masindi Municipality was a day later formerly charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm and contempt of court. He was remanded to Masindi Prison till 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, pending the hearing of the matter.

As an independent and competent institution charged with dispensing justice to all, the Judiciary regrets such uncivilised, offensive and disrespectful act on a judicial officer in the course of her duties.

Judicial officers are merely neutral arbiters who carefully hear both parties in a matter before making a verdict in accordance with the law. The law

*"Justice for All"*

T: +256 414 233 420/3 E: [info@judiciary.go.ug](mailto:info@judiciary.go.ug) W: [www.judiciary.go.ug](http://www.judiciary.go.ug)

gives dissatisfied parties a right to appeal any judicial decision up to the Supreme Court.

We know that Her Worship Agwero dutifully played her part as a presiding magistrate and Mr. Kyogonza has a right to appeal her decisions to a higher court rather than engaging in violence.

In the meantime, the Judiciary will work hand-in-hand with the Police and other relevant authorities to ensure that there is adequate security for all judicial officers and other court users at the different courts.

**ENQUIRIES**

**VINCENT EMMY MUGABO, Public Relations Officer, Judiciary**

Tel: +256(0) 77 249 9683, Email: [vmugabo@judicature.go.ug](mailto:vmugabo@judicature.go.ug)