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Respect for human rights in Uganda has been advanced significantly since the mid-1980s. There are, however, numerous areas which continue to attract concern. Since 1986, Uganda has experienced several internal conflicts. The most prolonged and severe of these were in the northern districts of Kitgum and Gulu and western district of Karamoja. Conflict in the northern parts of the country continues to generate reports of abuses by both the rebel Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan Army. Torture is still a widespread practice amongst security organizations. Attacks on political freedom in the country, including the arrest and beating of opposition members of Parliament, has led to international criticism, culminating in May 2005 with a decision by the British government to withhold part of its aid to the country. The arrest of the main opposition leader, Kizza Besigye, and the besiegement of the High Court during a hearing of Besigye's case by a heavily armed security force led to condemnation.

Grassroots issues specific to the Mbale region often focus on the rights of marginalized peoples. FSD works with organizations that support and educate socio-economically excluded members of society through conflict resolution, advocacy, and direct training. Interning or volunteering in our human rights program allows you to witness divisions between differing peoples and offer solutions that bring greater equality to a severe and complex social hierarchy.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in human rights in Uganda include:

- Assist conflict resolution/peace building measures between displaced Karamoja peoples and natives of Mbale through traditional and tribal leaders, and community members. Assist in reducing conflict between tribal leaders/elders and local state-based politicians.
- Support advocacy campaigns on local, national, and international levels to enable people with HIV/AIDS and society, as a whole, to understand the rights and responsibilities of those infected. Mobilize resources for people living with HIV/AIDS by collaborating with governments, world bodies, and non-governmental organizations working to improve the lives of victims and their families.
- Conduct workshops and trainings to educate community members about their rights and assist those wrongly accused of crimes.
- Work with a program that addresses the elimination of child labor in commercial agriculture, specifically coffee.
- Help create a youth conflict resolution program – identify reasons for conflict in primary and secondary schools in Mbale and Namatula slums, and design programs to reduce youth violence and conflict.

For more opportunities in human rights in Uganda, visit our website or contact us directly.