

URGENT ACTION

MILITARY COURT CONVICTS HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

On January 7, 2025, during a court session, soldiers physically prevented Eron Kiiza from entering the military court's section for defendants' lawyers when his client, an opposition politician, was arraigned. Eron Kiiza responded by shouting and banging on the courtroom barricade. Soldiers assaulted him while removing him from the courtroom, before arresting and placing him in the dock alongside his client. The court later convicted him of "contempt of court" and sentenced him to nine months imprisonment at Kitalya prison without a fair trial. Ugandan authorities must stop trying civilians in military courts, stop targeting lawyers simply for doing their job, and immediately release Eron Kiiza.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 9.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

Parliament of Uganda Parliament Avenue, Kampala,
Uganda

Email: info@statehouse.go.ug

Twitter/X: [@kagutamuseveni](https://twitter.com/kagutamuseveni)

CC: Embassy of Uganda in the United States

Ambassador Robie Kakonge

5911 16th Street, NW,
Washington DC 20011

Email: washington@mofa.go.ug or

info@ugandaembassyus.org

Twitter/X: [@UgaEmbaWashDC](https://twitter.com/UgaEmbaWashDC)

Dear President Museveni,

I am writing to express grave concern about the assault, arbitrary detention, conviction, and nine-month sentencing of human rights lawyer, **Eron Kiiza**, solely for carrying out his professional duties.

On the morning of January 7, 2025, during a hearing for his client, soldiers physically prevented Eron Kiiza from entering the military court's section for defense lawyers. He responded by shouting and banging on the courtroom barricade. Soldiers then punched Eron Kiiza in the face, head, and body while removing him from the courtroom. They then arrested him and placed him in the dock alongside his client. Only a few hours later, and without even reading the charges or hearing arguments, the General Court-Martial (a military court) convicted him of "contempt of court" and sentenced him to nine months imprisonment. His lawyers have appealed his conviction. Eron Kiiza told his lawyers that prior to being brought to prison, he was tortured by military personnel.

Eron Kiiza had publicly opposed military courts trying civilians, stating rightly that the practice is unconstitutional and contravenes courts decisions in Uganda.

I urge you to immediately release Eron Kiiza and ensure a prompt and impartial investigation is carried out pertaining to allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Eron Kiiza is a Ugandan human rights lawyer and environmentalist. He is the co-founder of the law firm Kiiza & Mugisha Advocates and heads the Environment Shield Limited, a grassroots NGO specializing in climate, natural resources, and environmental justice as components of social justice. He was one of the lawyers representing Dr Kizza Besigye, a Ugandan opposition politician and former presidential candidate for the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) political party, who was [abducted in Nairobi, Kenya in early November 2024](#). He resurfaced on November 20, 2024, when he was arraigned in a military court in Kampala, Uganda, where he was charged alongside FDC member, Haji Obeid Lutale, with offenses relating to security and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition. Amnesty International [has called for Kizza Besigye's immediate release](#) as his abduction clearly violated international human rights law and the process of extradition with its requisite fair trial protections.

With regard to Eron Kiiza's conviction and sentencing, his right to a fair trial was violated since the charges against him were not read to him. He was also denied an opportunity to take plea to any charges/s or respond with a defense. He was further not accorded any right to appoint counsel to represent him.

According to Eron Kiiza's lawyers, Eron Kiiza seemed weak when they last visited him in Kitalya prison on January 20, 2025. He appears to have lost an extensive amount of weight within less than two weeks of his arbitrary detention.

Amnesty International has [reported that Eron Kiiza's continuing detention is a travesty](#) and that the sham trial process directly violates Uganda's constitution.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 30, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Eron Kiza (he/him)