

UGANDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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15.02.2025

Ref: The U.M.A/SG/Dr.Kizza Besigye Press release one February 2025

ATTENTION: Call for immediate release of Rtd Dr. Col. Kizza Besigye due to his deteriorating health condition under prison authorities

The Uganda Medical Association (UMA) is gravely concerned about the health of Dr. Kizza Besigye, who is currently held in Luzira Prison. Based on reports and disturbing visuals from his recent court appearance, it is evident that Dr. Besigye is quite physically sick and suffering from health issues that have significantly deteriorated, signaling an urgent need for specialized medical intervention from a health care team and facility of his choice. The Uganda constitution declares healthcare as a human right that everyone should access without limitation of any kind.

In alignment with the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the World Medical Association's Declaration of Tokyo**, (*you need to quote these references*) we assert that Dr. Kizza Besigye is entitled to the highest standard of health care available in our community or any other medical facility depending on his personal and family choices and affordability, factoring in the risks around his life as a public figure and leader. This care must be provided without discrimination, even under detention, as stipulated by the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (**the Nelson Mandela Rules**). ***Need to quote the exact sections of the declaration/rules.**

Given Dr. Kizza Besigye's critical condition, as observed in his inability to control motor functions and other concerning symptoms, we urgently call for his immediate grant of Bail on medical grounds, among other already known grounds.

This will enable him to access specialized medical care and nutritional support, which may not be feasibly provided within the confines of detention facilities. It is imperative that he receives the necessary medical evaluation and care from a team of independent specialists to prevent further deterioration of his health, which could potentially lead to irreversible consequences.

We, therefore, urge the authorities including the President, judiciary, prisons, parliament and executive to:

*President: Dr. Herbert Luswata
Secretary General: Dr. Mirembe Joel
Chair Publicity & Mob: Dr. Muyanga Mark
Chair CPD: Dr. Asiphas Owaraganise*

*V. President: Prof. Frank R Asiimwe
Dep. Secretary General:
Chair Fin. & Dev't: Dr. Mwesigye Ismael
Chair Ethics & Professionalism: Dr. Kabweru Wilberforce*

*Immediate Past President: Dr. Edith Nakku J
Treasurer: Dr. Asaba Irene Mugisha
Chair Welfare: Ssekyanzi Livingstone
Editor UMJ: Dr. Amanyia Flavia*

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Facilitate an Immediate Medical Release: Allow Dr. Kizza Besigye to be released on medical grounds to seek the specialized healthcare services that his condition necessitates from medical personell and facilities of his.

Ensure Comprehensive Medical Assessment: Conduct an immediate and thorough medical examination by an independent team of medical experts to accurately assess his health and determine the appropriate course of treatment.

Provide Continuous Health Monitoring: Should there be a delay in his release, ensure continuous and competent medical supervision and intervention during his detention to mitigate any further health complications.

Adhere to International Human Rights Standards: Ensure that Dr. Besigye's detention conditions and medical treatment comply with international human rights laws, which advocate for the dignity and rights of all individuals, irrespective of their legal status.

The Uganda Medical Association is committed to advocating for the rights to health of all individuals and is prepared to assist in overseeing that Dr. Besigye receives impartial and professional medical care.

We emphasize the urgency of this situation and appeal to all involved parties to prioritize the health and human rights of Dr. Kizza Besigye for they are non-negotiable.

We shall not stop or keep silent any more if the rights of prisoners continue to be violated. We stand in solidarity with Dr. Kizza Besigye and family.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this pressing issue pertaining the life of one of us Dr. Kizza Besigye.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Mirembe Joel
Secretary General, UMA
Service with Honor

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