

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

Monday, 16th January 2023

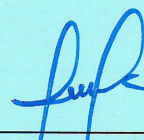
PRESS STATEMENT OF ON THE BOMB ATTACK ON ÉGLISE PENTECÔTISTE LUBIRIHA, DRC.

Kampala. Uganda: The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda has learnt of the Sunday 15th January, 2023 bombings, where at least 14 people have been feared dead and more than 70 wounded following an attack on Lubiriha Pentecostal Church located at DRC Mpondwe Border.

Since 2022, through a partnership between the Inter Religious Council of Uganda and the *Conseil National des Religions pour la Paix RD-Congo*; religious leaders from DRC got to interact with religious leaders from Uganda, and Pastor Ki Abraham Isiya Kitsa of Lubiriha Pentecostal Church has been coordinating fellow religious leaders from DRC in implementing peace related programs.

While we condole with the church and affected families for this gross losses and tragedy, we vehemently condemn this act of terrorism and gruesome murders aimed at places of worship or religious institutions. We consider these acts to be the highest act of evil cowardice meted against unarmed people. There is no religion in the world that believes in harming and killing people who have gathered to worship.

While the People's Defence forces from DRC and Uganda work together to unearth, the actual perpetrators of these occurrences. We implore all the places of worships especially in areas faced with insurgencies, to exercise much caution on who comes to the place of worship during fellowships or prayer meetings. It's apparent that new visitors in the church be screened by protocol teams in places of worship and names of all those participating in worship meetings be registered.



It is our earnest prayer that security agencies will bring all suspected attackers to book and hold them responsible for these atrocious acts. We hope that the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Uganda Police Force and Police Nationale Congolaise, PNC will work together in carrying out the investigations on this matter.

END

For more information



Joshua Kitakule

SECRETARY GENERAL

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

About the Inter Religious Council Uganda

IRCU is an indigenous, national faith-based organization uniting efforts of religious institutions to jointly address issues of common concern founded in 2001. IRCU's Vision is for '*A divinely peaceful, united, prosperous Uganda where all people enjoy full health and freedoms for the common good.*' IRCU's Mission is *to promote peace, reconciliation, good governance, and holistic human development through interfaith action and collaboration, advocating for the empowerment of member bodies for the common good.*' The member organizations that constitute IRCU are the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of the Province of Uganda, the Uganda Orthodox Church, the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Uganda, the Born-Again Faith in Uganda and the National Alliance of Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches in Uganda. IRCU is affiliated to African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL), East African Community Inter Religious Council (EAC-IRC) and Religions for Peace International (RfP).

The IRCU's current strategic direction is shaped by the desire to build a peaceful, just, stable, democratic and inclusive society that is cognizant of our

diversities. Through an envisioning process that coincided with Uganda's 50th Anniversary in 2012, the faith leadership, under the aegis of the IRCU, committed to build a new society-dubbed ***The Uganda we Want***-underpinned by the following six pillars; (i) A God-fearing nation, (ii) a health nation, (iii) a secure and stable nation, (iv) a prosperous nation, (v) a harmonious nation and (vi) a caring nation. These pillars constitute the foundation of the current and future IRCU programmatic interventions and we are proud of the number of achievements in the areas of public health, peace and conflict transformation, mitigation of gender-based violence, access to justice, policy advocacy, women and youth empowerment, community mobilization and mindset change, environmental management and building networks and partnerships.

IRCU is a member of the East African Inter-Religious Council, Africa Council of Religious Leaders and Religions for Peace International.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters that appear to be 'A' and 'K'.