PTN/HRC/A6/PUA/2017

October 5, 2017

Written Submission to the Human Rights Committee

General Comment Article 6 (Right to Life) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Submitted by Parliamentarians United for Africa

We, the undersigned, are writing as elected and appointed representatives of the people of Uganda to express our common values and express our solidarity on the importance of the family. We want to see greater emphasis on policy and programs that focus on human rights, which we believe begin at conception, not at birth. We believe that life begins at conception and are of the firm belief that the unborn child has a right to life and represent the most fragile and vulnerable member of the human family. African culture esteems the family and holds that association as the first and highest association of society. We express our deep dissatisfaction and opposition to any removal of the classification of unborn children from the human family and all necessary protections to protect the sanctity of life from conception.

Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirms “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.”

We believe that it is our duty to value and protect the entire human family from conception and do not accept any subsequent and arbitrary time period as the beginning of life or any arbitrary exclusion of the child in the womb from possessing a right to life.

We are united in opposing the provision in the General Comment that seeks to exclude unborn children from the inherent right to life and to allow their demise through abortion.

We have identified a similar concerning trend coming from Western and donor countries that seek to impose upon our countries an ideology that is contrary to our belief in protecting life from its earliest stage. In no circumstance should abortion be disguised as a “health right” or described as a “woman’s human right.” Abortion is a violent act of elimination that can never be synonymous with human rights. It is abhorrent.

We submit our objection to General Comments proposed to deny the right to life to unborn children and request an immediate cessation to actions that seek to redefine the right to life in a way that is contrary to our conviction that human dignity and the right to life begins at conception.

Signed,

s/HON. THOMAS TAYEBWA

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**WE THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA SUBMIT OUR PETITION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE GENERAL COMMENT ON ARTICLE 6 (RIGHT TO LIFE) OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

1. Mukoda Julie Zabwe Mayuge District
2. Naigaga Mariam Namutumba
3. Okello Anthony Kioga
4. Migadde Robert Buvuma Islands
5. Andrew Kiiza Kaluya Kigulu County South
6. Angella Fred Moroto Municipality
7. Kangwagye Stephen Bukanga
8. Angura Fredrick Tororo South
9. Mugoya Kyawa G. Bukooli County
10. Col. F.M. Kulayigye UPDF
11. Angundru Moses Terego West
12. Amero Susan Amuria District
13. Sematimba Peter Busiro South
14. Hon. Col. Abiriga Arua Municipality
15. Nankabirwa Ann Maria Kyankwanzi
16. Tumwine Anne Mary Ntoroko
17. Abbas Agaba Kitagwenda
18. Suubi Kyinyamatama Juliet Rakai District
19. Asiimwe Evarlyne (Capt.) UPDF
20. Kasozi Joseph Muyomba Bukoto Midwest
21. Otto Edward Makmot Agago
22. Kamusiime Pentagon Butemba
23. Ssekabiito Joseph Mawogola
24. Mandera Amos Buyamba
25. Obua Denis H. Ajuri County
26. Mutebi David Buikwe South
27. Birungi Carolyn Nanyondo Kyamuswa
28. Asaba Paul Kyaka North
29. Abala David Ngora County
30. Agnes Ameede Pallisa
31. Byibesho Sam Kisoro Municipality
32. Mutebi Noah W. Nakasongola
33. Syda Bbumba Nakaseke North
34. Col. Flavia Byekwaso UPDF
35. Sheila Mwine Kabaije Kiruhura
36. Oseku Richard O. Kibale
37. Ajilo Maria Goretti Kaberamaido Dist.
38. Butime Rwakaikara Mwenge
39. Musoke Robert Budiope West
40. Kitatta Aboud Bukoto West
41. Amule Doreen Ruth Amolatar District
42. Eng. Nakate Lillian Segujja Luweero District