

I am writing to express my grave concern on Robert Kyagulanyi, also known as Bobi Wine, a Ugandan singer turned politician, who was arrested and later charged with unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition on 16 August. While being arrested, he was physically assaulted with visible injuries and swelling on his face and body. According to security officers, they found unregistered firearms in his hotel room. However, his lawyers, his wife and the hotel management refute these allegations.

His lawyer said in court, Robert Kyagulanyi showed visible signs of torture and other ill-treatment with injuries and swellings on his face and body. According to his wife, who saw him on 17 August, his eyes were swollen and inside his sockets, his face and ears were wounded and he had to be dragged by two soldiers to see her. He was unable to sit and was stretched out on the chair to converse with them.

Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of assembly and association. So I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Robert Kyagulanyi, a prisoner of conscience held solely for exercising his right of assembly and association.

I also urge you to ensure that Robert Kyagulanyi is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and has regular access to his family, lawyers of his choosing and any medical treatment he requires.

The last but not the least, I urge you to promptly, impartially and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in detention, make the findings of the investigation public, and bring those found culpable to justice in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,