

REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 2025

13th June 2025

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1. Introduction

30th May 2025 marked the second year since the Anti- Homosexuality Act, Cap 117 officially came into force on 30th May 2023. In the two years of the Act, HRAPF has continued to monitor and document cases of human rights violations and violence against LGBTIQ persons based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in Uganda on a monthly basis. This is the 24th such monthly report. The report discusses cases in which known or suspected LGBTIQ persons were targeted for violence and violations purely on the basis of their SOGIE as reported in the month of May 2025, and comparison is made with the month of April 2025. The report also presents an analysis of trends in cases of violence and violations against individuals on the basis of their SOGIE from the date when the Act first came into force to the 30th of May 2025, to demonstrate the continuing impact of the AHA on the lives of LGBTQ persons as well as the distribution of cases of violence and violations as recorded by HRAPF during the period.

2. Methodology

This report provides an overview of cases of human rights violations and violence on the basis of SOGIE that were reported to the HRAPF legal aid network during the month of May 2025. Quantitative data for this report was obtained from a review of case files for data on the number of cases handled and the number of cases in which acts of violence or other human rights violations were identified. The data was then subjected to a qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred, in order to ensure that only cases in which such acts were perpetrated purely or primarily on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE are included in the report. All data reported has been independently verified to ensure its accuracy.

The data presented in this report is limited by the fact that it covers only cases reported through the HRAPF legal aid network. The report presents a fair picture of the situation for LGBTIQ persons across the country as reported to HRAPF's countrywide network of community paralegals, regional legal aid centres, specialised community legal aid desks and the main legal aid clinic, but it may not be representative of all LGBTIQ persons' lived realities during the month, as we acknowledge that not all cases that occurred in May 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 51 cases in the month of May 2025, a decrease from the 56 cases handled in the month of April 2025. Out of the 51 cases handled, 16 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 31.3% of all the cases handled during the month of May 2025 down from 17 in April. A total of 19 persons were affected by the violations down from 22 in April 2025. Out of the 16 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent or

otherwise detrimental treatment during the month of May 2025, 9 were eviction cases, 4 cases involved actual physical violence and 3 cases involved arrests for sexuality related reasons. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

3.1. Evictions

There were 9 cases of evictions on the basis of sexuality in May 2025, affecting 10 persons. This is one case more than the cases reported in April 2025, although the number of victims increased to 10. This is the second consistent month since April 2024 where evictions continue to be the leading violation since April 2024 when the Constitutional Court nullified the provision in the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 criminalising renting premises to homosexuals. These eviction cases were reported in the districts of Wakiso (3), Kampala (2), and 1 case each in the districts of Budaka, Gulu, Mbale and Mbarara. The evictions were executed by the clients' landlords in 7 cases and family members in 2 cases.

No.	Case code	Date of	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No.	of
		reporting				Victims	1
1.	1. HRAPF/PA/829 8/05/25 Mbarara		Family	The client was isolated by her family after finding out	1		
	/25			members	about her sexuality and her positive HIV status. The	he	
					clients' parents became furious when they learnt about		
					the fact that she was HIV positive and they started		
					accusing her of having acquired HIV due to her sexuality.		
					Consequently, they chased her out of their home and she		
					is currently being hosted by her friends.		
2.	HRAPF/PA/830	26/05/25	Mbale	Landlord	The client was evicted by his landlord on suspicions that		
	/2025				he is a homosexual. The client's landlord had verbally		
					warned him to stop hosting people whose behaviours		
					seemed 'suspicious', but the client stated that he couldn't		
					stop his friends from visiting him without giving them		
					clear reasons, so they continued visiting. This caused the		
				landlord to demand that he leaves the premsies by the			
	enc		end of the month.				
3.	3. HRAPF/PA/831 19/05/25 Budaka Landlo		Landlord	The client went out with his colleagues to a bar that is			
	/25			near his home. Since they left the bar quite late, he			
				offered to have his friends spend the night at his home,			

					but a few minutes after they arrived, the landlord and some of the neighbours came knocking at the client's door. The landlord accused him of being a homosexual and bringing other homosexuals into the house, and he threatened to have the police come and arrest them all if they did not leave. He later changed his mind and said that he wouldn't waste his time by calling police officers, but he demanded that the client shift from the premises within 1 week, and ordered all the client's friends to leave that very night.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/832 /25	2/05/25	Kampala	Landlord	The client reported that, in April 2025, a neighbour at their premises started holding prayers outside on the veranda, loudly asking God to remove all homosexuals from their area. A few weeks after this behaviour started, his landlord approached him and asked that he leave the premises, stating that the client's behaviour was not conducive to the peace of the other tenants on the premises. He was given up to the end of May to leave the premises.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/833 /25	8/05/25	Kampala	Landlord	The client's landlord reached out to ask her to leave the house she was renting. The landlord specifically informed her that he had been approached by worried neighbours, who stated that they had noticed she was friendly to their children yet they know her to be a homosexual. They were worried that if she did not leave immediately, she might teach their children to be homosexuals too.	
6.	HRAPF/PA/834 /25	5/05/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client reported that her landlady came to the house while she was seated outside and started crying loudly in the compound, lamenting that curses had come into her	1

					home because she had harboured a homosexual in her premises. One of the neighbours came out to tell the landlord that it is true as she had a photo of the client kissing another girl. The landlady then demanded that the client should move out by the end of May as she would not be putting up with her after that date. During the first two weeks of May, the client reported that her landlady came to the house every day to check if she had moved yet, which forced her to move to a friend's place even before the month ended.	
7.	HRAPF/PA/835 /25	5/05/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client had a fight with his partner, which was overheard by a neighbour. The neighbour reported this to the landlord and demanded that the client be evicted because they were uncomfortable living with a homosexual in their neighbourhood. The client's landlord ordered him to vacate the house immediately and even attached a second padlock to prevent him from accessing the house.	
8.	HRAPF/PA/836 /25	25/05/25	Gulu	Family members	The client was evicted from their family home when her family found out that she was working with a KP-led organisation. She moved in with a friend who also later evicted her because she had started receiving anonymous threats on her phone ordering her to stop associating with the client or else she would regret it.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/844 /2025	3/05/25	Wakiso	Landlord	On 3 rd May 2025, the clients were arrested by the police over charges of homosexuality. Upon going back to their home, their landlord ordered them to vacate his premises, stating that he could not host homosexuals.	2

3.2. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

A total of 4 cases involving violence and threats of violence were registered in May 2025, affecting 4 individuals. This is a reduction from 6 cases affecting 8 people registered in April 2025. All the cases reported in May 2025 were of actual violence, as opposed to April 2025 where 3 of the 6 reported cases involved actual violence while 3 involved threats of violence. The cases of violence reported in May 2025 all involved physical assaults, and were registered in the districts of Mbarara, Gulu, Isingiro and Wakiso. All four incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons.

No.	Case code	Date of	District	Nature of	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of	
		reporting		violence			victims	
1.	HRAPF/PA/837	8/05/25	Gulu	Physical	Unknown	The client had gone to a bar with his female	1	
	/2025			assault	persons	friends when a group of men approached and		
						one of them asked him why a known		
						homosexual was dancing with girls, and if he		
						was trying to have anal sex with them. He got		
						angry and pushed the man who said that, and		
						the group retaliated by attacking him at once		
						and beating him up. He sustained a fracture on		
						his left arm.		
2.	HRAPF/PA/838	19/05/25	Mbarara	Physical	Unknown	The client was attacked by unknown men	1	
	/2025			assault	persons	while he was coming from the market. The		
						attackers also tried to undress him, claiming		
						they wanted to confirm his gender.		
						Unfortunately, he sustained a dislocation on		
						his arm as he tried to free himself from the		
						attackers.		
3.	HRAPF/PA/839	16/05/25	Isingiro	Physical	Unknown	The client was assaulted by unknown persons,	1	
	/25			assault	persons	who repeatedly accused him of being a		
						homosexual during the event. He reported the		
						matter to the police but no one has been		

						arrested yet, and as a result of the police inaction, he felt very unsafe in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement and felt forced to move out of the settlement and reside temporarily with a friend outside the settlement.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/840 /25	13/05/25	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by some men in his neighbourhood who were unknown to him. The men told him they found it very annoying that he behaves like a woman yet he is a man, which meant he was a homosexual. They also demanded that he tells them who pays him to be a homosexual, and when he could not answer them, they proceeded to beat him up. They warned that they would be watching him closely to see if he changed, and they would return if he continued behaving that way.	1

3.3. Arrests

3 cases of arrests for sexuality related reasons were registered in May 2025, affecting 5 persons, which is the same number of cases and victims registered in April 2024. In two cases, the clients were charged with homosexuality under the Anti- Homosexuality Act, while in one case the client was charged with unnatural offences under the Penal Code Act. All the victims were released on police bond, one case was closed and two cases are still under investigation. 2 of the cases were registered in Wakiso and 1 case in Kampala district.

No.	Case code	Date of	District	Charges	Brief facts	No. o
		reporting preferre		preferred		Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/	28/05/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested and detained on 27th May 2025 after	2
	841/25				some of their neighbours reported to police that the clients	
					were homosexuals and that they had several homosexual	

					friends of theirs who would come and visit them. Based on	
					those allegations, the police officers arrested and detained	
					them. They were charged with 'homosexuality' and later	
					released on police bond.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/	3/05/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality	On 3rd May 2025, the clients were arrested over charges of	2
	842/2025				homosexuality. While they were in their house seated, police	
					officers forcefully entered their house while in company of	
					the area defence secretary and accused them of being	
					homosexuals. They dragged the clients to the police station.	
					They were later released on police bond.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/	10/5/25	Kampala	Unnatural	On the 10th of May 2025, the client was arrested and detained	1
	843/25			offences	at Kawala Police Station after a friend of his accused him of	
					being a homosexual. The complainant claimed that the client	
					had lured him into sexual encounters in the past, an	
					allegation that the client vehemently denied, stating that his	
					friend had been trying to extort him since he found out about	
					his sexuality, and that he only reported this matter to the	
					police when the client resisted the extortion. The client was	
					released on police bond on 12th May 2025.	

4. Comparison with April 2025

There was a slight decrease in the overall number of cases reported in May 2025, from 56 cases in April 2025 to 51 cases in May 2025. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE reduced from 17 cases in April 2025 to 16 cases in May 2025, and the number of victims reduced from 22 persons in April to 19 persons in May 2025. Eviction cases were the highest number of cases registered in both months, at 9 incidents in May and 8 in April. Cases of violence and threats of violence reduced from 6 cases affecting 8 individuals in April 2025 to 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in May 2025. Arrests on sexuality related charges remained the same at 3 cases affecting 5 persons in both months.

5. Comparison with May 2024

HRAPF handled a total of 83 cases in the month of May 2024, out of which 41 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 49.4% of all the cases handled during the May 2024 and 50 individuals were affected. Out of the 41 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment during the month of May 2024, 20 were cases of violence and threats of violence, 16 were eviction cases while 5 were cases involving arrests for sexuality related reasons. In contrast, 51 cases were handled in May 2025, of which 16 cases involved acts of deliberate homophobia. Evictions from rented properties were the highest number of cases registered at 9 cases affecting 10 individuals, followed by cases of violence and threats of violence at 4 cases affecting 4 persons and arrests related to sexuality charges were the lowest at 3 cases affecting 5 individuals.

This indicates a reduction in both the total number of cases being reported as well as the number of cases in which individuals are being targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their sexuality between the two months, perhaps an indication of a shifting focus from the AHA, two years after its initial enactment.

6. The two-year implementation of the AHA 2023

As the implementation of the AHA marks the 2nd anniversary, a total of 1,743 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 844 cases (48.4%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 1,072 persons.

The breakdown of all the cases by month so far is as follows:

Nature of	June to	Jan to	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Total
violation	December	June	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	number
	2023	2024												of cases
Evictions	164	132	10	9	2	4	6	7	6	3	5	8	9	365
Violence	137	121	14	10	9	9	14	3	8	7	6	6	4	348
Arrests	38	34	11	1	5	3	3	8	6	4	3	3	3	122
Other forms of	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	9
discrimination														
Total			35	20	16	16	23	18	21	16	16	17	16	844
	345	287												

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of	June to	Jan	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Total
violation	December	to	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	number
	23	June												of victims
		2024												
Evictions	204	162	11	10	4	4	7	8	6	3	5	9	10	443
Violence	171	142	15	12	14	10	16	3	10	11	7	8	4	423
Arrests	59	63	14	2	9	4	5	12	11	5	3	5	5	197
Other forms	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	11
of														
discrimination														
Total	440	367	40	24	27	18	28	23	28	19	19	22	19	1,074

7. Analysis of trends over the two years of the AHA's enforcement

The Anti-Homosexuality Act has, as at the end of May 2025, been in operation for a total of two years. During the first quarter of implementation of the AHA 2023 (June to August 2023), cases of eviction were the highest number of recorded cases at 67, followed by cases of violence and threats of violence at 63.

At this point, cases of arrests of individuals for sexuality-related reasons were lowest at 16, although this number was still much higher than is usual. For context, HRAPF's legal aid clinic reported a total of 17 cases of arrests for sexuality related reasons in the whole of 2017,¹ and 27 such arrests in the whole of 2022,² as compared to 16 arrests in just 3 months in 2023.

Cases of eviction peaked in the 3rd quarter of enforcement of the AHA (December 2023 to February 2024), as did cases of violence and threats of violence against persons on the basis of their SOGIE. Evictions peaked at 89 cases in this period while cases of violence peaked at 63 cases – the same number as in the first quarter of enforcement (June to August 2023). It is worth noting that the right to adequate housing for LGBTQ persons was one of the most directly affected rights by section 9 of the AHA, which criminalised letting premises to persons 'for purposes of homosexuality'. As such, the sharp decline in cases of evictions in the 4th quarter of

¹ Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Annual Report 2017 (2018), pp 20-21.

² Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, Annual Report 2022 (2023), pp 21-23.

enforcement (March - May 2024) is easily explained by the judgment of the Constitutional Court on 3rd April 2024, which nullified that section of the Act.³ It was also during this quarter that cases of evictions first fell below cases of violence and threats of violence.

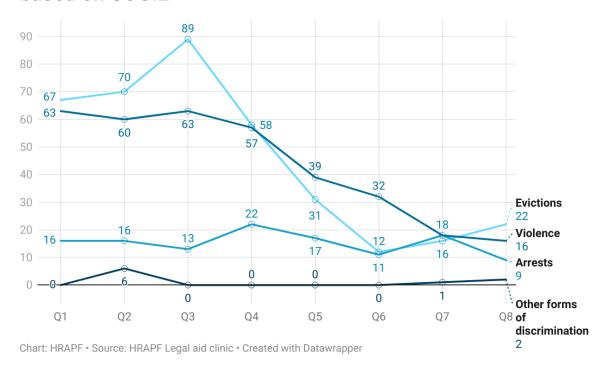
On the other hand, cases of arrests on sexuality-related charges peaked in the 4th quarter of enforcement, with 22 cases reported in that quarter alone, and cases of arrest have remained more or less at the same level in the following quarters, with a noticeable spike in the 7th quarter of enforcement (December 2024 to February 2025). As reported in this series in April 2025, sexuality-related arbitrary arrests are the single class of violations that have not responded to the Constitutional Court judgment on 3rd April 2024, continuing to hold steady. This is clearly as a result of the fact that the criminalisation of sexuality in sections 2, 3, 5 and 11 of the AHA were not in fact affected by that judgment, thus continuing to legitimise the police harassment of LGBTQ persons.

This is directly opposed to cases of violence and evictions, generally perpetrated more by private individuals than state actors, which started to reduce dramatically after the 3rd April judgment, and which have continued to reduce since then. This is an indication that public reaction to and perception of LGBTQ persons and LGBTQ rights is in fact directly influenced by the position of the law, and the AHA 2023 has had a direct impact on the day to day lives of LGBTQ persons in Uganda, and this is likely to continue as long as the law remains in force.

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³ Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, HRAPF Report on Violence and Violations Based on Real or Presumed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity During the Month of April 2024.

Analysis of trends in violence and human rights violations based on SOGIE



8. Conclusion

During the two-year implementation of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 in Uganda, it's impact on the lives of LGBTI persons has been profound and deeply troubling. It has instutionalised discrimination, fostered an environment of fear and violence being targeted against LGBTIQ persons and legitimised widespread human rights abuse against LGBTIQ persons especially arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention. It is therefore imperative that we all join efforts and advocate for the annulment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in order to save the dignity and protect the rights and safety of LGBTIQ persons in Uganda.

APPENDIX: Cases of arrest still pending before police stations and courts across the country at the end of May 2025

Currently, HRAPF is providing legal representation to a total of 16 individuals in 12 cases that are still pending actively either at various police stations or before various courts across the country. In 3 cases, 4 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering various charges related to their sexuality, both under the Penal Code Act and the Anti-Homosexuality Act, specifically homosexuality and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature. 2 cases which were pending at police last month were closed, while 1 file was sanctioned and the Accused was arraigned before court. In 9 cases, 12 individuals are answering various charges, including homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality, aggravated homosexuality, indecent practices and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature/ indecent practices in the various courts of law. Of the 12 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 5 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country. It is thus quite clear that the Uganda Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions are still actively enforcing the Anti-Homosexuality Act, alongside the various provisions criminalizing same sex sexual behaviour in the Penal Code Act.

List of cases in which individuals are still reporting on police bond

No.	HRAPF	Nature of	Brief Facts	Current status	Number	of
	Case Code	Charges			victims	
1	HRAPF/PA	Unnatural	On 10th May 2025, the client was arrested	The client was released on	1	
	/843/25	offences	and detained after a friend of his accused	bond on 12th May. He is		
			him of being a homosexual and although he	still reporting on bond		
			vehemently denied this allegation and			
			explained to the police officers that the			
			matter was a dispute between the two of			
			them involving extortion, he was still			
			arrested, charged with having carnal			
			knowledge against the order of nature and			
			held in custody for 2 days.			
	LID A DE /D A	TT1:1	O 24 M 2005 (1 1')		2	
2	, ,	Homosexuality	On 3 rd May 2025, the clients were arrested	*	2	
	/842/25		on charges of homosexuality by police	bond on 3rd May 2025; still		

		officers who barged into their home in the company of the area defence secretary, dragged them to the police station, charged them with homosexuality then released on police bond.		
3 HRAPF/PA /822/2025	Homosexuality	On 11th April 2025, the client was at a friend's home when the friend and two people started harassing him, asking him why he is gay and then assaulting him. The friend then called police officers who arrested him after they were told that he is a homosexual. He was held on charges of homosexuality before being released on bond	police bond on 17 th April 2025 and he is still	1

Cases currently pending before courts

No.	HRAPF Case	Offence in		Status		
	code	charge sheet	Brief facts		Number o victims	:

1.	HRAPF/PA/ 808/2025	Homosexuali ty	The accused was arrested on 17th March and detained. This was after a male friend came to visit him and his neighbors alerted the police alleging that the two were homosexuals. The prosecution alleges that he knowingly allowed the use of his house for purpose of undertaking activities that encourage homosexuality despite this not being an offence.	Accused's bail was denied	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/ 775/25	Aggravated Homosexuali ty	On 9th December 2024, the accused was arrested when coming from a bar after a group of men accused him of having had sexual intercourse with a man. He denied knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with.	On 15 th May 2025, the client's charges were amended to Aggravated Homosexuality after the complainant alleged that he had been raped by the Accused. The client is yet to be committed to the High Court for trial.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/ 13/2023	Rape Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused states that he was arrested on 28th July 2023 in Kanungu on allegations of homosexuality after the mother of a man with whom he had been in a relationship reported him to the police accusing him of sodomising her son. The police charged him with rape and aggravated human trafficking basing on the same facts and allegations that he had infected the partner with HIV.	Case pending hearing in the High Court. The accused is still on remand.	1

4.	HRAPF/PA/ 743/24	Trafficking in persons and Having carnal knowledge of a person against the order of nature	The accused states that in 2022 he was imprisoned after a man he had given shelter to reported him to the police for having 'sodomised' him.	Released on bail on 22 May 2023.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/ 144/2023	Unnatural offences	The prosecution alleges that the accused was found having sex with a disabled man at Soroti Sports field. The accused denies the allegations.	Accused released on bail on 30th July 2024 after nearly a year. On 8th May the matter had been cause listed for further hearing of the prosecution case but it did not proceed as the trial magistrate was indisposed.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/ 655/2024	Promotion of Homosexuali ty	The prosecution alleges that the accused had a video strip showing acts of homosexuality.	He was released on bail. The matter had been cause listed for 15th May 2025 but the prosecution witnesses were not in court, so it was adjourned to 26/06/25 for hearing of the prosecution's case.	1

7.	HRAPF/PA/ 656/2024	Unlawful possession of government stores; Promotion of Homosexuali ty	The accused states that while celebrating the birthday of a colleague, the councillor of the area raided the party and had them arrested on allegations of promoting homosexuality. Prosecution alleges that they found them in possession of 3 boxes of male condoms, 26 six national IDs, one Kenyan ID, thirteen photographs, lubricants, covid-19 cards all	He was released on bail on 3 rd April 2025. The last time the case came up for hearing, the prosecution witnesses were not in court, and the matter was adjourned to 26/06/2025 for hearing of	3
8.	HRAPF/PA/ 501/2024	Aggravated homosexualit y	meant for promoting homosexuality. The accused was arrested on 7th March 2024 on allegations of having sexual intercourse with another man. Later the charge was amended to aggravated homosexuality as the mother of the partner was insisting that the partner was 17 years.	the prosecution case. The client is still in prison. The case is yet to be heard. The client's bail application has not yet been fixed.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/ 774/25	Trafficking in persons, forgery and acts of sodomy	The suspects state that they brought a friend to go and work in Rwanda. After checking in at a lodge, the friend demanded for money and when it was denied, he accused them of demanding for sex from him and reported them to the police. They were arrested on 21st January 2025 and 23 January 2025 respectively.	The file was sanctioned, one of the clients was re- arrested on 29th May 2025, arraigned and remanded to prison.	2