



UGANDA SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

16 NOVEMBER 2021

The Situation

On the morning of 16 November 2021, there were two explosions in Kampala, Uganda's capital - at Jubilee Insurance House on Parliament Avenue and at the Central Police Station. At this stage we do not know the details of casualties.

Last month, on 25 October, terrorists used an explosive device on a coach travelling on the Kampala to Masaka road near Mpigi killing one person.

On 23 October 2021, terrorists used an explosive device to attack a restaurant in Kamamboga, a suburb in the northeast of Kampala killing one person and injuring three others.

The UK government has issued an alert about terrorism in Uganda, where it has warned British citizens in the East African country - where attacks of this kind are rare – that:

"Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Uganda. Attacks could be indiscriminate or against foreign nationals or places frequented by foreign nationals. You should be vigilant at all times, especially in crowded areas and public places like hotels, transport hubs, restaurants and bars, and during major gatherings like sporting or religious events. Previous terrorist attacks and disrupted attacks in Uganda have targeted the security forces and places where football matches were being viewed." (16/11/21)

Risk Assessment

Ensuring the safety of our volunteers is always our primary focus. Having operated in Uganda for the past 12 years, our local country office is highly experienced at monitoring and assessing risks to all our activities. We receive regular updates and follow advice from Ugandan Security departments along with the UK Foreign Office advice on travel to and within Uganda.

Uganda is a major tourist country in East Africa and always has been a relatively safe country with a high police and security presence. Terrorist attacks are very rare in Uganda. However, like all major cities across the world, including London, terrorist attacks can and do happen. Indeed, further to the recent terrorist attack outside Liverpool Women's Hospital on 15 November 2021 the UK terror threat level has been raised to 'severe' indicating that an attack is highly likely in the UK.

Play Action International

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We would like to reassure our Uganda Volunteering Project and Adventure Try-Athlon participants that our volunteers do not spend any time in the capital city, Kampala, where the risk of a terrorist attack against is greatest. Your time will be spent in the rural communities of Jinja, in eastern Uganda, where the likelihood of a terrorist attack greatly diminishes. Indeed, the Foreign Office currently states that travel to Eastern Uganda is largely trouble free.

Review

We will continue to monitor the situation daily and have well laid out contingency plans to relocate the Summer 2022 projects to Kenya should it be deemed necessary. The safety of our volunteers and team members is and always will be our highest priority.

Document last reviewed 10:33, 16 November 2021.

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