

STATEMENT BY FRANCIS SSUUBI – FOUNDER WELLS OF HOPE ,AT THE LAUNCH OF THE OHCHR NEW PUBLICATION ON THE DEATH PENALTY – SEPT 21, 2016 , UNITED NATION HQ , NEW YORK.

It's a great honor for me to speak on behalf of Children with a parent on death row.

In Uganda Wells of Hope , the charity that I help found, we have 122 children with a parent t among them 47 have a parent on death row. Like you know, Uganda is not executing but Children of the 206 people on Death row (17 women and 189 men), are deeply traumatized to think that their parents are going to die the next day. Besides these helpless children exist in situations that fall far way below requirements of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

I wish to draw all of us here to UN Human Rights Council resolution 22/11 which

Acknowledges the negative impact of a parent's death sentence and or executions on children, and **urges States to provide those children with the protection and assistance they may require;**

And also

Calls upon States to provide those children or, where appropriate, giving due consideration to the best interests of the child, another member of the family, **with access to their parents and to all relevant information about the situation of their parents;**

Also I wish to refer you to The summary of the panel discussion on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty of executed, held on 11 September 2013, at the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, at which I was one of the panelist!

Several recommendations were made for further action by the **Human Rights Council** and other **United Nations human rights** entities, for example:

(a) **Convene an expert seminar, with United Nations experts and practitioners, in order to investigate the issue further,** including a full examination of the applicable human rights framework, to enable all relevant international human rights treaty bodies and special procedures to engage with the issues, as well as to provide guidance to States and other bodies;

(c) **Provide due attention to protection of all children from all forms of violence in the context of the current development of the post-2015 agenda.**

(d) **Conduct further research both to understand the scale of the problem for those affected and the issues that individual children of parents' sentences to death experience;**

To the best of my knowledge too little has been done. In my address to the panel in September 2013, I called for action and not words in regard to what we recommend to do about helping these children.

I request that we make a follow up on these recommendations, and work to ensure that in all countries where the death sentence is still used, the HRC resolution 22/11 is considered. I am glad to help in this regard, so don't hesitate to contact me.