

**PUNISHMENT OR CORRECTION? A RIGHTS-BASED STUDY OF PRISON LABOUR
IN UGANDA:
THE CASE OF KIRINYA PRISON-JINJA**

SEWANKAMBO HAMZA

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DECLARATION

I, **SEWANKAMBO HAMZA** hereby declare that this dissertation has never been submitted to any other institution of learning in fulfilment of any academic requirement and it is an original piece of work where all works cited herein are expressly acknowledged.

Candidate : Sewankambo Hamza

Signature :

Date :

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with my consent as University Supervisor.

Supervisor: Dr. Mbazira Christopher

Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents, Sheikh Abdu Obeid Kamulegeya and the late Hajati Fatina Namusis Kiwuka Ssekyanzi whose sacrifice and love formed the foundation of my education career.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
FGD	Focused Group discussion
FLSA	Fair Labour Standards Act
FPI	Federal Prison Industries
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
ILO	International Labour Organization
KAR	Kings African Rifle
OC	Officer in Charge
PIE	Prison Industries Enhancement
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
UN	United Nations
UPS	Uganda Prisons Service
USA	United States of America
PREP	Federal-Post Release Employment Project

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
List of abbreviations.....	iv
Table of contents.....	v
Abstract.....	viii

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND.....	1
1.1 Statement of the problem.....	5
1.2.0 Purpose of the Study.....	7
1.2.1 Specific Objectives.....	7
1.2.2 Research Questions.....	7
1.3 Scope of the study.....	8
1.4 Significance of the study.....	8
1.5. Conceptual Framework.....	9
1.6 Literature Review.....	16
1.7.0 Methodology.....	23
1.7.1 Research Design.....	23
1.7.3 Sampling.....	23
1.7.4 Data collection.....	23
1.7.5 Primary data.....	24
1.7.6 Interviews.....	24
1.7.7 Secondary data.....	24
1.7.8 Methods of data processing and Analysis.....	24
1.7.9 Data Analysis.....	25
1.8 Limitations during the study.....	25
1.9 Chapterization.....	26

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PRISON LABOUR

2.1 Introduction.....	28
2.2 The Development of prison labour.....	29
2.3 Historical development of prison system in Uganda.....	34
2.4 The management of Uganda prisons in the historical perspective.....	36
2.5 Conclusion.....	38

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PRISON LABOUR.

3.1 Introduction.....	39
3.2.0 The international legal instruments on prison labour.....	39
3.2.1 An analysis of the convention concerning forced or compulsory labour (1930).....	41
3.2.2 Other international instruments which deal with forced labour.....	43
3.3 The Laws relating to prison labour in Uganda.....	46
3.3.1 Constitution of Uganda, 1995.....	47
3.3.2 Prison Act, 2006.....	48
3.3.3 Employment Act, 2006.....	51
3.4 Institutional frame work in the management of prisons.....	52
3.5 Conclusion.....	55

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 FORMS OF LABOUR AT JINJA REMAND PRISON/KIRINYA AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS.

4.1 Introduction.....	57
4.2 Forms of Labour.....	58
4.3 Problems faced by prisoners and challenges to prison staff.....	64
4.4 Benefits of prison labour.....	69

4.5 Conclusion.....	71
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CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRISON LABOUR IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

5.1 Introduction.....	73
5.2 Prison Labour in United States of America.....	74
5.2.1 Federal Prison Labour.....	77
5.2.2 Legal authorization of private involvement in prison labour in USA.....	83
5.2.3 Prison Labour in Territorial prisons.....	84
5.3 Prison labour in Cameroon.....	86
5.3.1 Forced Prison labour in Cameroonian prisons.....	88
5.4 Lessons to be drawn from the Comparative study.....	92
5.5 Conclusion.....	93

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions.....	94
6.2.0 Recommendations.....	96
Bibliography.....	99
Appendices.....	109

ABSTRACT:

Throughout the history, prison labour has been part of the prison system. It is presumed that prison labour has its roots from slavery. Its existence led to the development of international human rights instruments based on the inalienable rights of a human being. These instruments are codified in the Ugandan legal system with the cardinal objective of eliminating forced labour and like practices. Although prison labour is not considered to be forced labour, the instruments adopted by nations throughout the world impose certain restrictions on the use of prison labour. This study focuses on prison labour in Uganda in light of the restrictions imposed by international community.

The key findings of the research are contained in chapters two, three, four and five. The study explores the historical development of prison labour in Uganda. In addition, the international and national legal instruments, which provide for prison labour, are analyzed. From the study, it is evident that despite the legal provisions put in place to safeguard the rights of prisoners, the findings show that labour in Uganda government prisons is involuntary and thus oppressive and exploitative. However, there are indications that prison labour is desirable so long as it caters for the needs of those concerned. Further, the study spells out how other countries like USA and Cameroon have handled the concept of prison labour within their legal set up. Generally, limited attention is given to prison labour as an important category of labour. This makes it necessary for states to formulate comprehensive policies on prison labour based on human rights norms as protected in international instruments.