



THE COST OF JOURNALISM IN AFRICA

Hello Friend,

Welcome to our August Newsletter

We believe August was fruitful to your side as it was to ours. This is our second newsletter and if you need the first one it is available on our website [Here](#).

As **Ukweli Africa** we refuse to accept silence, fear, or burnout as the cost of journalism in Africa.

We believe journalism should protect communities, not endanger the people who tell their stories. Yet across Uganda, especially as we move closer to the 2026 elections, journalists are being attacked, intimidated, and silenced.

WHY IT MATTERS

Covering elections in Uganda continues to be one of the most dangerous assignments for reporters.

In one by-election this year, over 30 journalists were assaulted by security forces in Kawempe North. Cameras were smashed, footage deleted, and reporters beaten. Some were hospitalized.

The Uganda Journalists Association has already recorded 36 cases of assault on media practitioners this year alone.

Many journalists are now forced to work in fear, censor themselves, or abandon critical stories altogether.

When journalists are silenced, so are the communities they serve. Election violence weakens accountability and erodes the public's right to know.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

Despite these challenges, Ukweli Africa continues to build safer, stronger journalism:

The Newsroom Project: We premiered our first episode with veteran journalist Frank Walusimbi, which reached more than 2,000 viewers and sparked a much-needed conversation on mental health in the media.

This is just the beginning, we've already filmed and interviewed more than nine reporters and anchors whose stories we'll be releasing in the coming

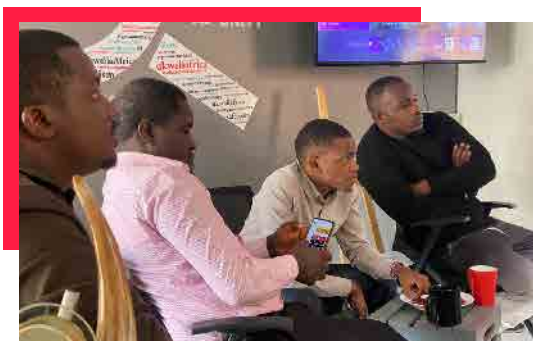
months. Our next premiere drops on 5th September 2025, so stay tuned.

Documentary with Media Challenge Initiative: We are finalizing a new documentary exploring newsroom mental health and accountability. After two strong preparation meetings, we are close to sharing it with you.

Training & Advocacy: We attended Chapter Four Uganda's training on evidence-based advocacy for human rights violations.

OUR PICTORIAL FROM AUGUST

PEOPLE WHO HAVE VISITED US AT UKWELI



Team from MCI



Williams Kato -
The former NTV Akawungezi producer



Elijah Kanyi -
From Africa Uncensored



William Maige Kamau -
From Africa Uncensored

Our Thematic Areas



Mental Health Advocacy:
Building resilience through safe spaces, peer support, and wellbeing workshops.



Safety for Reporters:
Campaigning for protective gear and secure reporting conditions.



Investigative Training:
Programs like Class to Press and iLens to mentor young watchdog journalists.



Community Engagement:
Ensuring local voices remain central in storytelling.



Cross-border Collaborations:
Strengthening journalism across Africa through knowledge sharing and partnerships.

Quote

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost

— Thomas Jefferson.



PARTNER SUPPORT

As Uganda moves toward the 2026 elections, Ukweli Africa remains committed to protecting journalists' mental health and safety, because strong journalism can only thrive when reporters are safe, supported, and able to tell the truth without fear.

- Badebye Godfrey



What's Next?



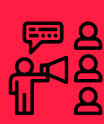
Launch of our documentary with MCI



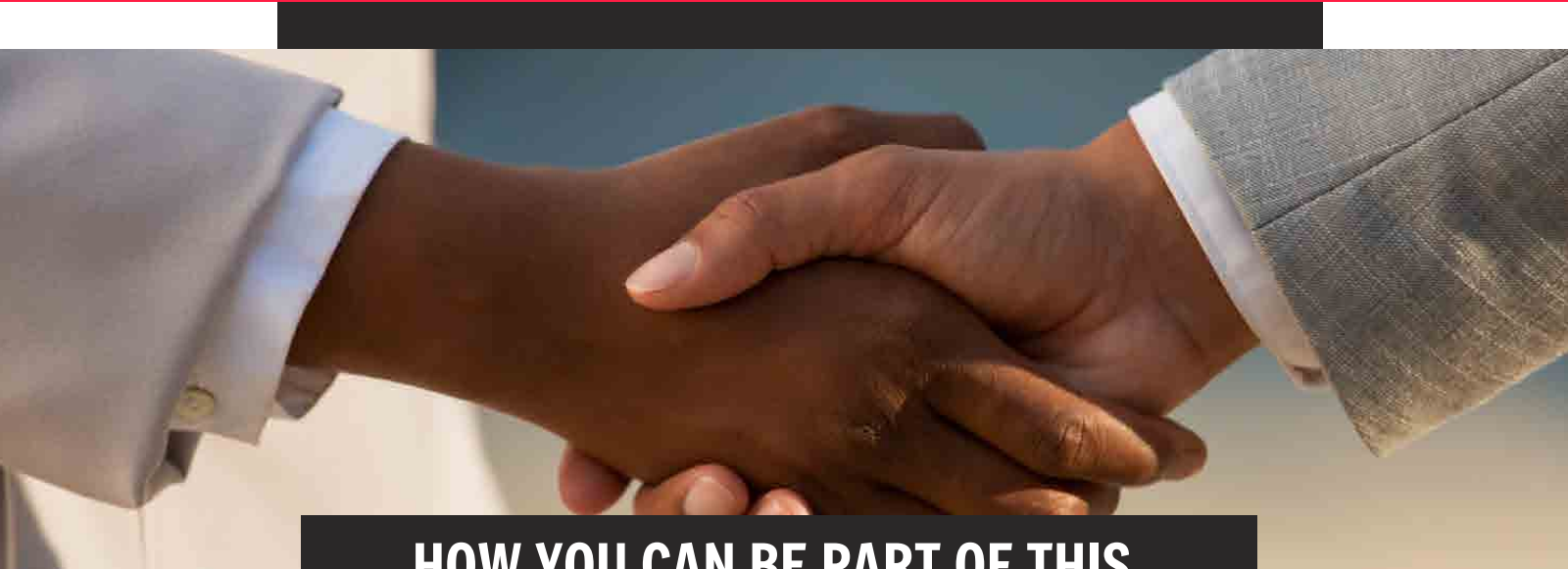
More newsroom mental conversations across Africa, watch this September the launch of Kassim Kayiira's newsroom episode.



Expanded investigative journalism mentorships



Stronger advocacy for journalist protection during the election period



HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS



Share our newsroom stories and keep journalists' voices alive.



Support efforts that provide protective gear and mental health care for reporters.



Partner with us to strengthen independent journalism in Africa.

At Ukweli Africa, we believe journalism should never come at the cost of a reporter's safety or wellbeing. Together, we can ensure that as Uganda heads toward 2026, truth-telling remains alive, and those who tell it are protected.

Stay connected. Stay curious. Stay with Ukweli.

Don't forget to follow us on all our social media platforms and subscribe to receive our September newsletter, coming in just four weeks.



In solidarity,
The Ukweli Africa Team

www.ukweli africa.org/