

## **A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU UGANDANS AND GLISS PARTNERS**

Words cannot express our gratitude for the love and friendship you showed us when our offices at 5 Martyrs Road in Ntinda were taken over by security forces from Wednesday September 20, 2017 at around 17:00 hrs up to Thursday September 21, 2017 at around 18:00. For over 24 hours, our offices and every item was turned upside down as security personnel ploughed into desk drawers, book shelves, files, personal notebooks, etc looking for something that was never clear from the search warrant.

As a law-abiding organization and individuals, we cooperated with the security personnel, working with them well into the wee hours of the morning and the hours that followed later.

Thank you to our civil society colleagues for standing with us, thank you all who dropped by our offices. Your solidarity kept our spirits high and never to lose focus of our collective struggles to build a better country for ourselves and our children.

Thank you to all our social media fans from the Diary of Intellectual, Concerned Citizens to #AgeLimitsTheLimit and many others for spreading the news and sharing information about our situation real time. You demonstrated more than anything else that these platforms can extend the boundaries of our freedoms.

Thank you to all our media friends and media houses who invested manpower and broadcast hours to keep the world informed about our situation.

Thank you to our development partners for the statements of solidarity, your telephone calls, and your messages of encouragement. Your words of solidarity can never be forgotten.

To the entire GLISS team, thank you for standing firm. For wanting to be THE NEXT BIG THING in town, GLISS can only attract scrutiny and potentially unnecessary obstruction. But we are unyielding in our commitment to excel and improve the quality of life of our people.

To the Men and Women of our security forces who executed the orders of their superiors, thank you for acting professionally and with utmost civility, courtesy and discipline. For someone's overzealousness, I came face-to-face with the human side of our police officers. The side that is different from the violence that accompany peaceful protests on the streets of our capital. Listening to the commanding officer address his team at 04:00 hrs and say to them thank you for working late and ordering them to stand down simply left me humbled. The energy and commitment you put into your work left me thinking – what if it was to productive work rather than regime retention – may be we wouldn't have lost over 20 innocent women!

When all is said and done, GLISS will be stronger, more resilient and purposeful in our pursuit for a fair and equitable society.