

Current Events Africa

“Uganda Anti-Gay Law”

Tye Roberts- Core All

Website: Time Africa- <http://world.time.com/2014/02/25/uganda-antigay-law-aid-cuts/>

Category: Politics and Society

Country: Uganda

Topic/Summary Points:

The East African country of Uganda has adopted an “anti-gay” rule/law. It is now a crime to be gay and undertake any “gay” sexual acts. The law lays out life imprisonment for repeated acts...the first act (“attempting to commit homosexuality) is 7 years in jail. The Ugandan president backs the legislation by David Bahati who originally called for the death penalty. The Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni calls homosexuality “disgusting”.

Arguments/Issues/Significance:

The controversy has had a major backlash against the Ugandan government. Countries around the West (Europe) have already pulled financial aid from Uganda. Some of these include Netherlands, Denmark and Norway. Sweden is close to follow. Already, 26 million has been pulled. The United States sends 456 Million to Uganda and has threatened to pull these funds as a result of this new legislation. Uganda has shrugged off these threats and has told the West to mind their own business. The legislation and push has led to increased violence and discrimination towards LGBTQ in Uganda.

Opinion and Feelings:

This disgusts me...goes against my beliefs and my open attitudes towards people from all walks of life. I am worried that the rights of the few are often trampled...used to divide and polarize. In a land of constant and bloody conflict and ethnic divide, this appears to be a new “enemy” and “scapegoat” for those in power to attack and blame for problems. Hiding behind religion, this is a direct assault on freedom. The United States, should not only stopping sending aid, but also sanction Uganda, and push for others in the world to do the same! The United Nations, supporters of human rights should condemn this legislation and push Uganda, and any country like it to support and protect all common rights.

This is a slippery slope, and violence, discrimination and terror should not be tolerated. The world is changing, this is the new frontier in civil rights. You would think this would really make sense in a land challenged by the fight for independence and human rights for so long!