



2015

Annual
Report



**nonviolent education and
action for social change and
environmental care**

Report Contents

<i>Tales of 2015</i>	3
<i>New Staff</i>	4
<i>Our 2015 Partners</i>	5
<i>Ahead in 2016</i>	6

Letter from the Directors

We have encountered more challenges, risks, and repression during this year of 2015 than all previous years of our existence combined. As those responsible for cultivating a culture of nonviolent change-making in one of Africa's most repressive environments, we can say with certainty that the trials we have faced are signs that we are on the right path.

This report is a window into our struggles and successes, our obstacles and victories. Yet as you read, recall the reality that our work as Solidarity Uganda pervades our existence. It is central to our identities not because we have willed it that way, but because of the demands of living in line with the truth amidst such rampant injustice.

This journey is a dangerous one, yet we must walk it. But as the East African adage goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." With the climate - political, economic, social, and environmental - intensifying in Uganda, we need your hands and feet in 2016, the year for a New Uganda.

*Suzan Abong Wilmot, Phil Wilmot, Dan Tulibagenyi
Team of Directors*

How to Give

In 2016 we intend to expand and enhance our activities, as you will read in this report.

To join our monthly giving team or to make a one-time donation, visit solidarityuganda.org and click "Give." Checks and cash can be sent to **Solidarity Uganda, 1937 Smith Station Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 USA** or to our Uganda DFCU bank account under the name **Action Alliance Limited, account number 01011 0237 95224.**

U.S. donations are tax-deductible.

Seeking Interns!



Solidarity Uganda is seeking interns who are looking for experience in social media, business, and project management. Visit www.solidarityuganda.org/internships.



Tales of 2015

Amuru Women Resist

As many of our supporters may recall, our pilot project in 2012 was launched in Amuru District, Northern Uganda, where we consulted a community suffering harassment, arsons, and forced displacement by a government trying to grab their land to sell it to large corporations.

We trained communities directly, but we also gave intensive coaching to young people of Amuru, empowering them to organize and strategize with their neighbors effectively.

In April, a government convoy led by the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Lands came to officially redistrict the region's borders with mark stones. Our trainees had anticipated the caravan and worked with their villages to erect roadblocks and gather hundreds of primary school students to march with leaves. Their most effective tactic employed, however, came from a tiny group of naked grandmothers who pointed their exposed breasts at the ministers, causing one to cry and the other to turn away in shame. The redistricting endeavor failed, and the military occupation in the area was called off.

Not long thereafter, local leaders of many sectors convened and passed a resolution that the land belonged to the Acholi people of Amuru. Similar actions of women disrobing took place in other areas of the country, drawing inspiration from Amuru. To date, the government of Uganda has failed to acquire Amuru's vast and fertile land.

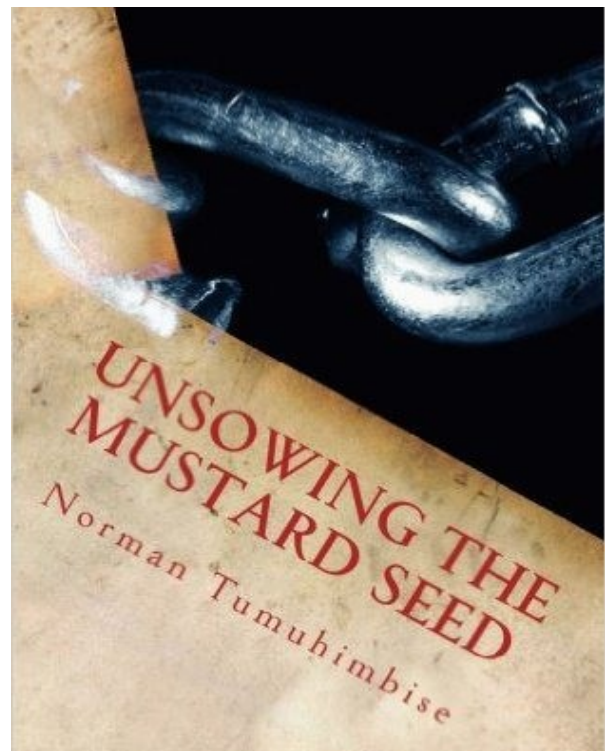
Norman's Disappearance

Norman Tumuhimbise is a determined activist, to say the least. Known for having sneaked yellow pigs into Parliament to cast a humorous light upon the violent kleptocracy of Uganda, Norman received training from Solidarity Uganda shortly thereafter and has continued to organize young unemployed people in the struggle for a free and just nation.

In late August, Norman released another set of pigs in the capital city as part of a peaceful demonstration. That evening, he was snatched by anti-terrorism operatives who held him in a cold, underground cell where he was interrogated and tortured for a week, without as much as a cup of water.

No one knew where Norman was, but we were struggling night and day to figure out how to bring him back - or at least recover his corpse.

After nearly a week with no sign of Norman, young activists declared him dead on social media. Plans for a funeral were in the works, and his wife, young daughter, and friends had already been briefly arrested for having inquired about his whereabouts with police.



Apparently the government felt pressured to release Norman before news of his "death" spread any further. They pushed him out of a car near his home. He was hospitalized, having been severely dehydrated with an injured spine, body weakness, and gassed eyes.

Shortly after another workshop with Norman, Solidarity Uganda helped him release the second edition of his book for sale online at <https://unsowingm7.wordpress.com>, which details his disappearance and torture, and includes a section on nonviolence in Uganda written by a Solidarity Uganda director.

New Uganda

Of all of the intense initiatives we have undertaken this year, Solidarity Uganda is most excited about the birth and development of New Uganda, an umbrella movement under which various activists and pressure groups are now gathering to consolidate their efforts around a common message: we need a New Uganda. The movement is open to any who ascribe to this simple message and the value of nonviolent justice building, and participants have joined and ignited campaigns on various social, political, economic, and ecological issues from various corners of the nation. This is surely the effort to watch out for in 2016!



approximately 300 change agents trained in strategic nonviolence & community organizing during 2015



Board Members

United States

Nate & Pat Gadsden
Charity Alinda
Denis Otim
Megan Clapp

Uganda

Suzan & Phil Wilmot
Daniel Tulibagenyi
Oyaka Makmot
Bishop Zac Niringiye

New Staff

Daniel Tulibagenyi

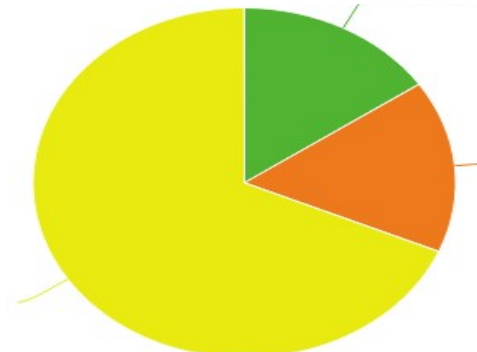
Dan is a tireless organizer fiercely determined to see Uganda transformed. A father of three (one biological and two adopted), the future of his country is his motivation. Solidarity Uganda met Dan when he mobilized a press conference for the organization after detentions during a training in 2014.



Dan handles many logistics in Kampala and the United States. He is a man with feet in many doors and an intimate understanding of what it takes to engender social change, making him an eternally valuable asset to the organization.

2015 Revenues

Individuals:	\$9,708.61
Partners:	\$10,000.00
TPP Grantmaking Partnership:	\$43,000.00



Our 2015 Partners

ActionAid Uganda

ActionAid Uganda (AAU) is our largest, furthest-reaching partner in Uganda. Solidarity Uganda works together with AAU to track corruption in Uganda through ipaidabribe.or.ug. We also consult AAU on various projects and provide training services to many of their partners and clients. AAU played an influential role in helping the above-mentioned Norman Tumuhimbise after his release from torture.

Activista

Activista is a network of young activists across Uganda organized by AAU. Solidarity Uganda has trained various members of the Activista network on nonviolence and social change.

AVCOH

Alternative-to-Violence Centered Organization for Humanity shares office space with Solidarity Uganda. Our geographic neighbors have even provided sureties for our detainees and given us space for trainings. AVCOH trains young people in HIV/AIDS and computer skills.

Beautiful Rising

BR is a global network of activists, organizers, and trainers in the global south who, together with their allies, develop strategic tools and other forms of support to social change movements. Solidarity Uganda directors co-facilitated a training with Beautiful Rising staff in Kampala during 2015 and continue to serve as BR advisors.

BKA Advocates

BKA Advocates provides excellent legal consultation and services for Solidarity Uganda and its clients.

C&K Cinematography

C&K Cinematography is collaborating with Solidarity Uganda to direct and produce a film called "Our Feet Are Rooted," set for public release by June 2016, about the Amuru community in Uganda that has used nonviolent strategy to resist land grabbing and human rights abuses.

Chapter Four

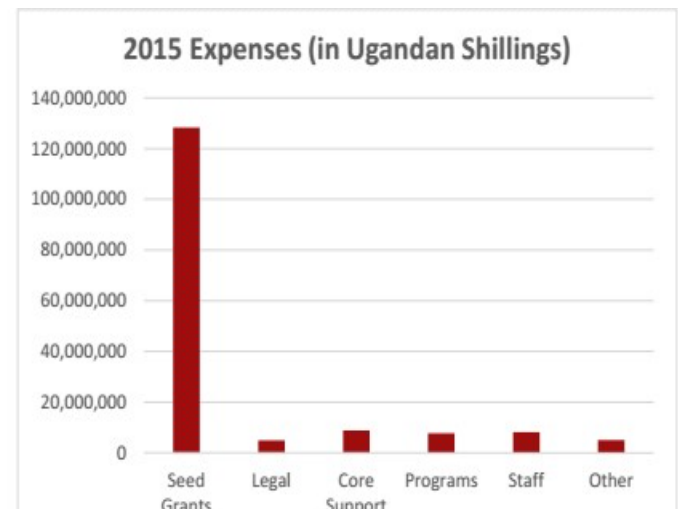
Chapter Four is an organization focused on civil liberties in Uganda, and its staff have provided legal support to ours, especially concerning the arrests that were made of Solidarity Uganda staff in 2014. They are also on the legal frontlines of LGBT rights and basic constitutional freedoms in Uganda.

FOWODE

Forum for Women in Democracy is an organization engaged in bringing females into the political space. Solidarity Uganda had the opportunity to train and learn from several of their members in 2015.

Interparty Youth Platform

IYOP is an entity engaged in bringing young people from all Ugandan political parties together to create momentum on issues most important to them. This year, Solidarity Uganda has worked (mostly informally) with several of their members.



Living Hope

Living Hope is Lango sub-region's strongest entity for cultivating systemic change. On the Eve of the New Year, five of its members were arrested from Solidarity Uganda's office for alleged possession of balloons they intended to release at midnight!

Oasis Advocates

Oasis Advocates often consults Solidarity Uganda and represents us in court matters.

The Pollination Project

A piece of TPP is present in everything we do! Solidarity Uganda's partnership with TPP has resulted in the distribution of dozens of seed grants to individual changemakers and small group efforts for social change in Uganda. If you're on the frontlines of social change, apply for a grant today!

RDP

Recreation for Development and Peace is an organization operating in Lango and Bunyoro which Solidarity Uganda has trained and partnered with in an effort to strengthen citizen action in Uganda.

Rhize

Rhize is a global network of social change catalysts. Solidarity Uganda had the opportunity to organize a ten day training of leading activists and organizers together with Rhize this past October.

The Uhuru Institute

TUI is an organization focused on social transformation that works hand-in-hand with Solidarity Uganda. TUI achieves its goals through various programs, such as training cooperatives and empowering youth to organize effectively.

Waging Nonviolence

WNV is a people-powered news website to which one Solidarity Uganda director contributed several articles about East Africa this year.

Independent Groups

Most of our work is done at the grassroots. In community organizing, the informal groups are often the most powerful ones. Their collective contributions must not be overlooked!

Anonymous Supporters

Due to the nature of our work, many of our clients, participants, partners, and donors choose to remain anonymous. Their contributions toward building a more peaceful and just Uganda cannot be shoved under the rug, however. To all of you not mentioned here - thank you for everything you do!

Ahead in 2016

Our Feet Are Rooted

Our Feet Are Rooted is a film due for release by June 2016 co-directed and co-produced by Solidarity Uganda. It traces the story of Solidarity Uganda's work in Amuru District, where residents have used nonviolent strategies to protect their people from military aggression and corporate theft of their land. Watch the trailer and stay tuned to our progress at www.facebook.com/ourfeetarerooted.

Lango Community Center

In 2016, our co-director Suzan will be responsible for developing Lira's first open, democratic community center and learning space. Youths in Lira have nowhere to go and enjoy themselves apart from bars and spaces that demand a purchase. The space will be equipped with a library, films and other learning resources, free internet, and a bakery/cafe. To get involved, email Suzan at suzan@solidarityuganda.com.