

# Uganda in Crisis

In the lead-up to the East African nation's January 2021 elections, pro-government trolls wielded tweets as a weapon to spread misinformation and disinformation against opposition leader Bobi Wine



# Uganda in Crisis

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# Glossary

Detailed descriptions and explanations of terms and abbreviations relevant to this report are listed below. These descriptions and explanations serve to clarify the usage in our report and are not intended to be authoritative.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
ANCIR	African Network of Centres for Investigative Reporting
Bob Wine	The stage name of Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, a Ugandan politician, singer and presidential election candidate
CfA	Code for Africa
NRM	National Resistance Movement
NUP	National Unity Platform
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement

# Executive summary: What's the story?

## Twitter becomes a weapon for trolls to spread misinformation and disinformation against the opposition as Uganda prepares to vote

Social media is an increasingly important tool in political protests. It's used for, among other things, coordinating protest activities, documenting scenes on the ground and raising money to bail out protesters who've been arrested. Simply documenting protests on social media also provides evidence, particularly in instances where governments deny the use of excessive force on protesters.

However, social media is at times also used as a way to push misinformation and disinformation, drawing attention away from the issues at hand.

This was the case in Uganda as the East African nation prepared for its January 2021 presidential elections. In November 2020, Robert Kyagulanyi - popularly known as Bobi Wine - a presidential candidate, was arrested on two separate occasions: on November 3, after submitting his nomination papers and again on November 18 at a campaign rally. Kyagulanyi's supporters protested after both arrests, with the second protest resulting in the death of 45 people<sup>1</sup>.

A CfA investigation identified a set of misleading posts circulated in the wake of both protests, claiming that Kyagulanyi's supporters had destroyed public property. These posts, under the hashtags #Stophooliganism and #NationalUselessPlatform, used photos from past events, including some that showed incidents from other countries, to spread a narrative of widespread destruction. The accounts in these networks had previously participated in hashtags that supported the incumbent president, identifying this as a case where pro-government political trolls used false narratives to discredit the opposition

A separate incident took place on 1 December 2020: Kyagulanyi's bodyguard was accused of hurling a teargas canister that injured two people. Video footage later revealed that the canister had been launched by another individual. This allegation, together with the false information from the protests, formed a basis for a set of videos which claim to demonstrate how Kyagulanyi intended to throw Uganda into chaos. We have identified two of the videos in this series which, although they have few public shares on Twitter, demonstrate a coordinated approach to spread a narrative of a destructive National Unity Platform (NUP).

Additionally, this investigation highlights documented cases of protest misinformation, a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly common in the social media documentation of political protests.

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<sup>1</sup> CNN, Uganda protest death toll

Similarly, DFRLab, a CfA Partner covering disinformation and CIB Cases in Africa, **uncovered** a collection of Twitter accounts and Facebook pages engaging in suspicious online behavior. The accounts posted verbatim messages supporting the Ugandan government and criticizing the opposition, for example; Some of these accounts included users who appeared to be journalists.

After sharing their initial analysis with both Twitter and Facebook, both platforms conducted an independent investigation and **took action** against the assets for violating their rules regarding coordinated inauthentic behavior (CIB), with Facebook removing them on January 8 and Twitter on January 10, 2021.” Facebook’s **internal investigation** attributed the network to a group within Uganda’s Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology

# The Authors

**Code for Africa** (CfA) is the continent's largest network of non-profit independent civic technology and open data laboratories, with teams of full-time technologists and analysts in 13 African countries. CfA's laboratories build digital democracy solutions that give citizens unfettered access to actionable information to improve citizens' ability to make informed decisions, and to strengthen civic engagement for improved public governance and accountability.

**The African Network of Centres for Investigative Reporting (ANCIR)** is a CfA initiative that brings together the continent's best investigative newsrooms, ranging from large traditional mainstream media to smaller specialist units. ANCIR member newsrooms investigate crooked politicians, organised crime and big business. The iLAB is ANCIR's in-house digital forensic team of data scientists and investigative specialists who spearhead investigations that individual newsrooms are unable to tackle on their own. This includes forensic analysis of suspected digital disinformation campaigns aimed at misleading citizens or triggering social discord or polarisation using hate speech or radicalisation or other techniques.

The iLAB subscribes to CfA's guiding principles:

1. **We show what's possible.** Digital democracy can be expensive. We seek to be a catalyst by lowering the political risk of experimentation by creating successful proofs-of-concept for liberating civic data, for building enabling technologies and for pioneering sustainable revenue models. We also seek to lower the financial costs for technology experimentation by creating and managing 'shared' backbone civic technology and by availing resources for rapid innovation.
2. **We empower citizens.** Empowering citizens is central to our theory of change. Strong democracies rely on engaged citizens who have actionable information and easy-to-use channels for making their will known. We therefore work primarily with citizen organisations and civic watchdogs, including the media. We also support government and social enterprises to develop their capacity to meaningfully respond to citizens and to effectively collaborate with citizens.
3. **We are action oriented.** African societies are asymmetric. The balance of power rests with governments and corporate institutions, at the expense of citizens. Citizens are treated as passive recipients of consultation or services. We seek to change this by focusing on actionable data and action-orientated tools that give 'agency' to citizens.

4. **We operate in public.** We promote openness in our work and in the work of our partners. All of our digital tools are open source and all our information is open data. We actively encourage documentation, sharing, collaboration, and reuse of both our own tools, programmes, and processes, as well as those of partners.
5. **We help build ecosystems.** We actively marshal resources to support the growth of a pan-African ecosystem of civic technologists. Whenever possible we reuse existing tools, standards and platforms, encouraging integration and extension. We operate as a pan-African federation of organisations who are active members of a global community, leveraging each other's knowledge and resources, because all of our work is better if we are all connected.

This report was authored by the iLAB's East African team, consisting of investigative manager **Allan Cheboi**, data analyst **Jean Githae**, data technologist **Robin Kiplangat** and datavis designer **Odhiambo Ouma**. The report was edited by senior programme manager **Amanda Strydom** and deputy CEO **Chris Roper**, copy-edited by Natasha Joseph and approved for publication by CEO **Justin Arenstein**.



# Electoral background

Uganda has held four presidential elections since a **2005 vote**<sup>2</sup> that restored a multi-party political system. The 2021 polls once again pitted long-time incumbent President Yoweri Museveni against a range of opposition politicians. This time, his main opponent was Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, popularly known as Bobi Wine; the first-time presidential candidate ran on a National Unity Platform (NUP) ticket.

Ssentamu, and Ugandans as a whole, would have been keenly aware of President Museveni's three most recent electoral victories.

In 2006, President Museveni ran for re-election under a National Resistance Movement (NRM) ticket and won 59% of the **vote**. The main opposition candidate, the Forum for Democratic Change's (FDC) Kizza Besigye, contested the result at Uganda's Supreme Court. The court acknowledged that the election was marred by irregularities such as voter intimidation and violence, but **upheld** President Museveni's victory.

In 2011, Besigye again contested President Museveni; this time, the incumbent won with 68% of the **vote**. Besigye **rejected** these results, alleging electoral fraud. European Union (EU) observers **noted** that the election was "marred by avoidable and logistical failures, which led to an unacceptable number of Ugandan citizens being disenfranchised".

Then, in 2016, Besigye tried again. The result was no different: President Museveni won, with 60% of the **vote**. Observers were scathing: the Commonwealth's election observers **noted** that the election fell short of democratic benchmarks, while the EU's observers **warned** that both independence and transparency were lacking.

In a move that was repeated in 2021, the government - on election day - instructed Uganda's main mobile service providers, MTN and Airtel, to block social media platforms. The Ugandan Communication Commission called this a **security measure**, while President Museveni said it was necessary "to stop so many creating trouble".

The 2016 election was also marred by the arrest of opposition candidates. Two days before the election, Besigye was **detained** by the Ugandan police while on his way to a campaign rally; he was accused of

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<sup>2</sup> The Guardian, Ugandans vote for multi-party state

violating campaign rules. On 18 February 2016, election day, Besigye was arrested and later released - only to be **arrested** again the next day during a raid on the FDC's headquarters. On 20 February 2016, Uganda's Electoral Commission declared President Museveni as the winner. Besigye, who was under **house arrest** at the time, rejected these results, citing massive electoral irregularities. Besigye later swore himself in as the **people's president** and was subsequently arrested for treason. These charges were later **dropped**.



Voters queuing to cast their vote: Wikimedia Commons

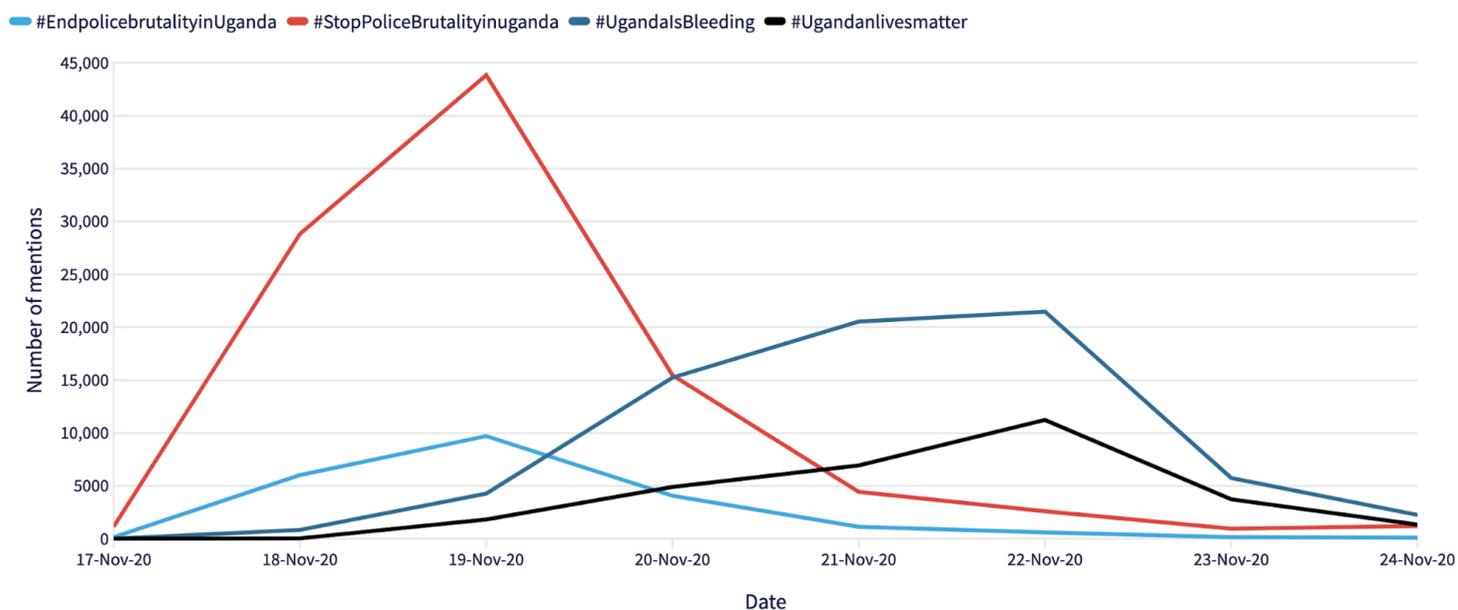
# The Protests

On 24 July 2019, Kyagulanyi **announced** his intention to run for president in the 2021 general election. He contested for the seat on an NUP ticket.

Come November 2020, election fever was hotting up - and Kyagulanyi was arrested at a campaign rally in Luuka, Eastern Uganda, for **violating** the Electoral Commission’s guidelines. Covid-19 restrictions **meant** that only rallies with fewer than 200 attendees were legal. Police fired teargas at the rally and some of the politician’s aides were injured in the ensuing scuffle.

Following Kyagulanyi’s arrest, protests broke out in Uganda as his supporters called for his release. The police responded fiercely, firing teargas and rubber bullets. News outlets reported having observed the police chasing people out of malls in Uganda’s capital city, Kampala. Scenes from the protests were documented on social media under the hashtags #Endpolicebrutalityinuganda, #UgandalsBleeding, #Ugandanlivesmatter and #StopPoliceBrutalityinuganda. These hashtags generated a total of 220,714 mentions between 18 and 24 November 2020.

## Timeline of Twitter posts in response to the arrest of Robert Kyagulanyi



Source: Twitter via Meltwater Explore

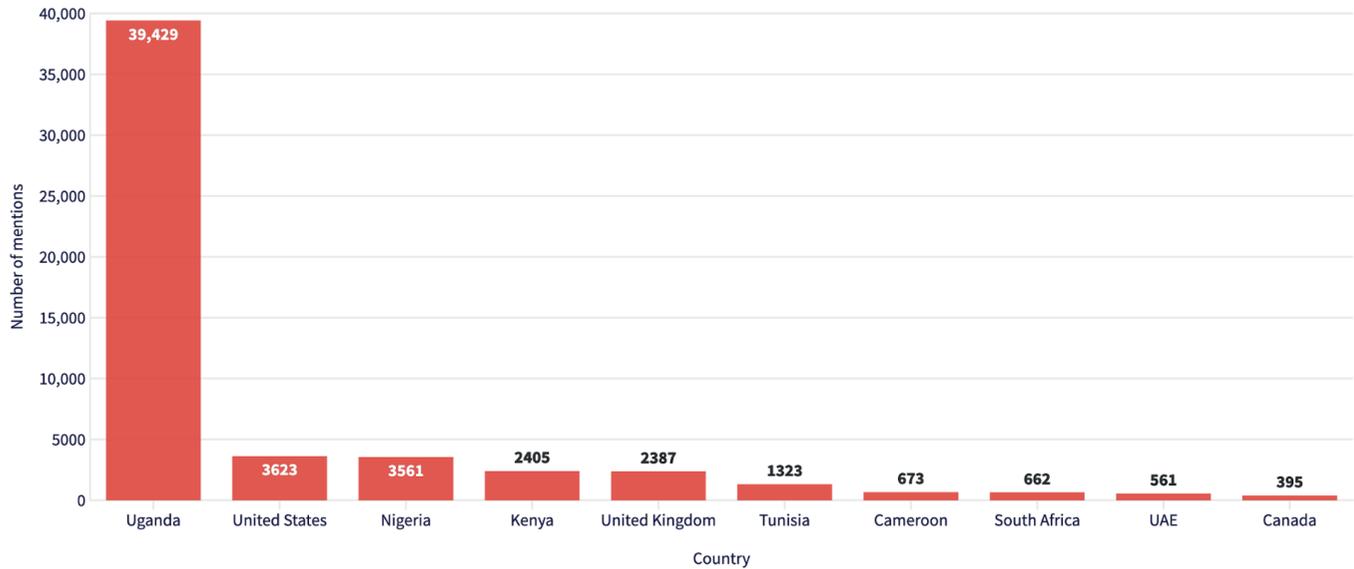


Timeline of Twitter posts following Kyagulanyi’s arrest on November 18, 2020 (Source : CfA via Meltwater Explore and Flourish)

A number of graphic photos and videos showed protesters who had been shot or beaten by police. We used Meltwater Explore to identify that most of the Twitter posts featuring these hashtags came from users based in Uganda.

### Distribution of Twitter mentions by location

Most of the Twitter mentions related to the protests which took place after 18 November 2020 came from users based in Uganda



Source: Twitter via Meltwater Explore



### Geographical distribution of Twitter mentions after the protests which took place after Kyagulanyi's arrest on November 18, 2020 (Source : CfA via Meltwater Explore and Flourish)

The most retweeted posts in this period were videos documenting injured protesters; the Army and Ugandan Police were blamed for these injuries.

**Bobi Wine supporters hit the streets to demand for his release and just like the police always does, it responded with violence. With the Army, the Uganda police went on a killing spree. It beat and shot directly AT citizens leaving many injured or dead. As of 19/11/2020, they have deployed military tanks!**

This Twitter post explains what caused the protests that began on 18 November 2020 (Source: CfA via Twitter)

## The documented misinformation

It's clear, then, that many of the photos and videos documented under these hashtags served as an important source of information.

However, a number served as a source of misinformation. As the protests unfolded in the streets, some posts and videos claimed to show the violence in Uganda - but were, in fact, from other countries and events. A number of these have since been fact-checked by **PesaCheck**, an independent fact-checking initiative incubated by CfA.

On 19 November 2020, a 15-second **video** of a crowd running to safety was posted under the hashtag #UgandalsBleeding. PesaCheck found that this video had appeared online long before this event. The video had also been **circulated** in October 2020, during Tanzania's elections. PesaCheck found the earliest instance of the video online to be on 15 May 2020.



Screengrab of a tweet with a video allegedly showing the protests following Kyagulanyi's arrest on November 18, 2020 (Source: Twitter/ CfA)

On 20 November 2020, a photo of a woman hiding behind a door to avoid policemen, shared under the hashtag #UgandalsBleeding, was also found to be **unrelated** to the Uganda protests. This photo first appeared online on 12 August 2017; it accompanied a Reuters article about post-election skirmishes in Kenya following that country's 2017 election. A number of users who responded to this tweet noted that the photo was from Kenya: they pointed out that the poster in the photo was from Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), a political party in Kenya. The user who posted this photo then responded with photos of bleeding individuals, rather than acknowledging that the image was not from the protest.



**#UGANDAISBLEEDING** 🇰🇪

@mrschnxck

⋮

Some people in this world are so lost that they don't see themselves as UGANDAN 😞 WAKE TF UP you ain't yt english american Swedish or whatever 🙄

[#UgandalsBleeding](#)

That's our home, our country, our family, friends and innocent people are over there dying for a better tomorrow



1:30 AM · Nov 20, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

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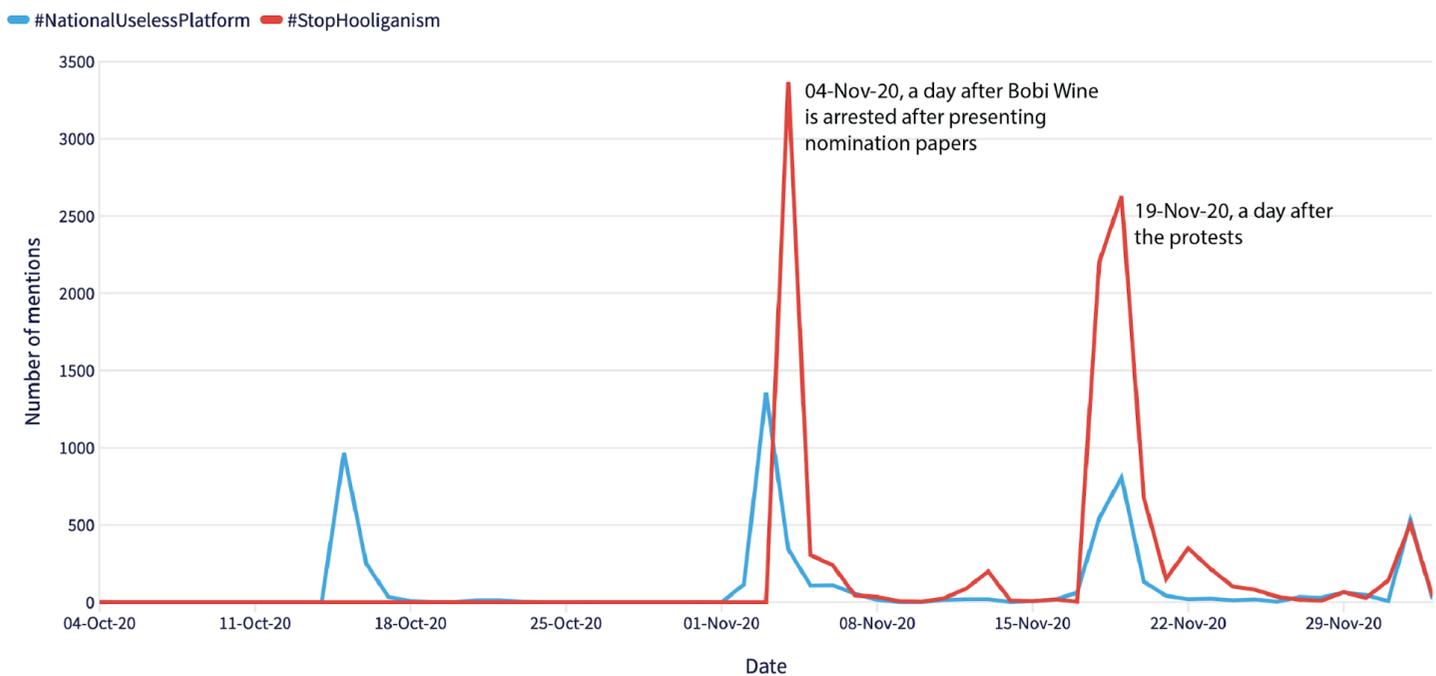
245 Retweets
14 Quote Tweets
191 Likes

**Screengrab of a tweet with a photo allegedly showing the protests following Kyagulanyi's arrest on 18 November 2020 (Source: CfA via Twitter)**

# The Counter Hashtags

By 18 November, Kgagulanyi was no stranger to police action. Earlier that month, on 3 November 3, after presenting his nomination papers, Kyagulanyi was **arrested**; this sparked **protests** by his supporters. The next day, a series of posts and images under the hashtag #StopHooliganism appeared on social media: these alleged that NUP supporters were responsible for destructive behaviour in the period after the nominations. This hashtag, together with #NationalUselessPlatform, was also used after the protests that followed his 18 November arrest and the protests that followed it.

## Timeline of posts under #NationalUselessPlatform and #StopHooliganism



Source: Twitter via Meltwater Explore



Timeline of Twitter posts from Uganda under the hashtags #NationalUselessPlatform and #StopHooliganism (Source : CFA via Meltwater Explore and Flourish)

## Counter hashtags following Kyagulanyi’s arrest on 3 November 2020

Using **Meltwater** we were able to identify the posts with the highest reach during the peak of 4 November 2020. Our investigation found a number of these posts to be false. One of the most popular posts claimed that the NUP had engaged in **“rowdy behaviour”** on the second day of the presidential nomination. Our investigation found that the images in this post were from previous incidents. The first image can be traced back to **2009**, when riots broke out in Kampala after a representative of Buganda’s ruler was prevented from travelling to a region northeast of the capital to make preparations for a political rally. The second image can be traced back to **2011**, when protests broke out after the arrest of Kizza Besigye, the main opposition candidate at the time.

**Uganda Youth Patriotic Front**  
@uganda\_front

We are not surprised by the rowdy behaviors of Robert Kyagulanyi supporters on the second day of nomination but credit to our Uganda Police, Army and other agencies for calming them to order. Why burnt a police? President Museveni has a huge support. **#StopHooliganism**



The Bandit and 6 others

10:05 AM · Nov 4, 2020 · Twitter Web App

### Riots in Uganda kill at least 7

By Deseret News | Sep 11, 2009, 12:00am MDT

f t SHARE



Demonstrators are seen after setting ablaze a police post in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, Thursday. Supporters of the traditional ruler of the country’s largest ethnic group clashed with security forces in the country’s capital. At least seven people were killed. Several other people were injured as protesters set stacks of tires on fire and threw stones at police vehicles. | Associated Press

U.S. & WORLD | WORLD & NATION | POLITICS

### 2 dead: Riots erupt in Uganda after brutal arrest

By Associated Press | Apr 29, 2011, 7:16am MDT

f t SHARE

GRID VIEW



Rioters burn tyres and wood in the capital city Kampala, Uganda, Friday, April 29, 2011 after riots broke out. Army troops and police faced off against rioting demonstrators in downtown Kampala on Friday, the first time the Uganda’s growing protest movement had reached the country’s capital, and Red Cross officials said at least one person was killed and 64 wounded. | Stephen Wandera, AP Photo

4 of 6

The images in this tweet are from two separate protests that took place in 2009 and 2011 (Source:CfA via Twitter, Deseret News)

Another popular post, which claimed that NUP supporters were responsible for **business disruptions**, was also false. Similar to the previous post, one of the images was from the 2011 riots after Besigye's arrest. The second image can be traced to the **post-election skirmishes**

**Ruhima Jonah**  
@AsantejnrRuhima

As a country we need to define our interests & cross examine every political actor's action & how they affect our country. This is NUP supporters mobilized by their leader Bobi wine disrupting business & other road users this affects different people going along #StopHooliganism



Muhoozi Kainerugaba and 4 others

2:40 AM · Nov 4, 2020 · Twitter Web App

57 Retweets 20 Quote Tweets 218 Likes



SIEGFRIED MODOLA / REUTERS

Protesters supporting opposition leader Raila Odinga, run away from police in the slum area of Mathare in the capital Nairobi, Kenya.

U.S. & WORLD WORLD & NATION POLITICS

## 2 dead: Riots erupt in Uganda after brutal arrest

By Associated Press | Apr 29, 2011, 7:16am MDT

f t SHARE



4 of 6

Rioters burn tyres and wood in the capital city Kampala, Uganda, Friday, April 29, 2011 after riots broke out. Army troops and police faced off against rioting demonstrators in downtown Kampala on Friday, the first time the Uganda's growing protest movement had reached the country's capital, and Red Cross officials said at least one person was killed and 64 wounded. | Stephen Wandera, AP Photo

The images in this tweet are from two separate protests that took place in Uganda in 2009 and in Kenya in 2017 (Source:CfA via Twitter, Deseret News, HuffPost)

Another popular post, also using the same hashtag, claimed that NUP supporters were responsible for the **destruction** of an unidentified road. The image in this post can be traced back to the pro-Besigye **protests** in 2011.

 **siima.k** @k\_siima · Nov 4

Below is a pic where hooligans are destroying a road worth billions of tax payers' money. why does bobi wine and his NUP like trading in violence?  
[#StopHooliganism](#)  
[#StopHooliganism](#)



Ruhima Jonah and 7 others

154 113 243

## Uganda Coalition Wants UN Probe of April Protest Killings

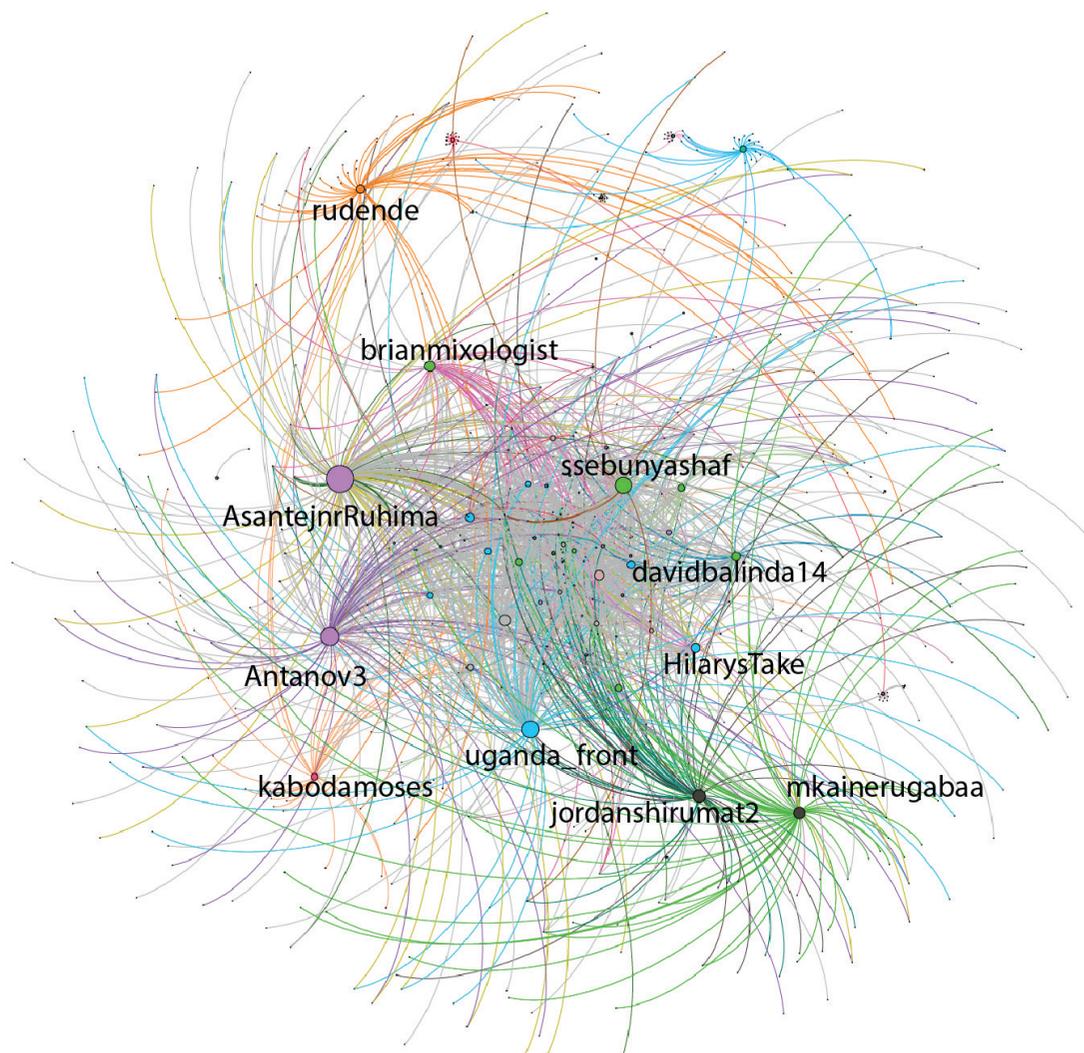


Uganda Protesters Clash With Police Over Opposition Leader's Arrest

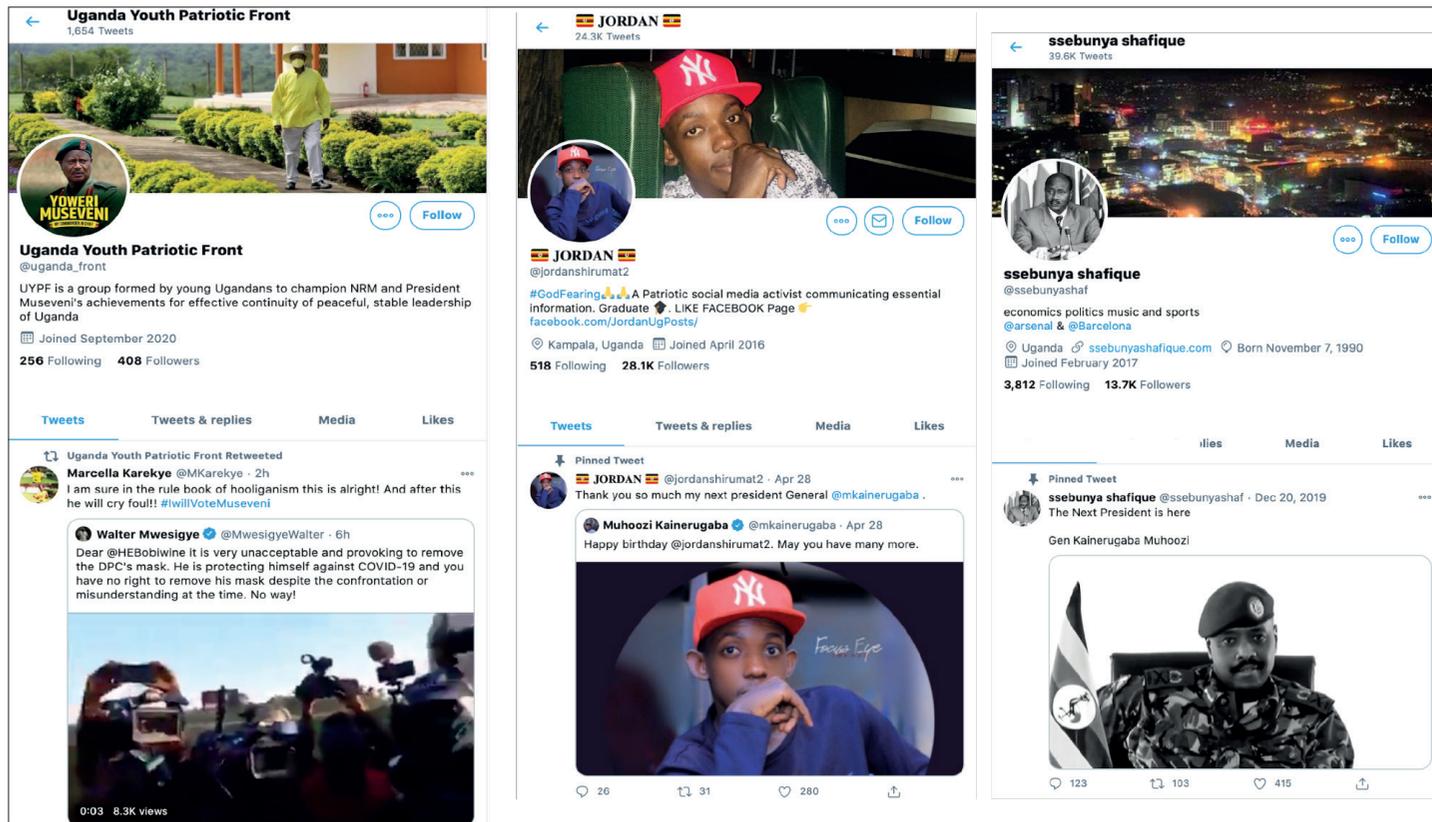
The images in this tweet come from protests that took place in Uganda in 2011 (Source:CfA via Twitter, VOANews)

A network analysis of the posts made on 4 November 2020 under #StopHooliganism revealed a cluster of accounts responsible for 894 original tweets and 2,945 retweets. The tweets were generated by a total of 110 unique accounts and retweeted by 439 unique accounts. Twelve of the accounts that posted original tweets and 38 of those that posted retweets were created after 1 September 2020 (new accounts), representing 12% and 7% of the accounts respectively. The new accounts were responsible for 165 tweets on 4 November, which represented 18% of the total tweets under this hashtag posted on that day.

Based on the contents of the trending posts from these accounts, it was evident that these accounts belonged to NRM supporters. An analysis of the activity under pro-Museveni hashtags - #M7UGsChoice, #NationalUselessPlatform and #VoteM72021 - revealed that 38 out of 110 accounts that posted tweets on this day had participated in these trends.



**Network analysis of retweets made on 4 November 2020 under #StopHooliganism (Source CFA via Meltwater and Gephi)**



Screengrab showing Twitter profiles of key drivers of the anti-NUP narrative (Source:CfA via Twitter)

It is worth noting that the account belonging to Lieutenant General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the Senior Presidential Adviser for Special Operations in Uganda - who is also President Museveni's son, - weighed in on this discussion, too. Interestingly, this account retweeted one of the misleading posts which claimed that NUP supporters were responsible for rowdy behaviour.

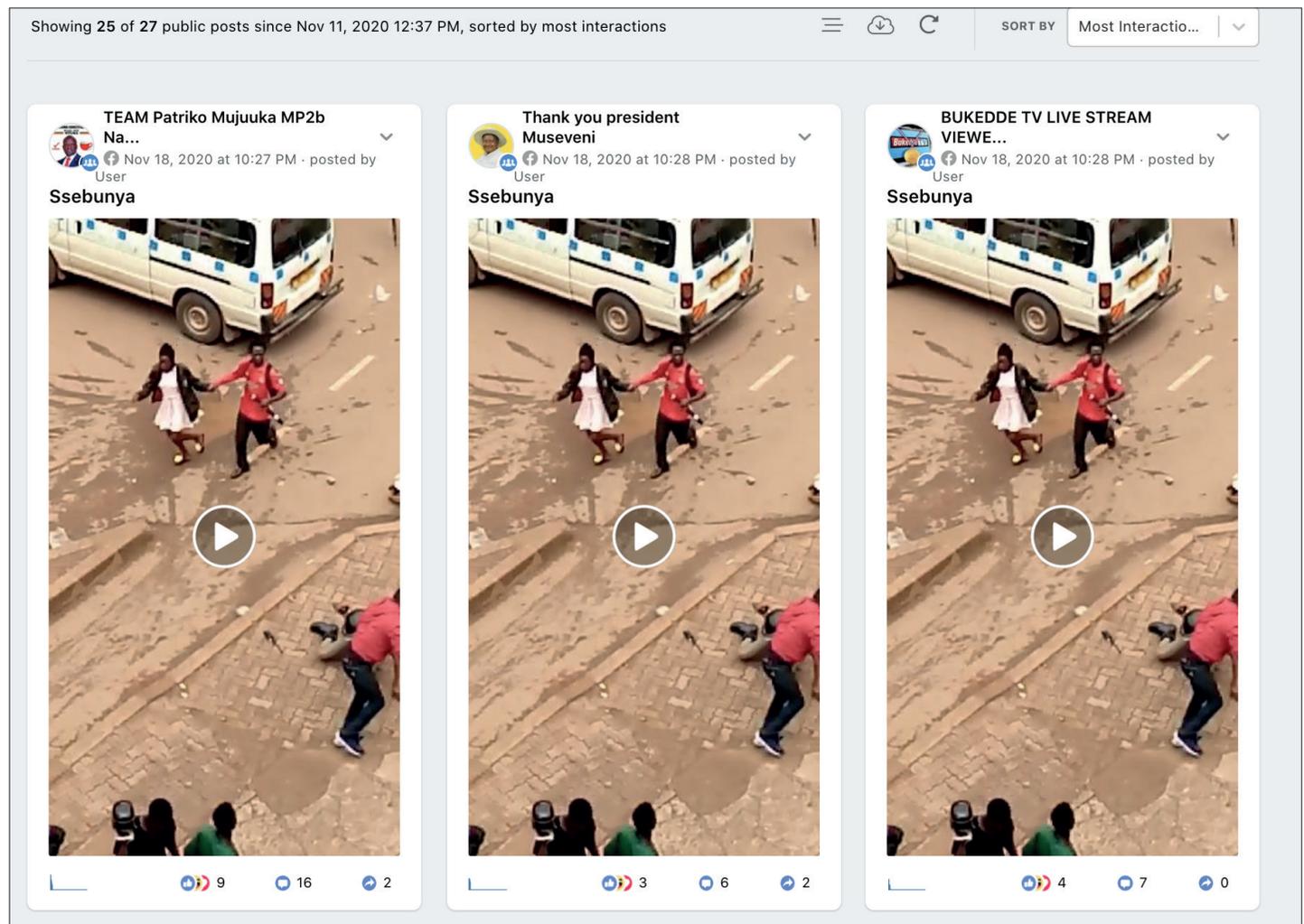


Screengrab showing a retweet from Kainerugaba's account (Source: CfA via Twitter)

## Counter hashtags following Kyagulanyi’s arrest on 18 November 2020

After Kyagulanyi’s second arrest and the protests that again followed, #StopHooliganism began to trend once more. The photos and videos shared under this hashtag focussed on the harassment of a police officer, passengers in a van and individuals dressed in yellow. These incidents were blamed on NUP supporters.

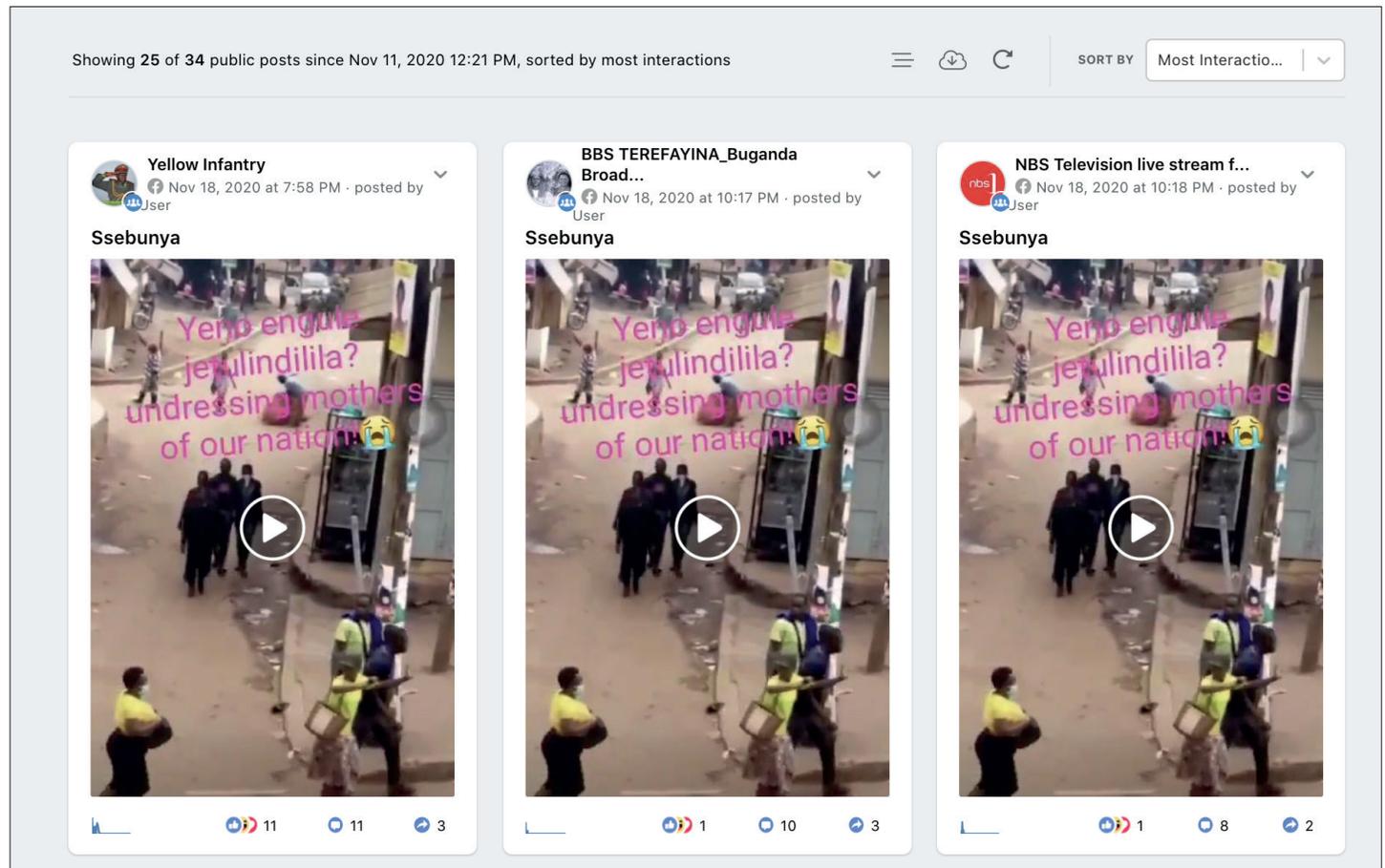
On 18 November 2020, a **video** was circulated by multiple users, showing a policewoman being harassed by an unidentified individual. The captions accompanying this video stated that it showed an NUP supporter attacking a police officer. This video was shared 27 times on Facebook. Police later **reported** that they had identified the individual who attacked the police officer, but did not state whether the person was an NUP supporter.



Screengrab showing a sample of public Facebook shares of the video of a police officer being harassed (Source: CrowdTangle/CfA)

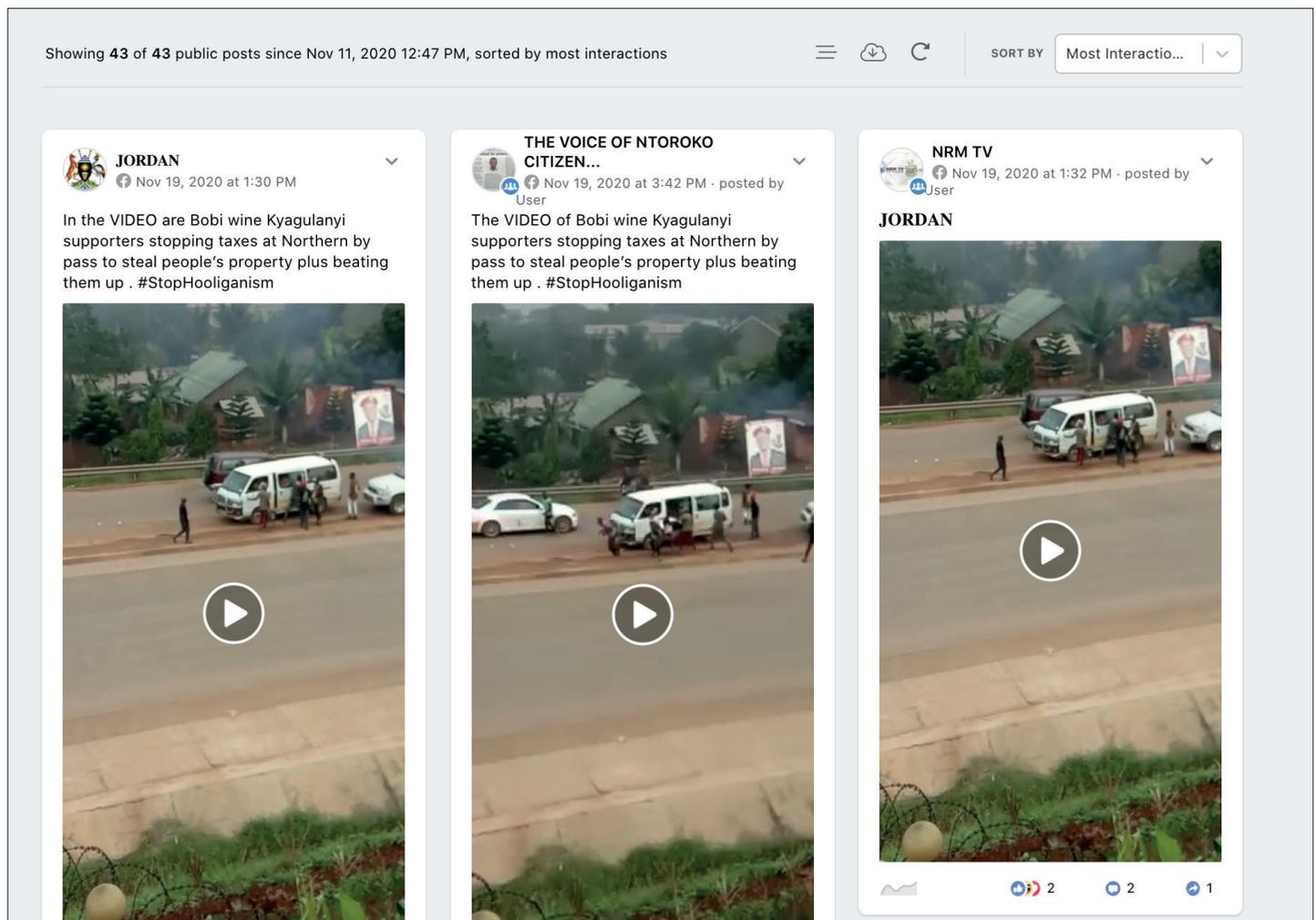
On 19 November 2020, a day after Kyagulanyi’s arrest, the highlighted destruction included a **video** of a woman taking off the yellow t-shirt she was wearing. This video was shared 34 times on Facebook, with accompanying text which claimed that NUP supporters were forcing women dressed in yellow -the NRM party’s colour - to undress.

On 22 November 2020, two days after these videos surfaced, President Museveni’s senior press secretary **announced** that the individuals who were forcing people to undress had been arrested.



**Screengrab showing a sample of public Facebook shares of the video that claimed NUP supporters were forcing women dressed in yellow to undress (Source: CfA via CrowdTangle)**

A third **video** which began circulating on 19 November 2020, claimed to show evidence of NUP supporters stealing from passengers in a van. We identified 43 public shares of this video on Facebook. The video showed a van stopped in the middle of a road, surrounded by a group of individuals who opened the van's door and proceeded to beat some of the passengers who alighted. The user who posted this video claimed these people were Bobi Wine's supporters, who had stopped a van on Kampala's Northern Bypass, robbed the occupants, and beaten them up.



**Screengrab showing a sample of public Facebook shares of the video allegedly showing NUP supporters robbing a vehicle's passengers on Kampala's Northern Bypass(Source:CfA via CrowdTangle)**

The peak observed on 19 November 2020 also had instances of misinformation under #StopHooliganism. A Twitter post claimed that NUP supporters were **responsible** for the destruction of a road. PesaCheck found this post to be **false**. This image was taken in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, in September 2020 during a **protest** over public utility service delivery.

**protests** 23.9.2020 06:02 pm

### Mayor blames Eskom after protesters dig up road over lack of electricity, water

[f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [e](#)

News24 Wire



Picture: Yusuf Abramjee/Twitter

**Tweet**

 **MeronAinomugisha**   
@Meron\_Gisha256

#StopHooliganism  
We are yarning for roads and NUP supporters are destroying them! How sure are we that the NUP party will bring peace in our country 😞😞  
This is serious,,ehhhhhh  
#tweddeko



 Proud Mufumbira   and 2 others

11:11 AM · Nov 19, 2020 · Twitter for Android

The image in this tweet is from a September 2020 incident in South Africa (Source: Cfa via Twitter, The Citizen)

# The Ugandan government's response

Following the protests, the Uganda Police Force released a [statement](#) claiming that the protests were a “loosely coordinated campaign” by the NUP, which began after Kyagulanyi’s arrest for “blatant disregard of the Electoral Commission guidelines”. The statement further reported that the campaign was coordinated by 300 individuals who were actively coordinating the distribution of tyres to protest hotspots. The riots were blamed for 28 civilian casualties and 11 injuries of security personnel. The protesters were accused of looting motorists across the suburbs of Kampala, burning tyres, damaging roads and attacking police officers.

## The arrest of Ariho Norbert Elba

On 4 December 2020, Ugandan Police [announced](#) that they had arrested Ariho Elba in connection with alleged assault, obstruction and incitement to violence during political campaigns at Kyampisi Trading Centre in Kayunga District three days earlier. Ariho, who is Kyagulanyi’s bodyguard, was present during an altercation between police and the opposition candidate, during which a teargas canister exploded and injured two people.

In the wake of this incident, the police released a [statement](#) which asserted that Ariho hurled the teargas canister. Video [footage](#) from NBS TV which was released on 2 December 2020 contradicts this statement, and clearly shows the canister being propelled from the opposite direction.

# The Anti-NUP Videos

Shortly after the Kyampisi incident, we identified two similar videos under the hashtag #Stophooliganism, which claimed to demonstrate how the NUP intended to throw Uganda into chaos. Different images from incidents during the campaign period were combined to craft the narrative. Although these videos have few public shares on Twitter, they demonstrate a coordinated approach to spreading a narrative of a destructive NUP.

The first **video** claims that the NUP staged an assassination attempt on Kyagulanyi, by having Ariho throw an explosive at Kyagulanyi to frame the police. The video used footage from the Kyampisi incident, but edited out the teargas canister's full trajectory. This made Ariho seem to be the one who launched the explosive. We identified two public shares of this video on Twitter.



Screengrab showing the false assassination attempt videos(Source:CfA via Twitter)

The second **video** is allegedly an investigative piece into the destruction that NUP supporters caused during the protests. The video begins with an image of a petrol station on fire, allegedly lit by NUP supporters. This image had previously been **debunked** as false by PesaCheck. The video also included images of alleged NUP supporters setting fires and destroying property.

 **Rony-The Lone Survivor**  
@RonyLone

Who set Kampala on fire? This is the best investigative piece that has exposed the Violent Bobi Wine. We cannot afford to go back to the olden days of lawlessness.  
#Stophooliganism @AsantejnrRuhima @jordanshirumat2 @BandiVan @brianmixologist @ssebunyashaf @fredo\_mukasa @MKarekye



8:43 AM · Dec 3, 2020 · Twitter for Android

5 Retweets 16 Likes

The video in this tweet allegedly shows the destruction that NUP supporters caused during the protests following Kyagulanyi's arrest on 18 November 2020 (Source: CFA via Twitter)

# Conclusion

This investigation identified numerous instances of misinformation and disinformation that circulated in the wake of different political incidents that took place in Uganda in November and early December 2020. The perpetrators of the disinformation leveraged on past incidents and unsubstantiated claims to spread a narrative of destruction led by the supporters of Robert Kyagulanyi. Their profiles suggest that they are NRM supporters, but the identity of the exact instigator of this campaign remains unclear. Additionally, the misinformation that was circulated during the protests points to an increasingly common trend of protest-related misinformation, which ultimately diverts attention away from the real issues under discussion.

The anti-NUP videos, which are identical in structure and design, point to a coordinated attempt to frame the NUP as a destructive party.

Given President Museveni's election victory, those who sowed misinformation and disinformation will perhaps feel that their efforts were successful.

## Published by

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South Africa NPO Number 168-092 | Kenya NPO Number CPR/2016/220101 | Nigeria NPO Number: RC-1503312

**Kenya Lab:** Nairobi Garage, 8th Floor, Pinetree Plaza, Kaburu Drive, Nairobi, Kenya.

**Nigeria (Abuja) Lab:** Ventures Park, 29, Mambilla Street, Aso Drive, Abuja, Nigeria.

**Nigeria (Lagos) Lab:** Workstation, No 7, Ibiyinka Olorunbe street, off Saka Tinibu, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

**Tanzania Lab:** 7th Floor, 38 Tanzanite, Park, New Bagamoyo Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**Uganda Lab:** Pollicy, Plot 7 Kulubya Road, Bugolobi, Kampala, Uganda.

