



## Old Bailey in East Africa

A day in May 2010: in the Ugandan capital Kampala, the high court is in session, presided over by Judge Benjamin Kabiito. Due to its colonial history as a British protectorate, Uganda is one of the nations in which justice is administered according to the common law system customary in many English-speaking countries. This system is based on precedents, i.e. on authoritative judicial decisions made in earlier cases. The judge's assessment of each case therefore plays a significantly more important role than in civil law, the system customarily used in continental Europe.

The judicial system in Uganda is largely independent. However, people in poor and rural regions in particular often have little or no access to the organs of the state judiciary. The court, police and prison infrastructure is inadequate; the prisons are extremely overcrowded. While Uganda still has the death penalty, it is very rarely implemented within the civilian justice system. The second most severe penalty is a life sentence – which then actually means imprisonment for the natural life term of the convict. A person sentenced to imprisonment for a specific period cannot be released before two-thirds of this sentence have been served.

The image is part of the exhibition “Law & Order – The World of Criminal Justice” by Dutch photographer Jan Banning, which was created in cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg. It includes pictures from prisons, courtrooms and police stations in Uganda, Colombia, France and the U.S.

“Law & Order” will be on display in the Max-Planck-Haus at Hofgarten in Munich for Max Planck Day on 14 September 2018. The exhibition catalog is available at [www.janbanning.com/books/law-order](http://www.janbanning.com/books/law-order).