

Observation no: 169 – 171 Ugandan-Tanzanian

Country-year: Uganda 1977

1. Did the current regime come to power in a military coup?

Yes.

Idi Amin Dada overthrew Milton Obote in a military coup in 1971.

2. Has the country ever experienced a military coup?

Yes.

The government at the time of the conflict came to power through a military coup.

3. Is the country's top leader a former military officer?

Yes.

Amin was an officer in the colonial British Army.

4. Are ethnic, sectarian, or racial criteria used to exclude segments of the population from the officer corps?

Yes.

Amin ordered all Asian residents of Uganda to leave the country in 1972. Thus, it is not possible to be in the officer corps and be Asian.¹ Amin also ordered the execution of numerous members of the Langi and Acholi ethnic groups.²

5. Are there strict ideological requirements for entry into the senior officer corps?

No.

According to an expert on the Ugandan military, “the turnover rate was very high, thus leaving little room for the development of a political ideology.”³

¹ Shillington, Kevin. “Encyclopedia of African History, Volume 1.” Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2005, p. 192.

² Okuku, Juma. “Ethnicity, State Power, and Democratisation Process in Uganda.” Uppsala: University Printers, 2002, p. 21.

³ Decker, Alicia. “RE: Question about Ugandan military history.” Message to the author, 8 Apr. 2013. E-mail.

6. Is party membership required for entry into the senior officer corps?

No.

After Amin “consolidated power, he declared all political parties illegal.”⁴

7. Does military training involve extensive political education or ideological indoctrination?

No.

After Amin “consolidated power, he declared all political parties illegal.”⁵

8. Has the military been used to repress internal dissent in the last five years?

Yes.

Soon after taking office, “Amin created several new, ethnically and religiously based security organisations [sic], which reported directly to him and with ruthlessly killed thousands of Ugandans.”⁶

9. Has the military been used to govern the country in the last five years?

Yes.

Idi Amin is a military officer.

10. Is there a paramilitary organization separate from the regular military, used to provide regime or leader security?

Yes.

Soon after taking office, “Amin created several new, ethnically and religiously based security organisations [sic], which reported directly to him and with ruthlessly killed thousands of Ugandans.”⁷

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⁶ Okuku, Juma. “Ethnicity, State Power, and Democratisation Process in Uganda.” Uppsala: University Printers, 2002, p. 21.

11. Is there an internal intelligence apparatus dedicated to watching the regular military?

Yes.

Soon after taking office, “Amin created several new, ethnically and religiously based security organisations [sic], which reported directly to him and with ruthlessly killed thousands of Ugandans.”⁸

12. Has a purge of the officer corps occurred in the last five years?

Yes.

Idi Amin “ordered the purge of dissident troops in Malire Mechanized Regiment in 1974.” Members of this purge included members of the officer corps, including “Brigadier Charles Arube, one of the Chiefs of Staff, and Lt. Col. Michael Ondoga.”⁹

13. Is there an institutionalized forum through which civilian leaders and military officers regularly exchange information?

No.

While Amin occasionally met with civil society leaders, such meetings do not appear to have been regular.¹⁰

⁷ Okuku, Juma. “Ethnicity, State Power, and Democratisation Process in Uganda.” Uppsala: University Printers, 2002, p. 21.

⁸ Okuku, Juma. “Ethnicity, State Power, and Democratisation Process in Uganda.” Uppsala: University Printers, 2002, p. 21.

⁹ Naudin, Pierre. “The Violation of Human Rights in Uganda,” in *Case Studies on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: A World Survey*. Veenoh, Willem Adriaan, Vinifred Crum Ewing, and Stichting Plurale Samenlevingen, eds. Leiden: BRILL, 1975, p. 421.

¹⁰ Shroeder, Barbet. *General Idi Amin Dada: A Self-Portrait*. DVD. Directed by Barbet Schroeder. New York, NY: The Criterion Collection, 2002.