

# Using Crime Deterrence to Promote Peace and Justice among Urban Residents: A Study on the Uganda Police in Lira City

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## Abstract

The study investigated the contribution of the police institution in the promotion of peace and justice among the residents of Lira City. The key objective was to examine the effect of crime prevention in the promotion of peace and justice among urban dwellers in Lira City. The study adopted a descriptive and correlational design. Data was collected through both self-administered questionnaires and individual interviews and analyzed using mean and standard deviations. The findings suggest that crime deterrence is not significant in promoting peace and justice while community policing has a significant contribution in promoting peace and justice in Lira city. It was concluded that if crime deterrence can be enforced fully by the police institutions, it can play a substantial part in promoting peace and justice in Lira City. It is encouraged that to reduce the various crimes in the urban centers, the police should strengthen their deterrence rather than arrest through improving on its intelligence and technology with appropriate skilling of its officers that facilitate easy crime detection and empowering the public to remain vigilant against terrorism acts by collaborating with the Local Government Authorities and mainstreams sensitization on terrorisms in the different Local Government activities at the grass root levels.

Key words: *Crime, deterrence, peace and justice, police*

## Introduction

Global Peace Index (GPI) results of 2020 indicate that the level of global peacefulness deteriorated, with the average country score falling by 0.34 per cent (Ghazalian & Hammoud, 2020). This is the ninth deterioration in peacefulness in the last twelve years, with 81 countries improving, and 80 recording deteriorations over the past year. The 2020 GPI reveals a world in which the conflicts and crises that emerged in the past decade have begun to abate, only to be replaced with a new wave of tension and uncertainty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The most peaceful country in the world is Iceland, a position it has held since 2008. It is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark. However, Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the second year in a row, followed by Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen. All, except Yemen, have been ranked amongst the five least peaceful since at least 2015 (Ghazalian & Hammoud, 2020). Approximately five (5) billion people worldwide have unmet justice needs hence justice gap which implies those people who cannot obtain justice for everyday problems are excluded from the opportunity the law provides, and people who live in extreme conditions of injustice (Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, 2019).

Obtainable literature indicates that peace and justice is received by very few countries worldwide. Majorities of the countries worldwide are still in conflicts and insecurity and people in those respective countries still do not have access to peace and justices, for example, over 75% of citizens worldwide does not have access to peace and justice, hence

the institution of police takes the blames for not doing their part in making people to have access to peace and justices (Carrington et al. 2020).

In East Africa, member countries of the East Africa Community (EAC) (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), have continued to foster peace, unity and justices through a united Partner State Police Forces / Services. Decisions amongst these EAC member countries were reached to boost or strengthen the police institution towards their function of promoting peace and justices in East Africa (Akinyi, 2020). As a result, the EAC Secretariat has rolled out a programme for joint police training programs, enhanced border surveillance and joint police operations, and collective use of scientific crime management assets among others in the quest to enhance fight against criminals and deny them safe havens in the EAC region. Other activities that have been undertaken within the Peace, justice and Security sector of East Africa include development of a draft Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism and commencement of work on a Regional Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution framework hence majority (73.8%) of residents in those countries are peaceful (Akinyi, 2020).

Lira City is faced with rising rates of crime as reported in the 2018 Annual Crime and Traffic Safety Report released on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2020. The report shows that police recorded the highest cases in Lira District with 6,726 cases as Lira City is involved in lawless issues like domestic violence (66%), robbery (58%), land conflicts (55%), murder (63%). The cultural leaders have helped the police force to solve some of these crimes by mediation between both parties in the case of domestic violence and land conflicts at the early stage. It is known that the role of police institution is to promote and keep law and order, carry out mediation and reconciliations in the households. Police also uses community policing program such as cleaning community roads, water points, and hospitals to punish the victims of petty crimes but little is known about the extent to which police institution promotes access to peace and justice in Lira City hence research gap which this study will fill. This will help to create awareness about the roles of police in promoting peace and justice.

The police are an institution or a body of officers representing the civil authority of government who are in charge for maintaining or enforcing law and public order, safety and preventing, detecting, and investigating criminal activities hence these functions are known as policing. In an hour of need, danger, crisis and difficulty, when a citizen does not know, what to do and whom to approach. The police station and a policeman happen to be the most appropriate and approachable unit and person for him. The police are expected to be the most accessible, interactive and dynamic organization of any society. A modern police institution is expected to prevent crime and proactively maintain public safety and social peace. Characteristic of the modern, international framework for policing, the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials perceives the role of police as encompassing the administration of justice, the protection of the right to life, liberty and security, and identifies their responsibilities as including the maintenance of public safety and social peace (Ariel, Farrar & Sutherland, 2015).

The role of police in the promotion of peace and justice is underpinned by the theory of peacemaking criminology. The foundation of peacemaking criminology stems from ancient wisdom traditions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Native American. The theory in its current form was developed in 1991 by Harold Pepinsky and Richard Quinney (Dodson, Bush, & Braswell, 2012). The theory is based on the assumption that: our actions have ramifications for us as individuals, and for others, even though we are not able

to see the outcomes of such actions; laws and law enforcement are necessary in civilized society to limit the negative ramifications of human actions and; Compassion, forgiveness, restitution, reconciliation, spiritual healing, and restoration are necessary to promote peace and justice in society. The shortcoming of the theory is that it emphasizes more the law enforcement roles of the police than the use of partnership with the public and community policing strategy to promote peace and security.

The Uganda police is a civil force responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order. Police is comprised of members of the regular Uganda police, the Uganda Police Reserve and anyone that might be appointed, from time to time, as a special constable. Officers are sent out all over the country to serve the community (Uganda Police Handbook, 2013). Police institution is defined as an organization or formal social structure of the police whose purpose is to maintain law and order. In Uganda, police institution is to provide safety and security. The functions of the police institution are laid out in Article 212 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda to include: (a) To protect life and property; (b) To preserve law and order; (c) To prevent and detect crime; and (d) To cooperate with the civilian authority and other security organs established under the Constitution and with the population generally, the police as the law enforcers are there to make sure that everyone, including the police force itself, follows the law at every step. In this research also, police institution will be measured by variables such as law enforcement, crime prevention, internal security provision and community policing.

### **Problem statement**

Notwithstanding the several endeavours by the police institution to promote peace and justice in Lira City through protecting life and property; preserving law and order; preventing and detecting crime; and cooperating with the civilian authority and other security organs, crime rates in Lira City has persistently continued and has affected access to peace and justice. According to the police annual crime report of 2018, Lira recorded 6,726 cases in crime and traffic safety which was the highest in Northern Uganda. Other crimes such as domestic violence was standing at (66%), robbery (58%), land conflicts 55%, and murder (63%). In addition, community policing by the police institutions have taken place regularly as a way to promote peace and justice among the urban dwellers but crime rates have persisted in Lira urban area, hence undermining the promotion of access to peace and justice in Lira urban area. It is against this background that this study would like to investigate the contribution of the police institution in the promotion of peace and justice in Lira City.

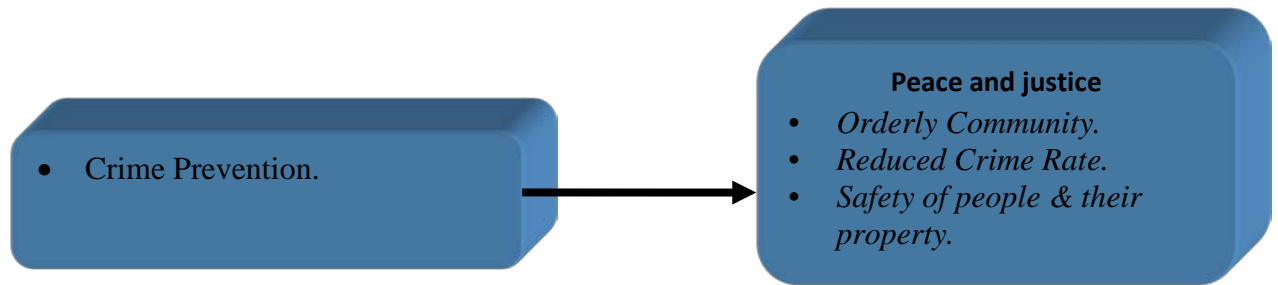
### **Purpose of the study**

To investigate the Contribution of crime deterrence in the promotion of peace and justice among the residents of Lira City.

### **Research Hypothesis**

Crime deterrence has no significance role in the promotion of peace and justice among residents in Lira city.

## Conceptual Frame work of the study



**Source:** Researcher, 2022.

Figure 1: *Conceptual framework showing the relationship between crime deterrence and peace and justice*

Figure 1 above shows how police institution promotes peace and justice in the community. The framework shows that if the police institutions performs their duty well in maintaining law and order, then there will be peace and justice. But if the police institution does not maintain law and order, then there will be no peace and justice. The framework also shows that if the police institution does effective law and law enforcement, then there will be reduced disorderly behaviours, which translates to peace and justice but if the police does not effectively enforce the law properly there will be no peace and justice. The frame work also means that if the police carries out its function of crime prevention well, then criminal behaviours will be deterred - hence peace and justice and vice versa. The framework goes on to show that if the police plays the role of internal security provision well, then people and their property are protected, hence promoting an atmosphere of peace and justice which is synonymous with security. The conceptual framework holds that through its community policing programme the police increases community vigilance against crimes and security threats which consolidates peace and security within the community and vice versa. The figure holds that besides the police institutions the other institutions that intervene to promote peace and justice by reducing disorderliness, deterring criminal behaviours, protecting people and their property and increasing community vigilance are the local authorities and cultural institutions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Peace and justice is defined as a social relationship where physical violence as a tool to achieve political objective is absent among collective activities (Müller, 2010). Simply put by Müller (2010), peace is a period of no war when war has ended. Peace may also be defined as a state of freedom from disturbances and tranquillity hence the researcher borrows this idea and used it in this present research. On the other hand, the term Justice is defined as a state of affairs where actors obtain what they are entitled to (Hellmann, 2013). Simply put by Hellmann (2013), justice is the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness hence the researcher borrows this concept. Hellmann (2013) posited that justice, once existing and perceived as such by all relevant actors, takes a positive influence on peace.

The Peel Principles defined the mission of the police as "preventing crime and disorder"(Bayley, 1985). Commenting on the crime prevention role of the police, Braga

(2015) observed that a police focus on controlling disorder has been hypothesized to be an important way to reduce serious crimes in neighbourhoods. The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (2015) in agreement with the crime prevention roles of the police in promoting peace and justice observed that police are an integral part of the criminal justice chain that links state security and justice provision through the services of the wider justice sector. The Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (2015) foregoing holding is in concurrence with the Government of Kenya (2003) earlier position that a fully functioning police service is vital for enforcement of the law.

According to Gale (2006) in some contexts like in Prussia in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the police crime prevention functions extended far beyond the traditional duties carried out by common law police – the police were granted the power to frame rules and ordinances regulating the conduct of citizens, as well as limited powers to punish individuals. Braga (2015) could not agree more when he held that police strategists relied upon two ideas to prevent crimes: deterrence and incapacitation; adding that the imminent threat of arrest was their main strategy to deter the general public from contemplating or committing crime, thereby contributing to a general atmosphere of peace and justice. Similarly, in concurrence with the contribution of the crime prevention roles to peace and justice, Kennedy (2008) maintained that there is growing evidence of the effectiveness of “focused deterrence” framework as a police crime prevention strategy in halting serious gang violence. Dalton (2002) agrees, maintaining that the focused deterrence framework has been applied in many US cities through federally sponsored violence prevention programs such as the Strategic with the effect of stopping group of offenders from continuing with their violent behaviours.

In his study, Bayley (2005) notes that “high-policing” utilizes tactics of intelligence gathering, surveillance and disruptions to prevent macro-crimes that are considered threats to society in general, such as drug trafficking and an illegal migration to promote peace and justice visible patrolling and deterrence through the application of criminal. Braga (2015) however discounts the contribution of crimes investigation as a crime prevention method in preventing crimes when he alluded to the fact that several researches have described the reality that criminal investigations largely consist of routine, unspecialized work that is often unfruitful. This debunks Moore et al (1988) proposition that many police forces have developed proactive tactics to deal with crime problems that could not be handled through conventional reactive methods, adding that for instance drug dealing, organized crime, and vice enforcement, for example, where no immediate victims exist to mobilize the police, the police have developed special units which rely on informants, covert surveillance, and undercover investigations rather than responses to calls for service. Much of the literature reviewed tackled only role of police and security in general and not the significance of crime deterrence in the promotion of peace and justice.

### **Area of study**

This study was conducted in Lira City. Lira city comprises of two divisions namely: Lira City East Division and Lira City West Division. Lira City was chosen for the study because it hosts a number of police institutions, including North-Kyoga Regional Police Headquarters, Lira Central Police Station and a host of police outposts. It was also chosen because of the rampant violent crimes and extra-judicial killings, with their attendant rising sense of insecurity in the city. These characteristics make the geographical area appropriate for conducting this kind of study. Lira City is located in Lango Sub-region.



## Sample Size and Sampling Design

The sample size for this study is 100 target respondents determined using the Krejcie and Morgan Table (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). The community members that formed a bigger proportion of the respondent categories will be conveniently sampled from the complainants, victims and accused who are following their cases and processes of prosecution. In order to select the police officers to be considered in the study, purposive sampling will be used. Purposive sampling is the non-probability technique in which the researcher chooses the sample units based on their own criteria. Other respondent categories that includes; suspects in the cell, traditional leaders, religious leaders, Staffs of the Civil Society Organisation, Local political leaders and community members will be conveniently sampled to be part of the study. This is because convenient sampling requires respondents who are convenient to the researcher and does not require a pattern in obtaining them. The researcher used proportional allocation to determine the numbers of respondent for each categories. Both males and females respondents were selected for the study as indicated in table herein below.

**Table 1: The categories of interviewees**

S/N	Categories of respondents	of Study population	No of participants	of Sampling Techniques
1	Officers from Lira Central police station	90	02	Purposive
2	Officers from the Police outposts	143	10	Purposive
3	Suspects in the cell	60	12	Simple random
4	Community members	50	40	Convenient
5	Tradition Leaders	55	10	Simple random
6	Religious Leaders	55	06	Convenient
7	Staffs of Civil Society Organizations	32	10	Simple random
8	Local Political Leaders	65	10	Convenient
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Researcher, 2022

## Data Collection Instruments

The researcher administered the instrument to the target respondents to obtain information from them based on their views and experience in relations to the research problem. The questionnaire was based on a five-point Likert scale as follows: 1) Strongly Disagree, 2) Disagree, 3) Not sure, 4) Agree and 5) Strongly Agree was used an appropriate tool in this study because it is free from the bias of the interviewer. This instrument was administered to police officers, suspects in cells, traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society, and political leaders. An interview guide was used for collecting qualitative data from a defined group of people.

## Validity and Reliability

Validity refers to being able to measure what we think are measurable (King et al, 1994). It is a criterion for ensuring that the findings of a study are generalizable to similar situations (McNabb, 2010).

Content validity was achieved in this study by the researcher using a representative sample of the population of the study. Internal validity which is about establishing the causal relationship between variables was achieved through getting guidance from the research supervisor who is an experienced researcher. Reliability on the other hand is the extent to which a measure produces the same scores across different times, groups of people, or versions of the instrument. It is the extent to which the measure is consistent (Dane, 1990). In this study reliability was achieved by Piloting the instruments with 8 pilot respondents in police outposts that are not sampled for the study, to test the reliability of the instruments in collecting relevant data.

**Table 2: Reliability Statistics**

<b>Variable List</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items</b>	<b>No of Items</b>
Police institutions	.852	.856	17
Peace and justice	.749	.753	7
Overall	0.801	0.805	24

Source: Field data, 2022

From the table, the overall reliable coefficient ( $\alpha = .805$ ) was above the acceptable 0.70. The statistics therefore, suggest that the instrument used in this study was internally stable and can generate consistent results over repeated administrations.

### **Data processing and analysis**

Data processing was conducted by editing the collected raw data to eliminate errors and omissions that existed. Grammatical errors were then rectified appropriately. Processing were further involved by coding and summarizing the data into a limited number of categories based on objectives. The quantitative responses were captured in a spreadsheet and analyzed by means of SPSS, version 18 of 2010. Please join this paragraph with the one above.

### **Data Analysis**

The analysis will involve both Qualitative and quantitative data. As part of the analysis the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) computer package will summarize quantitative data to descriptive statistics like percentages, frequencies, mean and standard deviation. The SPSS will use a 5-point Likert Scale to measure the level of effectiveness of the police institution in promoting peace and justice. The responses of each category will be recorded separately on the spreadsheet, tables and figures. The response of each category will then be added together to give a single percentage for presenting the results.

## **ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

The study targeted a sample of 100 respondents. However, 93 respondents took part in the study, which translated in a response rate of 93%. This rate was considered adequate for conclusion of the results and generalization.

**Demographic characteristics of the respondents.**

**Table 4.2.1: Demographic characteristics**

<b>Variable List: N = 93</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Gender	Male	50	53.8
	Female	43	46.2
	Total	93	100
Age in complete years	18 – 34	32	34.4
	35 – 49	51	54.8
	50 and above	10	10.8
	Total	93	100
Marital status	Married	47	50.5
	Single	33	35.5
	Divorced	8	8.6
	Widowed	5	5.4
	Total	93	100
Ward of residence	Ward A	15	16.1
	Ward B	18	19.4
	Ward C	60	64.5
	Total	93	100
Category of respondent	Police officer	27	29
	Suspect in police cell	21	22.6
	Traditional leader	13	14
	Religious leader	9	9.7
	Civil society member	13	14
	Political leader	10	10.8
	Total	93	100

Source: Field data, 2022

The gender composition of the participants shows that 53.8% were male while 46.2% were female. The statistics indicate that the study was dominated by male than female. The dominance of men in this study suggests that the condition for pre-entry into the police force tends to be disadvantaged female for instance road run for some determined kilometres as well as lack of exposure to legal dynamic exhibited by most women.

Participation according to age shows that 54.8% belonged to the age group of (35–49) years and were the majority. The study was dominated by adult aged between 35–49 years because these are the categories that tend to be more engaged in resource mobilizations couples with more responsibilities that exposes them to a number of challenges including criminalities. On the other hand, those in the age categories of 18–35 are either reluctant or take little time in handling issues that affects them due to immaturity effects. Concerning gender, the married were 50.5%, the singles were 35.5%, while the divorced and the widowed who took part in the study were 8.6% and 5.4% respectively. This study was dominated by the married because majority of the cases reported at the police are either directly or indirectly linked to gender based violence that commonly originates from household of either the married or those in cohabitation. Concerning the ward of residence, 64.5% of the participants resided in ward C (Jinja camp) and constituted the majority. This was attributed to high population of Ward C that characterized by high crime rate. Few participants resided in wards A (Senior Quarters) (16.1%) and B (Angwetangwet) (19.4%) because ward A is of people of high standard of living and respect for the rule of law whereas War B has limited economic



activities compare to ward C. Concerning the category of respondents, the study was dominated by police officers (29%) and suspects in police cell (22.6%). This was attributed to their central role in the administration of peace and justice in the community mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995.

### Descriptive statistics

This study employed mean and standard deviation to bring out the state of the role of police in promoting peace and justice in Lira City. The mean indicated the areas where participants' views on the roles of police in promoting peace and justice clustered. High mean score indicate high clustering of views and vice versa. The standard deviation indicated the areas where participants' views on the roles of police in promoting peace and justice differed. Low scores of standard deviation indicated consistency of views and vice versa.

**Table 3: The role of the Police**

<b>Variable List: N = 93</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std.</b>
1. Fear by citizen of being arrested by police would deter -criminals from committing crimes.	4.237	0.890
2. Police intelligence gathering is effective in nipping in the bud plans to commit crimes.	4.204	0.760
3. Police covert operations are effective in stopping organized criminal gangs from continuing with their violent behaviours.	3.978	0.847
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.140</b>	<b>0.832</b>

**Source:** Field data, 2022

Table 3 shows that the police has been effective in instilling fear in the citizens that once they commit crime, police would arrest them (mean = 4.237; std. = .890). Besides, police intelligence has been effective in nipping in the bud plans to commit crimes (mean = 4.204; std. = .760). The effectiveness of police in instilling fear in the citizens that police would arrest them once they commit crime can be attributed to immediate arrest and prosecution. From the lowest extreme, police appears to be less effective stopping organized criminal gangs from continuing with their violent behaviours (mean = 3.978; std. = .847). This can be attributed to inefficient intelligence network couple with fewer personnel's in the intelligence department. A critical observation of the mean scores and standard deviations, there are no variations in participants' views on police's role in crime prevention in Lira.

**Table 4: Peace and Justice**

<b>Variable List: N = 93</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std.</b>
1. The public in Lira has equal access to justice	4.290	0.716
2. The public in Lira has access to safe information	4.258	0.908
3. The public in Lira has freedom of expression	4.097	0.885
4. The environment in Lira is safe for human rights defenders	3.957	0.779
5. The rule of law in Lira is very strong	3.946	0.785
6. I see increased support for campaigns against non-violence in Lira	3.914	0.816
7. I see increased efforts in eliminating gender-based violence in Lira	3.409	1.035
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.982</b>	<b>0.846</b>

**Source:** Filed data, 2022

Concerning peace and justice, police in Lira demonstrate some degree of equal access to justice (mean = 4.290; std. = .716). Besides demonstrating equal access to justice, police in Lira demonstrate access to safe information (mean = 4.258; std. = .908) and freedom of expression (mean = 4.097; std. = .885). The statistics imply that the public in Lira has equal access to justice. This can be attributed to free police bond and adherence to the legal 48 hours of production of the suspect before the court of law.

*“...One of the police officers at Lira City said in September 2021, they gave three (3) suspects of defilement police bond after clocking maximum mandatory 48 hours and yet evidences were not yet ready for court prosecution. The suspect were later re-arrested and arraigned to the court prosecution ...”*

### Correlation tests

Correlation tests the degree of association between numerical variables. Strong correlations tend towards one while weak correlations tend towards zero. To guide the interpretations of the correlation coefficient, correlations in the below 0.4 ( $0 \leq r \leq 0.4$ ) are described as weak. Correlations between 0.4 and 0.7 are described as moderate while correlations of 0.7 and over are described as strong. This study tested the relationship between the role of police and peace and justice. The table below summarizes the correlation tests.

**Table 4.4.2: Correlations**

		Law Enforcement	Crime Prevention	Internal Security Provision	Community Policing	Peace & Justice
Law Enforcement	Pearson Corr.	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
Crime Prevention	Pearson Corr.	.494	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
Internal Security Provision	Pearson Corr.	.317	.553	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.000			
Community Policing	Pearson Corr.	.597	.450	.457	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		
Peace and Justice	Pearson Corre.	.478	.446	.336	.578	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.001	.000	

Source: Field data, 2022

The correlation ( $r = .446$ ; sig.  $< .05$ ) shows that a moderate relationship exists between crime prevention and peace and justice. The statistics imply that a variation in crime prevention is associated with a moderate variation in peace and justice in the area. The statistics suggest that a variation in crime deterrence is associated with a moderate variation in peace and justice in Lira City. This is because the police institution alone is not sufficient enough to

promote peace and justice as other institution like the cultural/traditional institution and the judiciary should be brought on board in the quest for sustainable peace and justice.

### Regression tests

This study set peace and justice as the dependent variable and crime prevention as the independent variable.

**Table 4.5.3: Regression coefficients**

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.218	0.383		3.184	0.002
Crime Prevention	0.162	0.090	0.196	1.792	0.077
R	0.623				
R Square	0.389				
Adjusted R Square	0.361				
Std. Error of the Estimate	0.430				

a: Predictors: (Constant), Crime Prevention

b: Dependent Variable: Peace and Justice

From (R Square = .389), police roles account for 38.9% of the level of peace and justice in the area. The statistics imply that crime prevention can explain about 38.9% of the current peace and justice observed in Lira City. Since the percentage is over 30%, the role of police are significant in the explaining the prevailing peace and justice in Lira City. However, the statistics also suggests that there are other factors that can explain the 61.1% variations of the level of peace and justice in Lira City.

The study examined the significance of crime prevention in promoting peace and justice in Lira city. Consequently, a variation in crime prevention contributes 19.6% of the prevailing level of peace and justice in Lira City, based on Beta = .196 (sig. >.05). Nevertheless, the significant value of the statistic suggests that the contribution of crime prevention in the prevailing peace and justice in the area is not significant. This is because some community cultural attachments and mind set is still rigid and eventually making crime prevention unsustainable and little impact on peace and justice. The non-significant role of crime prevention in promoting peace and justice is consistent with the views of one of the key informants:

*“...A numbers of crime prevention intervention has been discharged by the police to the community members but crime rate is still at the increase and people are living in fears...” (Interviewee)*

It thus emerges that police may sometimes fail in her crime prevention roles because of the police’s limited capacity to maximize crime prevention interventions as well as community cultural and economic background of criminality with little interest to change.

## Discussion of Results

This study revealed that police crime prevention is not significant in explaining the prevailing peace and justice in Lira City. The findings are consistent with Braga (2015) could not agree more when he held that police strategists relied upon two ideas to prevent crimes: deterrence and incapacitation; adding that the imminent threat of arrest was their main strategy to deter the general public from contemplating or committing crime, thereby contributing to a general atmosphere of peace and justice. Braga further discounts that criminal investigations largely consist of routine, unspecialized work that is often unfruitful. The police in Lira appears to be lacking in using crime prevention to promote peace because of inappropriate skills and technologies of crime detection that does not allow the police officers to identify the intended crime at its earlier stage for proper management.

The findings that crime prevention is not significant in promoting peace and justice supports Moore et al (1988) who asserted that many police forces have developed proactive tactics to deal with crime problems that could not be handled through conventional reactive methods. Cases such as drug dealing, organized crime, and vice enforcement, etc., do not have immediate victims that mobilize the police to action. Secondly, most of the police institutions in developed countries the police have developed special units, and only rely on informants, covert surveillance, and undercover investigations rather than responses to calls for service. In Lira City, there are always joint security operations supported by committee security informant that facilitate intelligence gathering of insecurity situation through their established network. This is also re-enforcing by community mobilization and engagement through community policing for vigilance.

The findings that crime prevention is not significant in promoting peace and justice in Lira however, disagree with The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (2015) which observed that police are an integral part of the criminal justice chain that links state security and justice provision through the services of the wider justice sector. The proper functioning of police in implementing crime prevention to promote peace and justice is limited to community policing, effective crime intelligence and investigation. The non-significant contribution of the crime prevention roles to peace and justice disagrees with (Kennedy, 2008; Dalton, 2002) who maintained that “focused deterrence” is an effective strategy of halting serious gang violence. The view that focused deterrence is effective in stopping group of offenders from continuing with their violent behaviours has been applied in many US cities through federally sponsored violence prevention to stop disorderly behaviour. However this strategy has not yielded impact in Lira City because the people of Lira City are too political in handling issues of development and criminality. In addition, police in Lira City has inadequate equipment with few specialized personnel in executing deterrence approach, this make this strategy not to yield any impacts in Lira City.

The major objective of the study was to investigate the role of the police in the promotion of peace and justice among the people of Lira City. The study found that the roles of police contribute 38.9% of the level of peace and justice in Lira City. The second objective of the study investigated the crime prevention roles of the police in the promotion of peace and justice in Lira City. The study established that crime prevention contributes 19.6% of the prevailing level of peace and justice in Lira City, based on (Beta = .196; sig. >.05).

## Conclusion

The role of police in promoting peace and justice in Lira City is significant. This study provides that due to the effectiveness of police in ensuring peace and justice, the public has equal access to justice and safe information, which publicized through freedom of expression. However, there is little evidence of the role of police in eliminating gender-based violence. This is because many of the gender based violence cases are not reported in police yet they exist in the community. This provides an inaccurate statistics of cases of gender based violence recorded by the police yet the affected persons are in pain. The role of police in crime prevention is insignificant in Lira City. While it is undeniable that police has been effective in instilling fear in the public that they would be arrested if they commit crimes, police fails to curb organized criminal gangs. This is because of the inadequacy of the police personnel, de-motivation as a result of poor welfare and inappropriate skill and technology of crime detection and management.

## Recommendations

It is encouraged that the police institution should improve on its intelligence and technology with appropriate skilling's of its officers that facilitate easy crime deterrence. Further studies may be conducted on the role of the police in eliminating disorderly behaviour in Uganda.

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