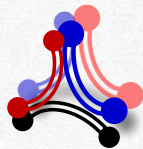




Fear, freedom, and security in Uganda

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey



HATCHILE CONSULT LTD

Social Research and Integrated Business Consultancy



At a glance

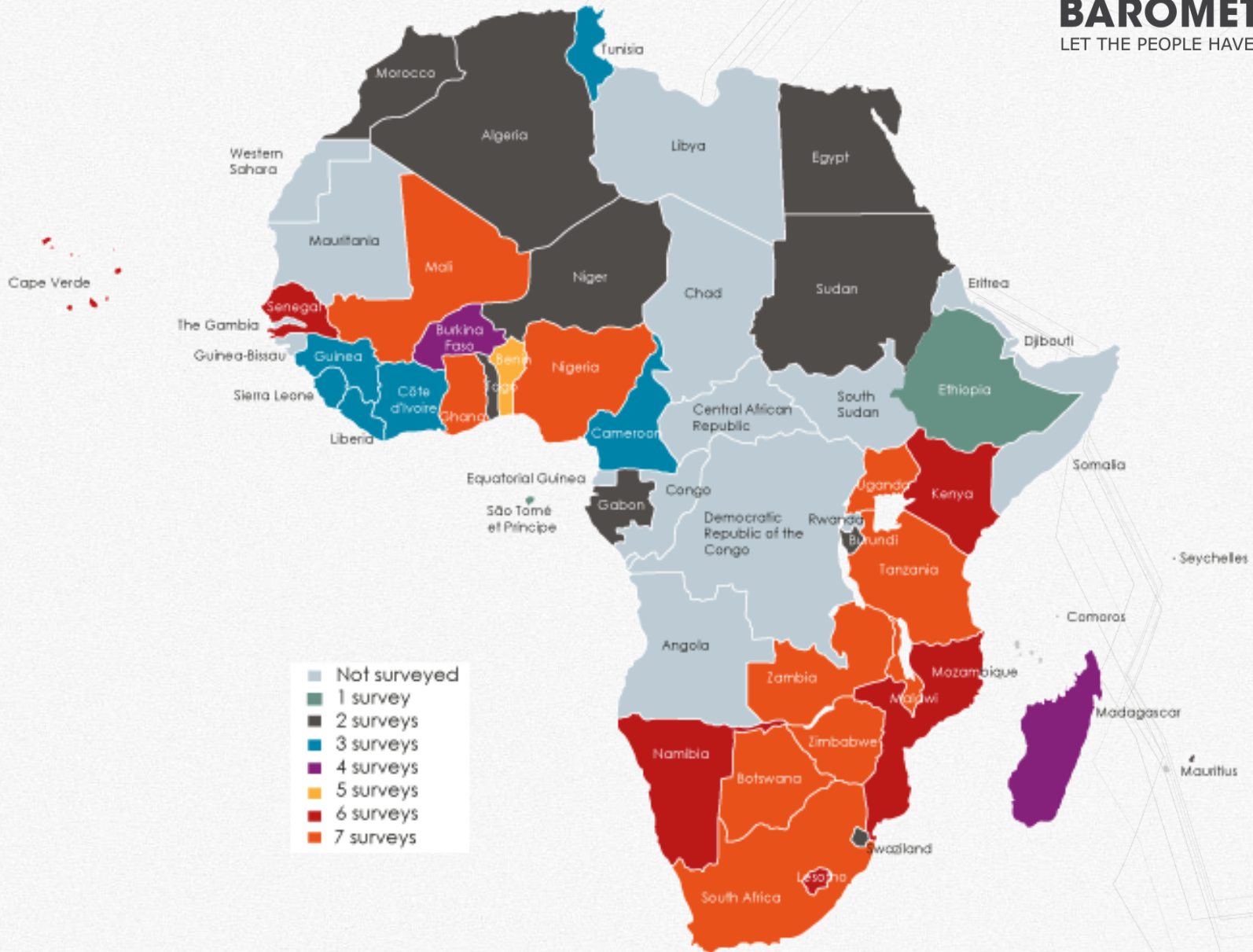
- Many Ugandans fear becoming victims of political intimidation or violence during elections.
- A majority think that they have to be careful about what they say about politics and which political organisations they join, and that the freedom of the opposition to function is more constrained now than it was a few years ago.
- Fear and experience of domestic insecurity are high.
- Solid majorities say the armed forces keep the country safe and are professional and respectful to citizens.
- If necessary to safeguard security, about half of Ugandans say the government should be able to monitor private communications.

What is Afrobarometer?

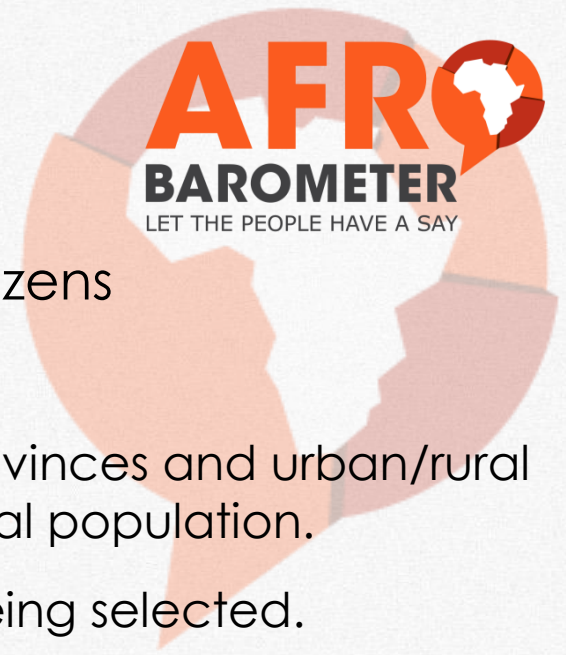


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Uganda, the Round 7 survey was conducted by Hatchile Consult Limited.

Where Afrobarometer works



Methodology



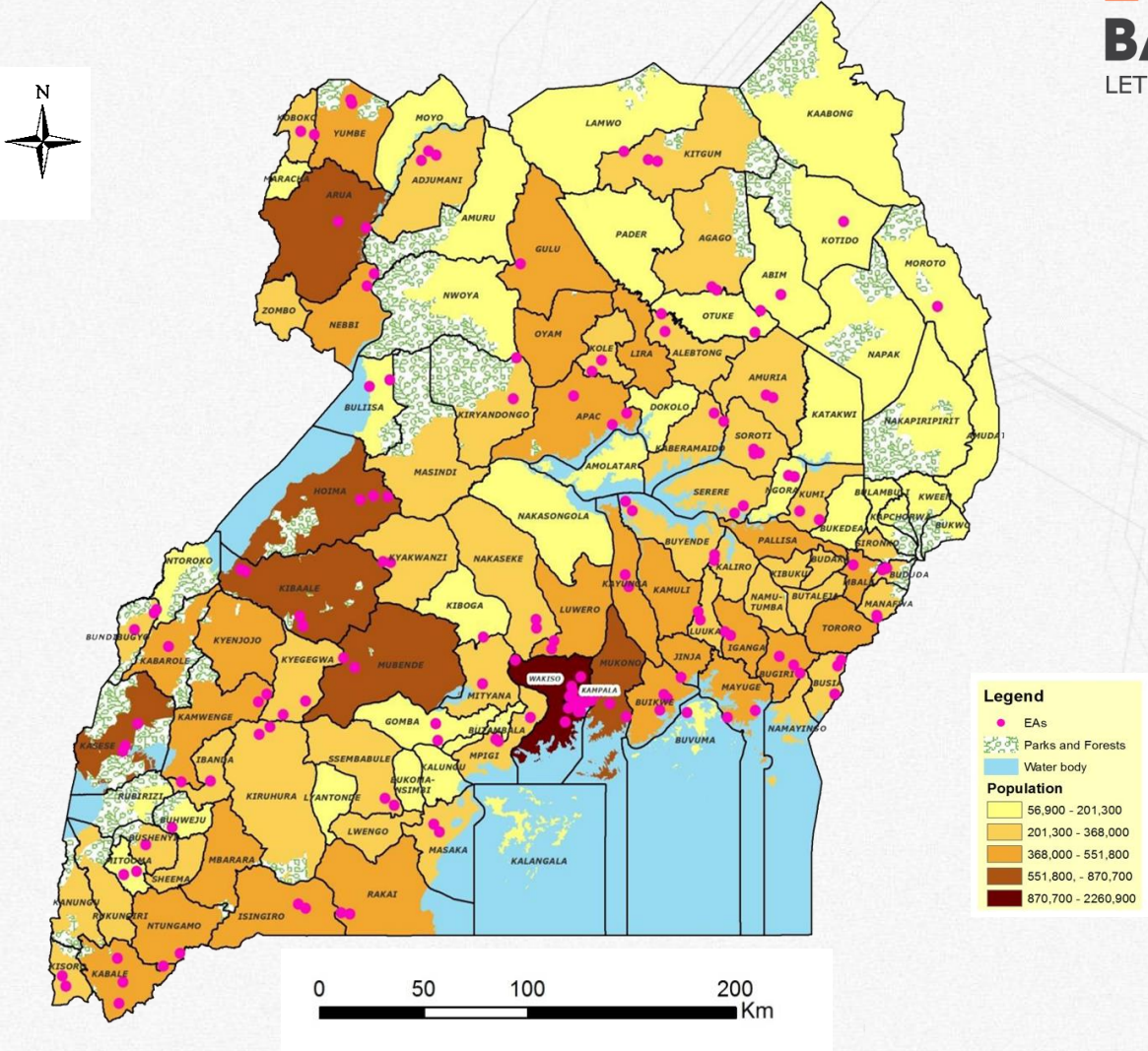
- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Uganda of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Uganda was conducted between 26 December 2016 and 8 January 2017.

Survey demographics

Gender	%
Men	50
Women	50
Residence	
Urban	25
Rural	75
Education	
No formal education	13
Primary	45
Secondary	29
Post-secondary	13
Religion	
Christian	85
Muslim	14
Other	1



Survey coverage

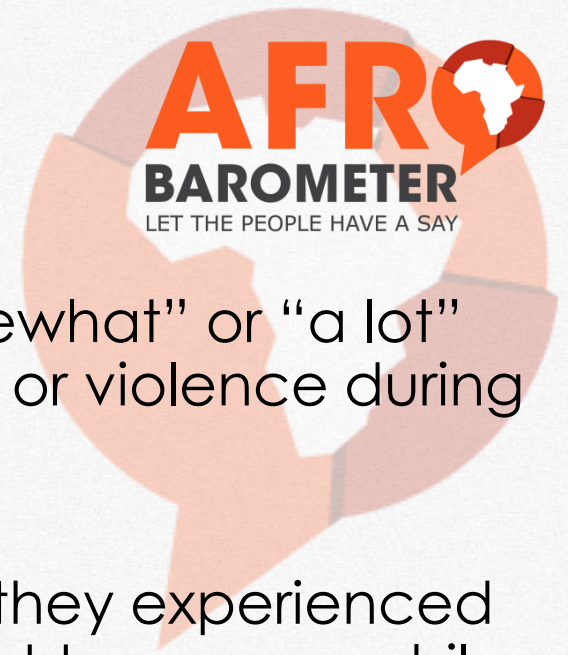


Findings



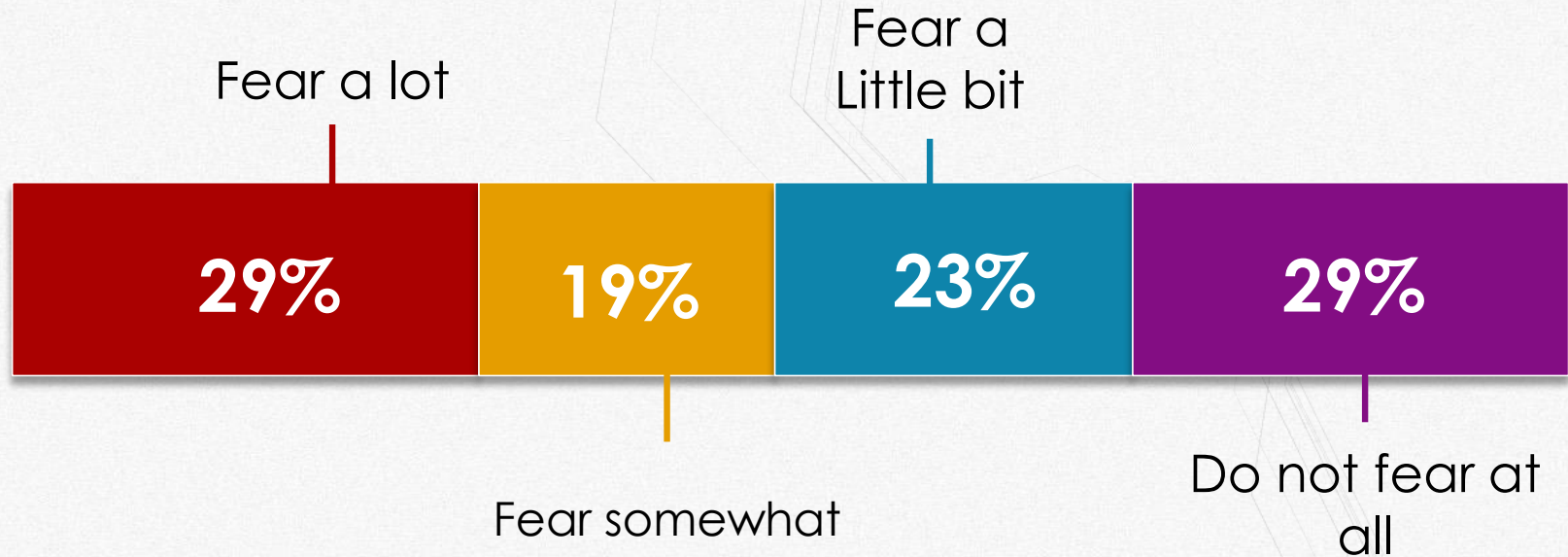
Fear of political intimidation and violence

Key findings



- Nearly half (48%) of Ugandans fear “somewhat” or “a lot” becoming victims of political intimidation or violence during election campaigns.
- About one in seven Ugandans (14%) say they experienced violence at political events during the past two years, while an additional 33% say they feared but did not experience violence at political events.
- Women, urban residents, and better-educated citizens are more likely to express fear of political intimidation or violence during election campaigns than their male, rural, or less-educated counterparts.

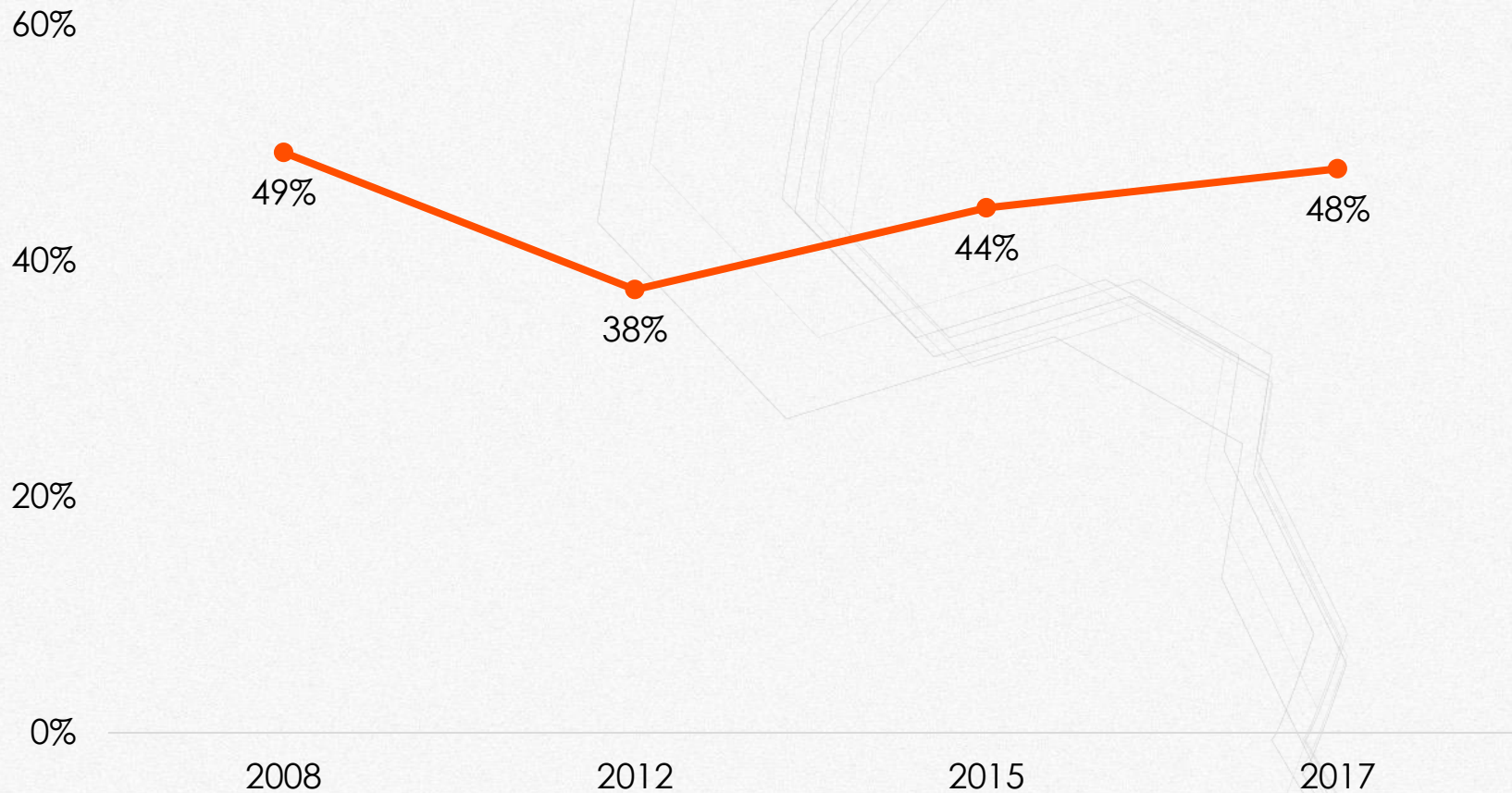
Fear of political intimidation or violence during elections | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *During election campaigns in this country, how much do you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?*

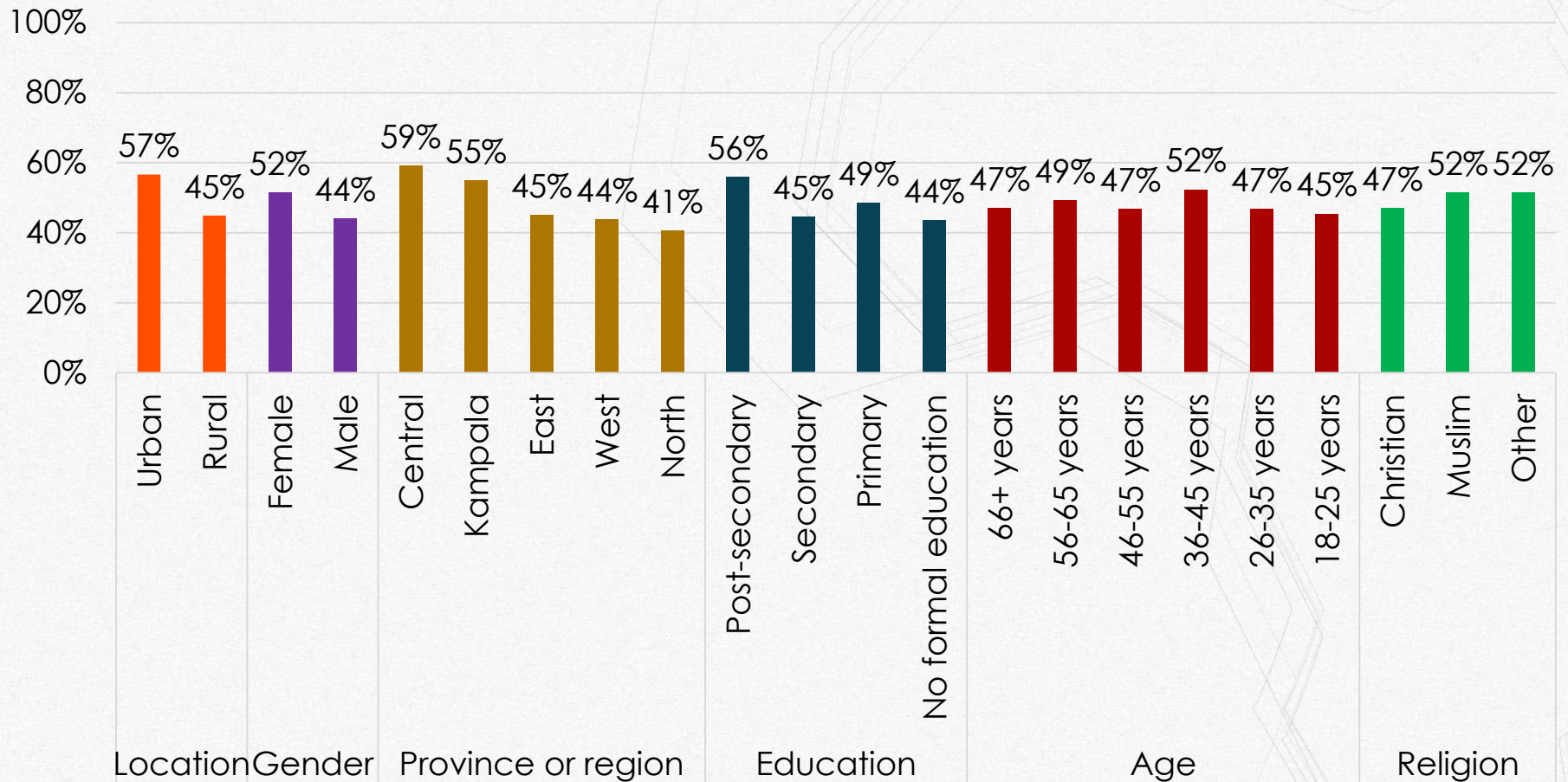
Fear of political intimidation or violence | Uganda

| 2008-2017



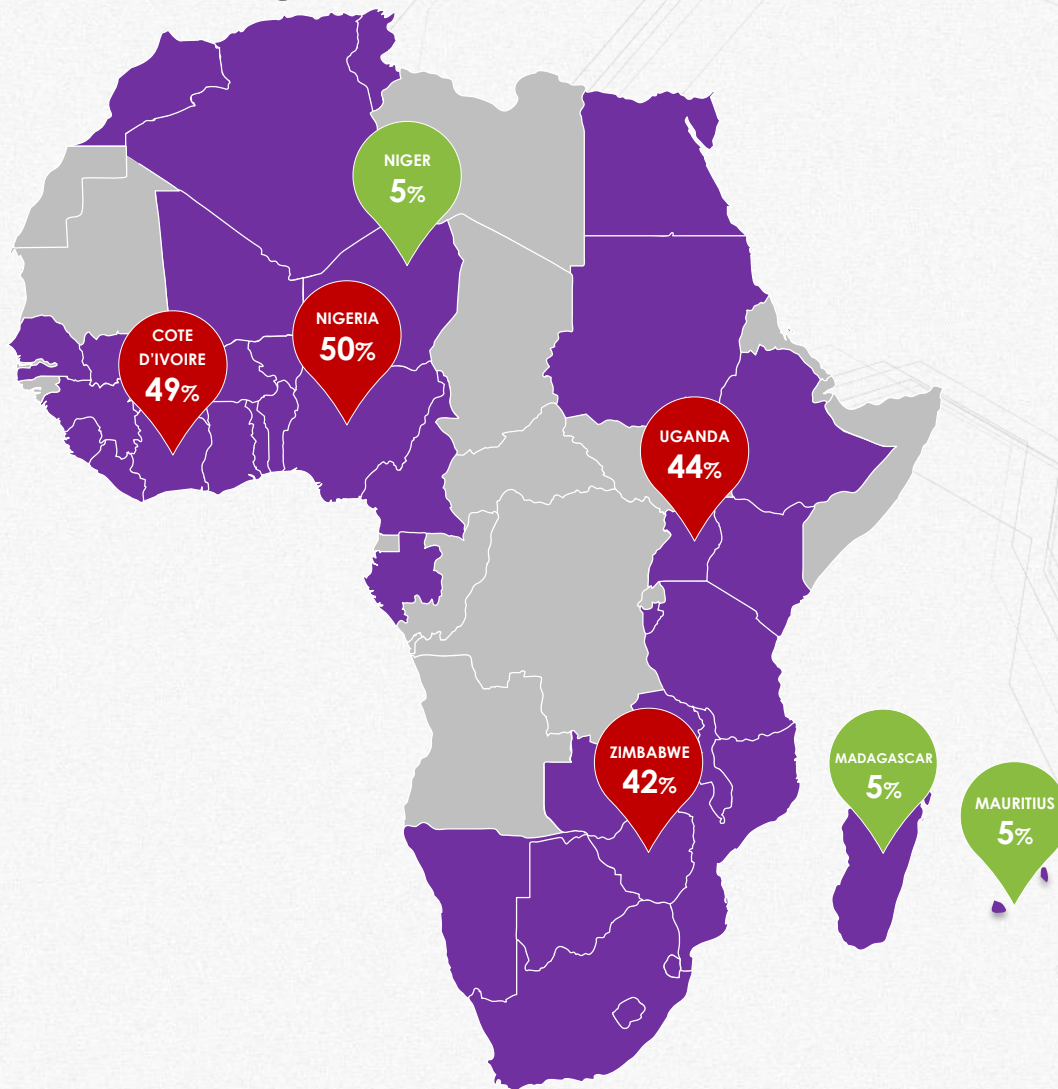
Respondents were asked: During election campaigns in this country, how much do you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Fear of political intimidation or violence | by demographics | Uganda | 2017

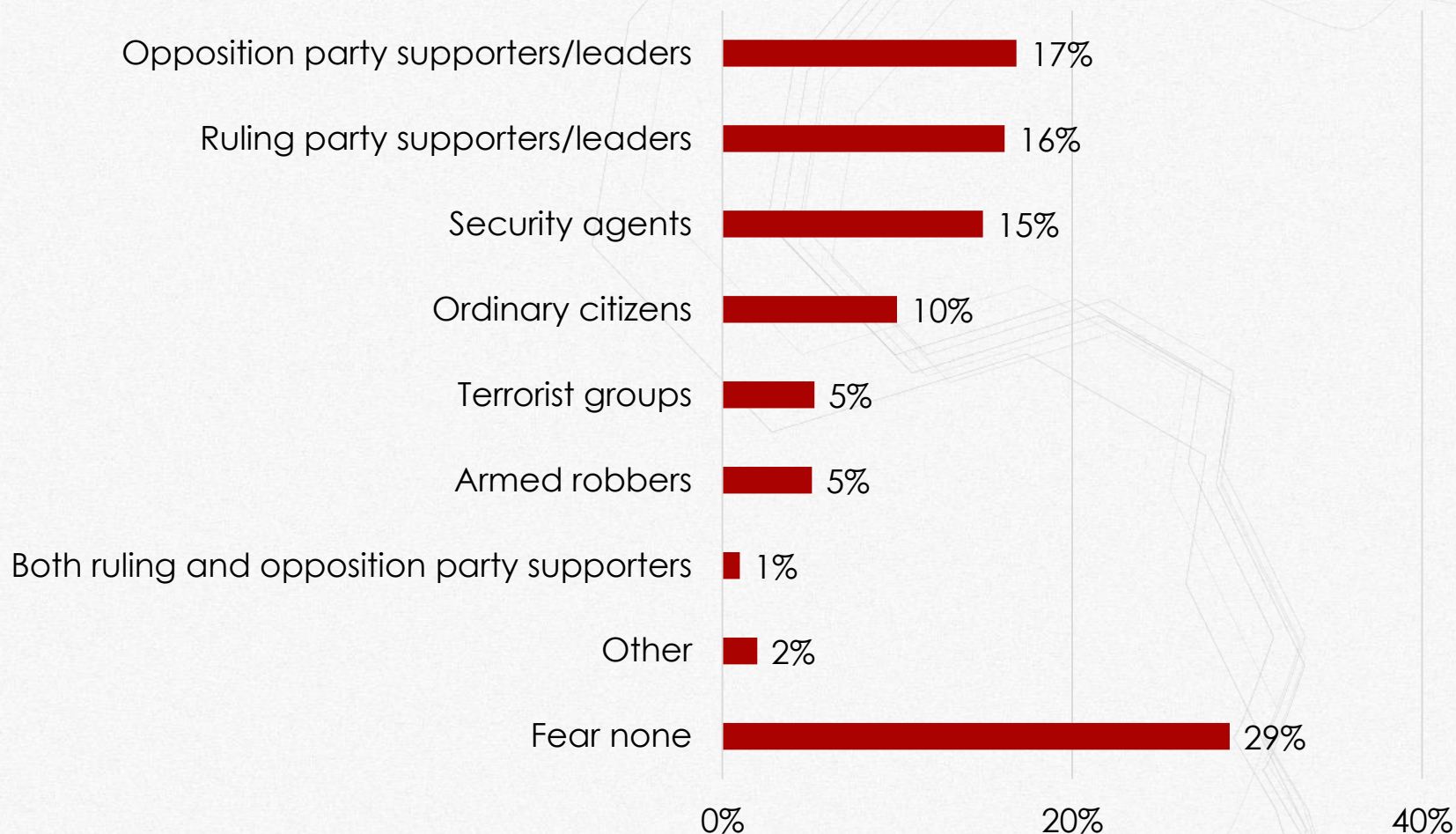


Respondents were asked: During election campaigns in this country, how much do you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Fear of political intimidation or violence | highest and lowest levels among 36 countries | 2014/2015

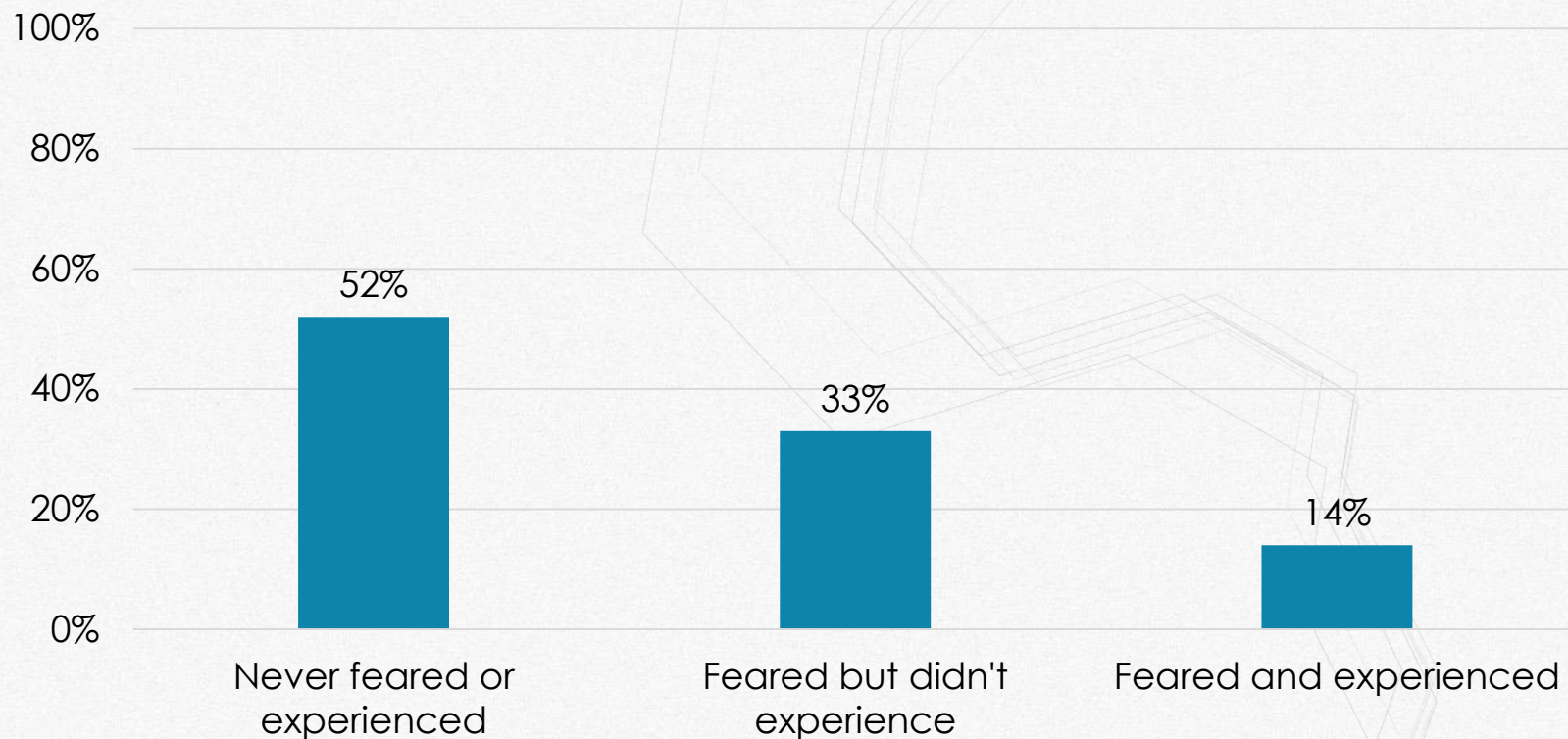


Perpetrators of political intimidation | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: Who do you fear most as the perpetrator of political intimidation or violence during election campaigns?

Fear and experience of violence at a political event | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *In any society, people will sometimes disagree with one another. These disagreements occasionally escalate into physical violence. Please tell me whether, in the past two years, you have ever personally feared violence at a political rally or campaign event? [If yes:] Have you actually personally experienced this type of violence in the past two years?*

Freedom of political expression

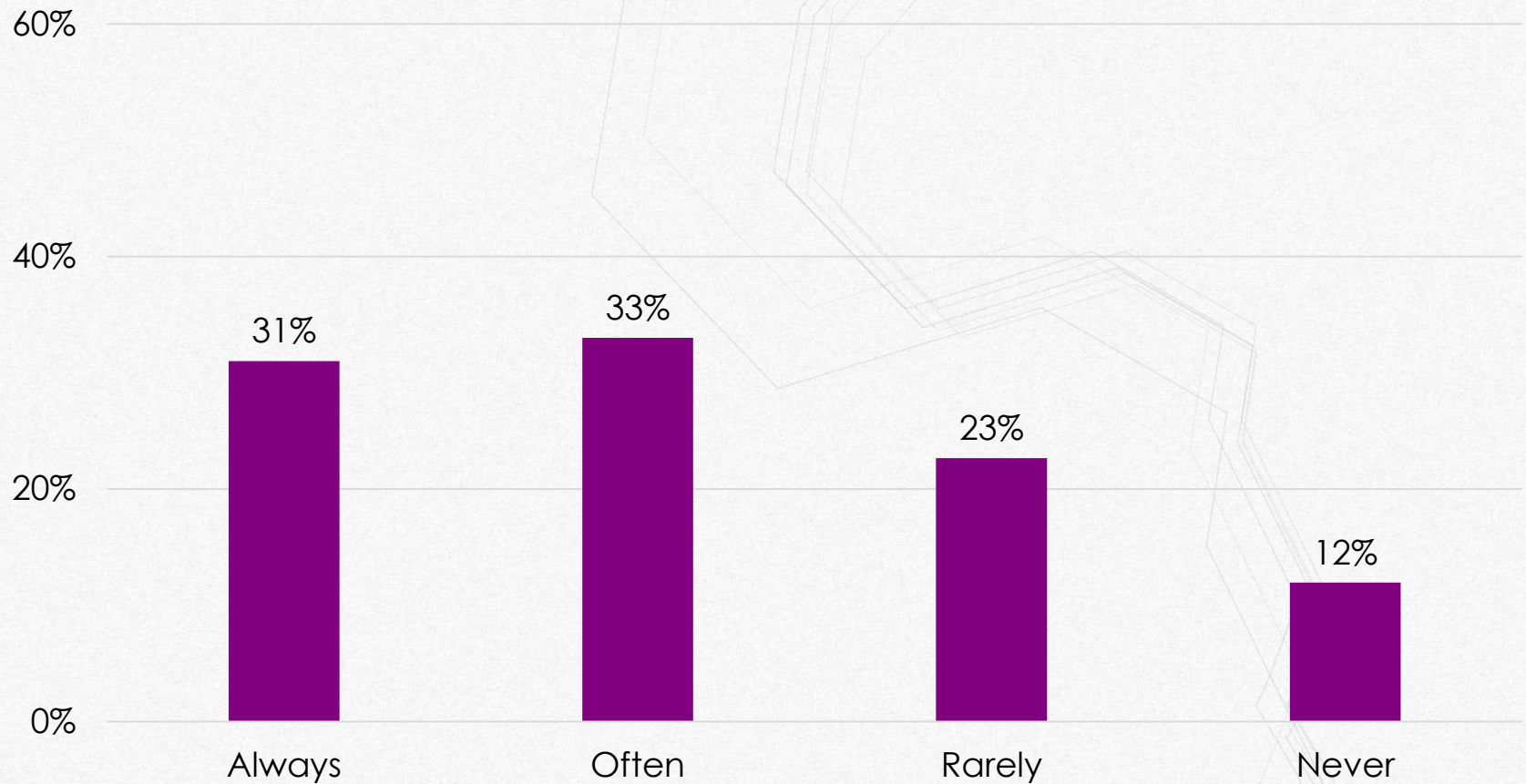
Key findings



- Six in 10 Ugandans (64%) say citizens “often” or “always” have to be careful about what they say about politics.
- A similar proportion (63%) say Ugandans have to be careful about how they vote.
- And a majority (53%) say they often/always have to be careful about which political organisations they join.

Careful about what you say about politics

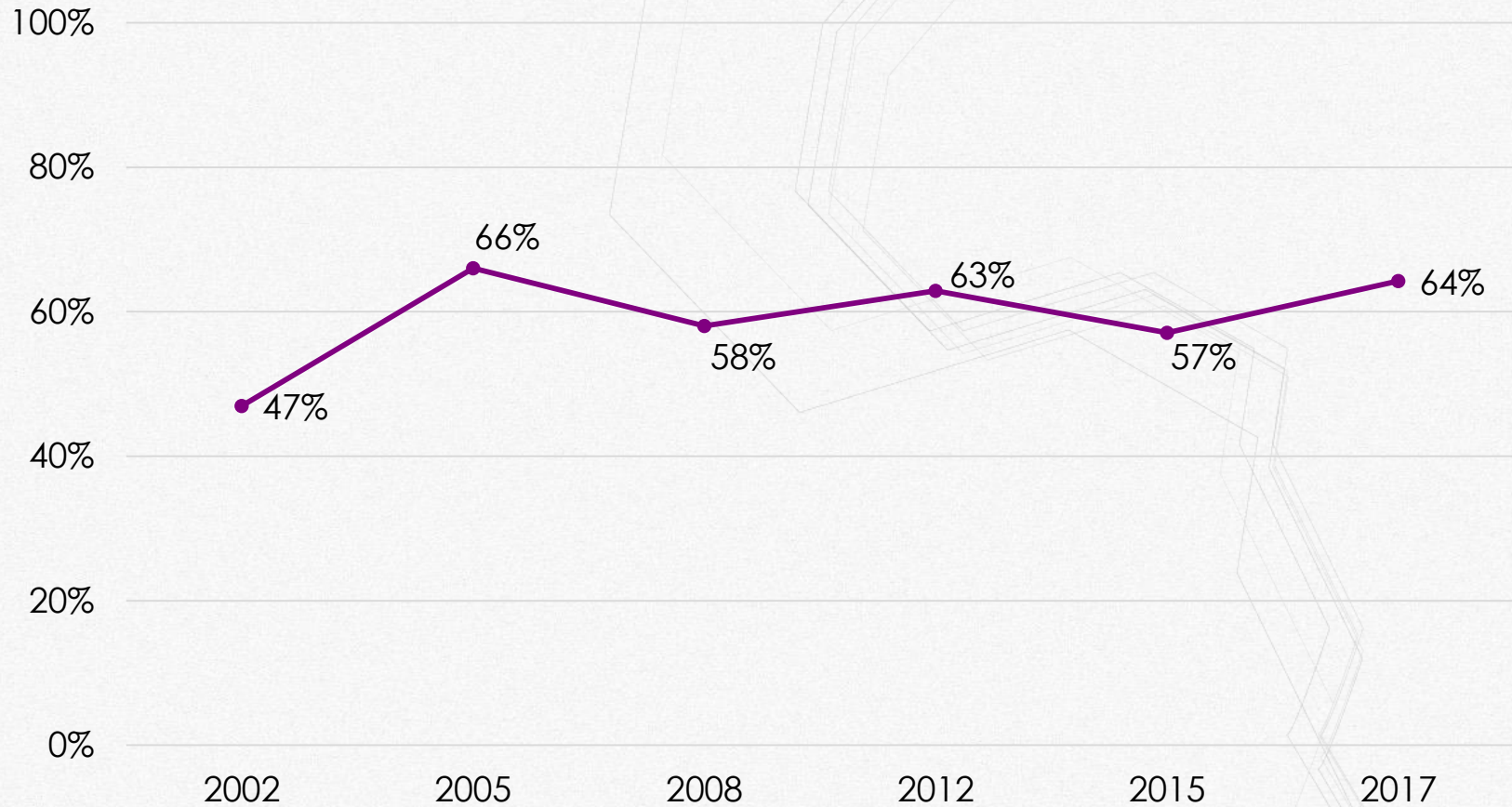
| Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful of what they say about politics?*

Careful about what you say about politics

| Uganda | 2002-2017



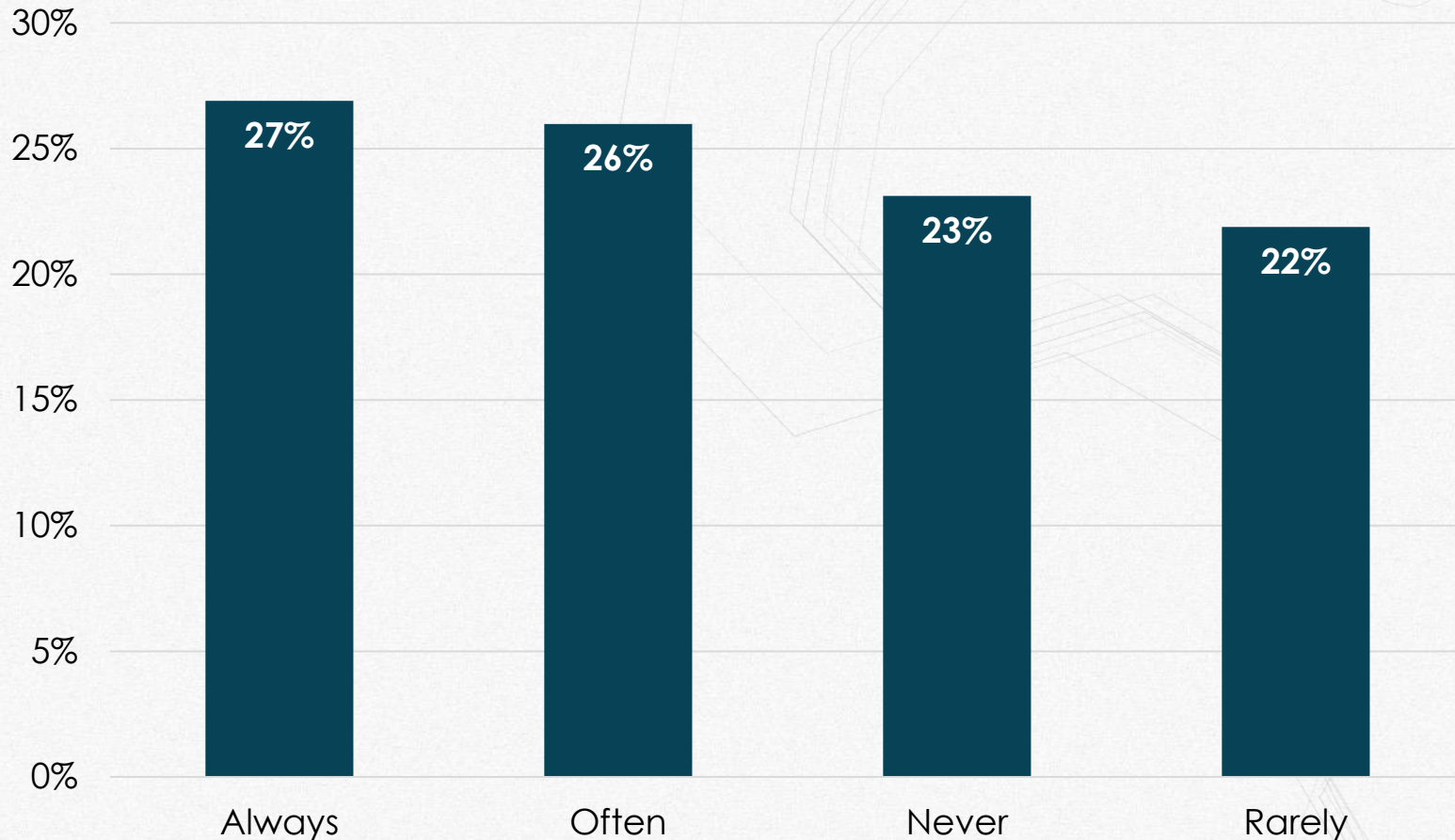
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful of what they say about politics? (% who say "often" or "always")*

Careful about how you vote | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful about how they vote in an election?*

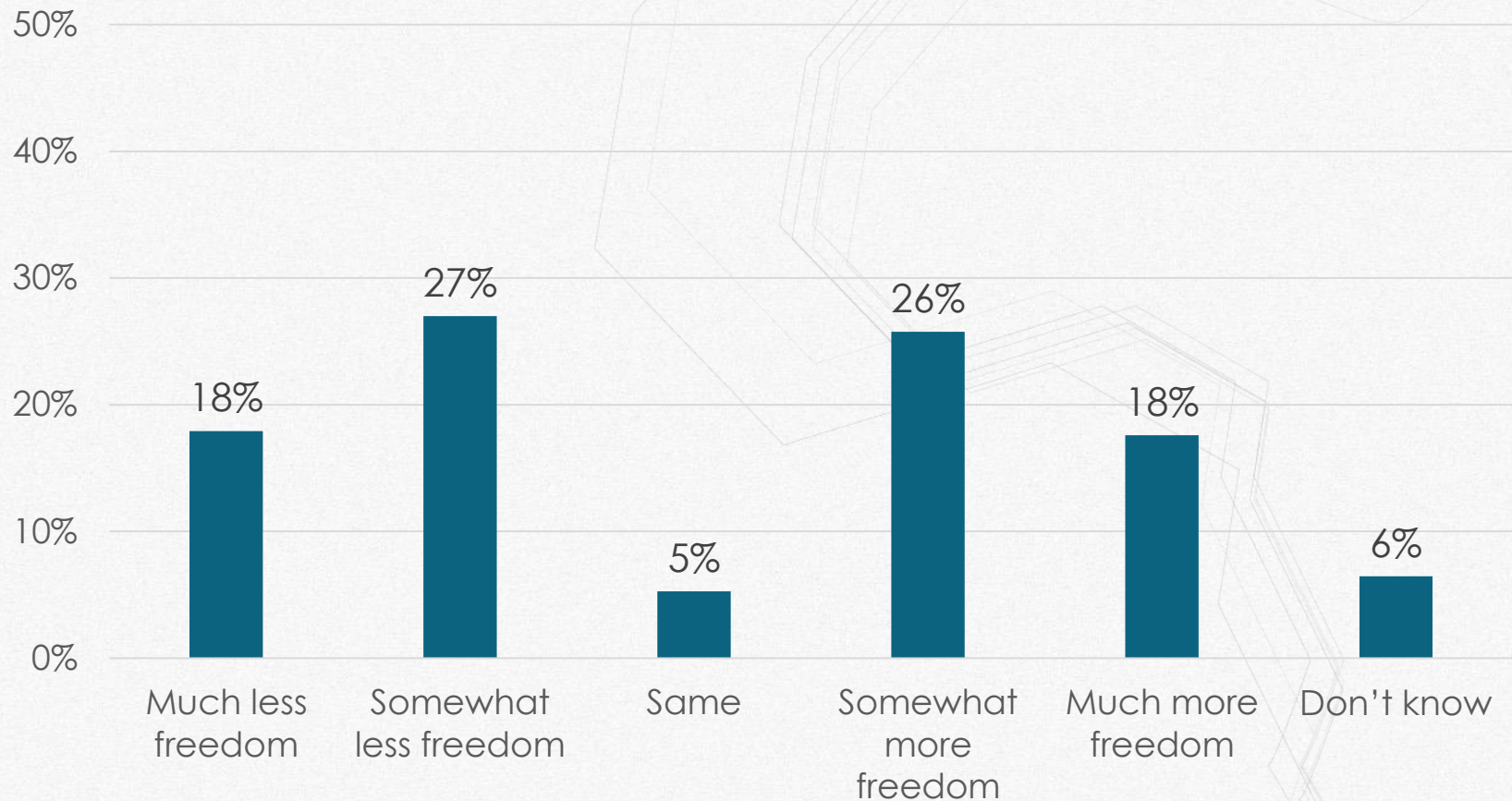
Careful about which organisations you join | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful about what political organisations they join?*

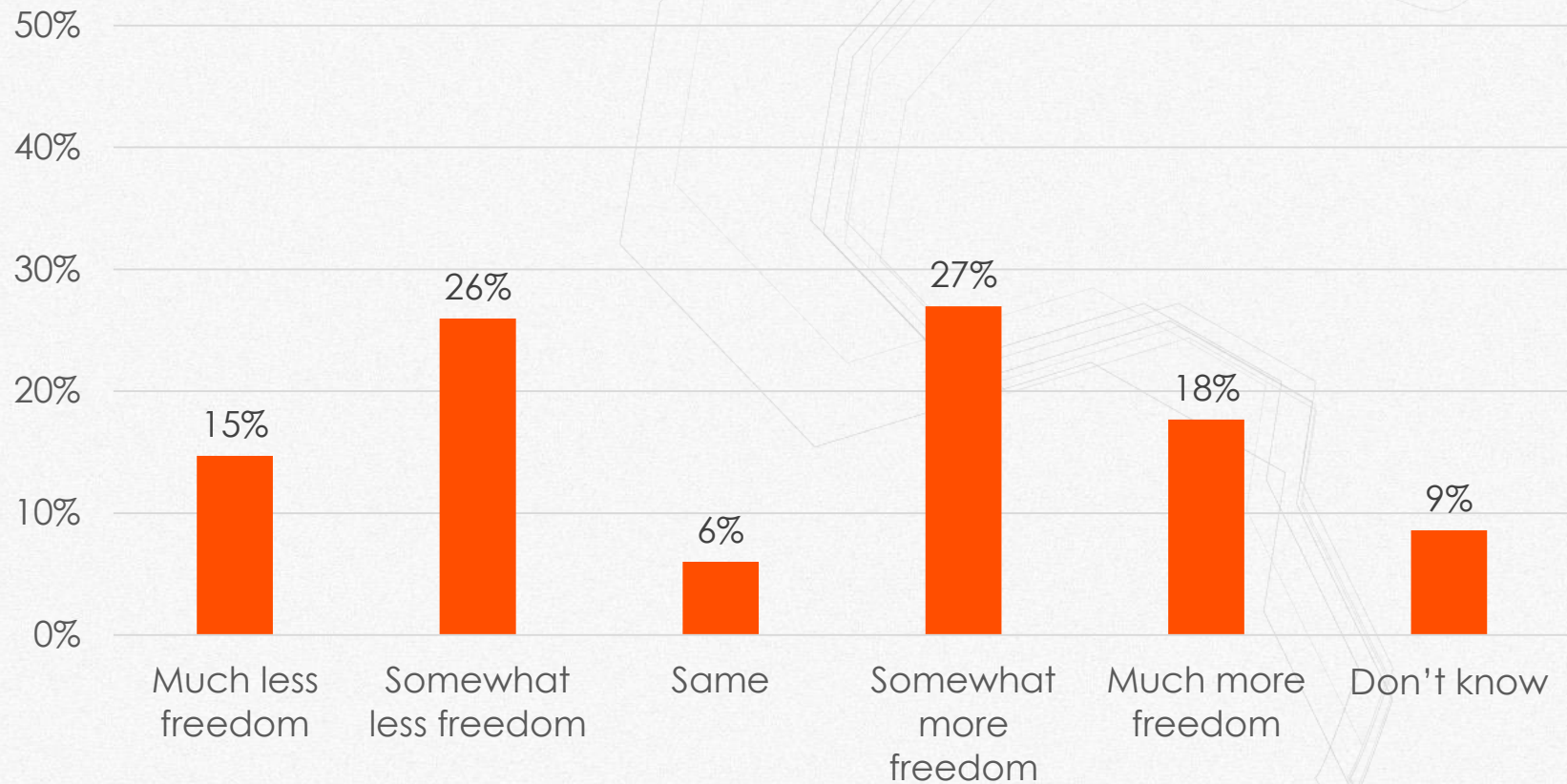
Freedom for media to criticize government | Uganda

| 2017



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: The freedom of opposition parties or candidates to speak or hold rallies, state their views, or criticize the government?

Freedom for NGOs to speak and act | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: The freedom of opposition parties or candidates to speak or hold rallies, state their views, or criticize the government?

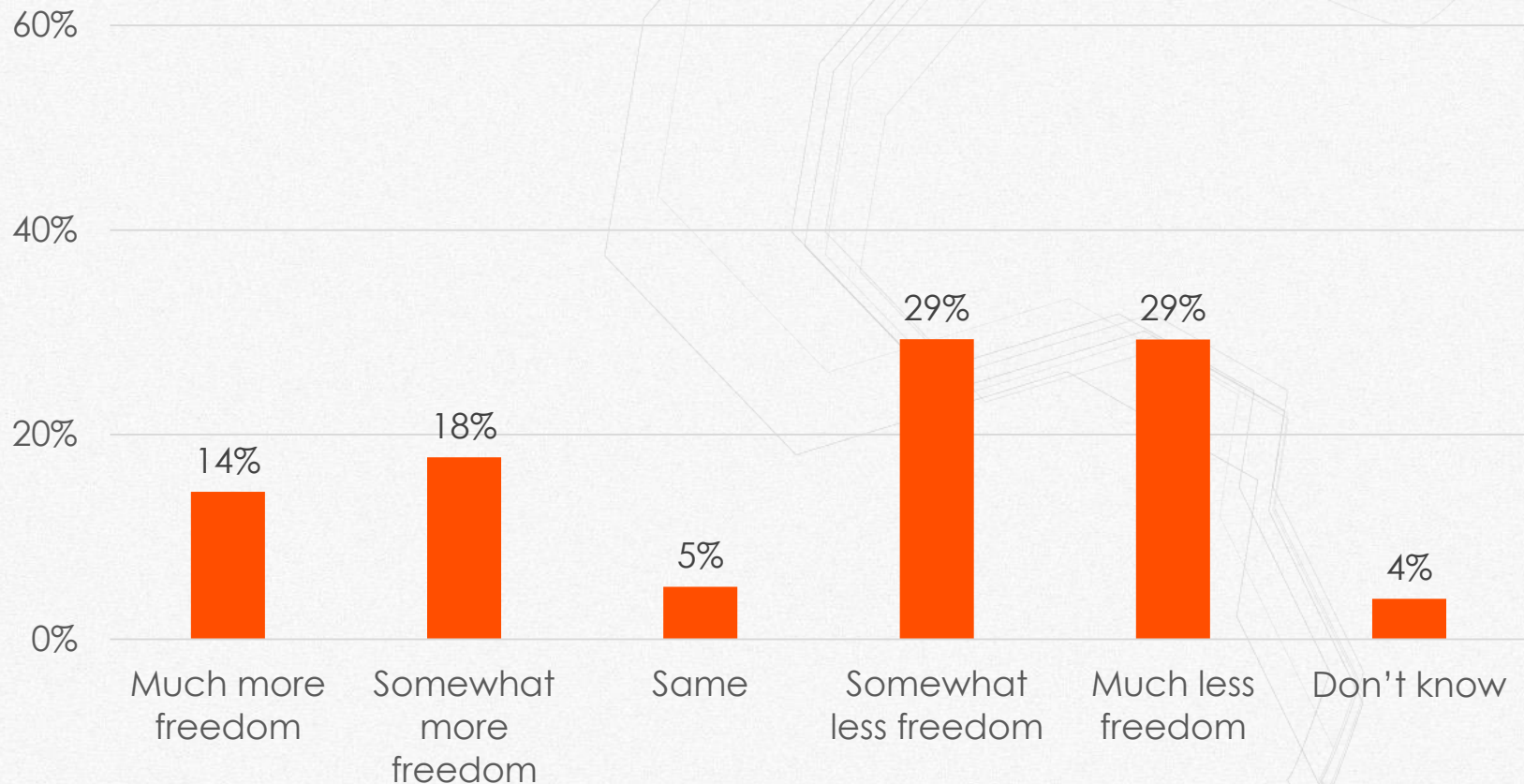
The opposition in Uganda

Key findings



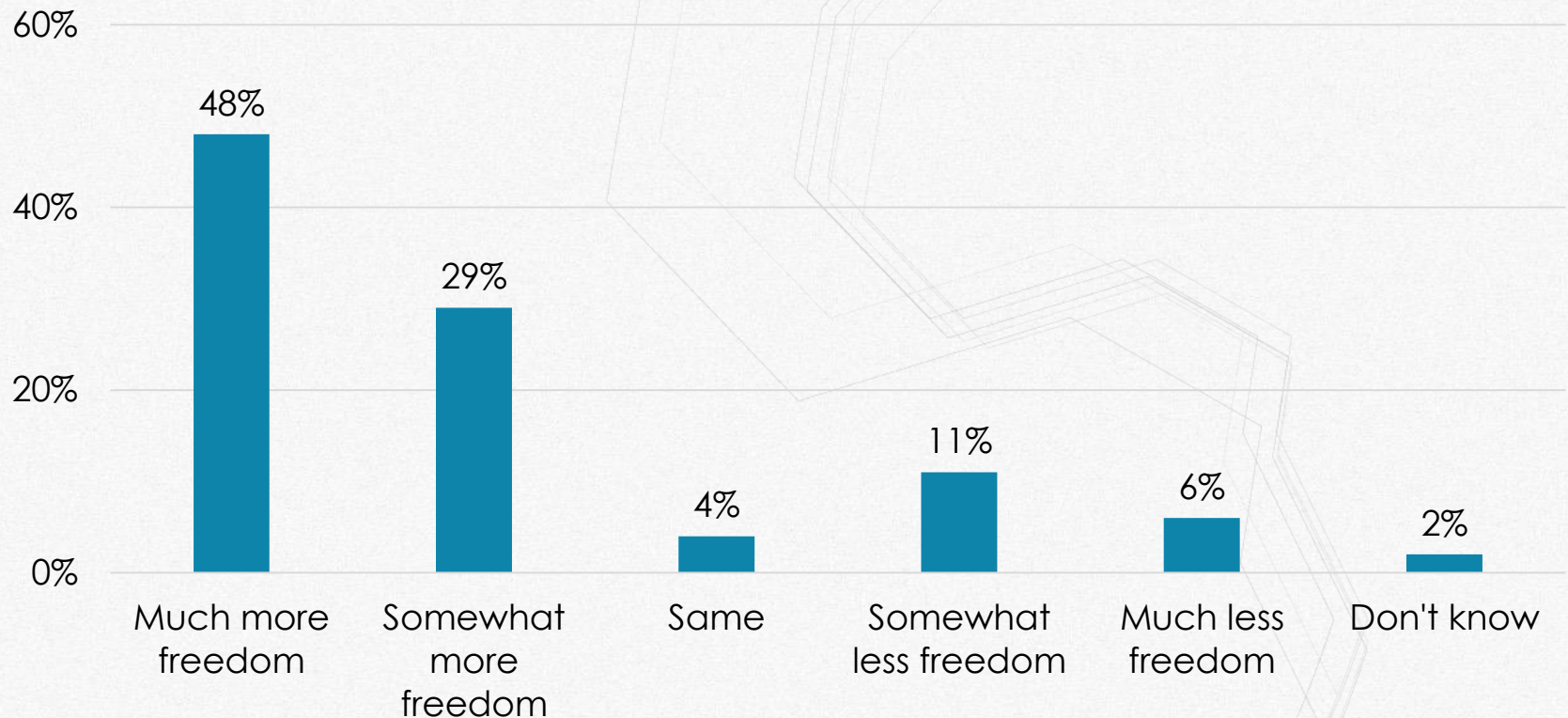
- Six in 10 respondents (59%) say that the freedom of the opposition to function is more constrained now than it was a few years ago.
- Almost half of Ugandans (47%) say that during elections, opposition candidates are at least “sometimes” prevented from running for office.
- However, more than three-fourths (77%) of Ugandans say that their freedom to join any political organisation they want has increased.

Freedom for opposition to function | Uganda | 2017



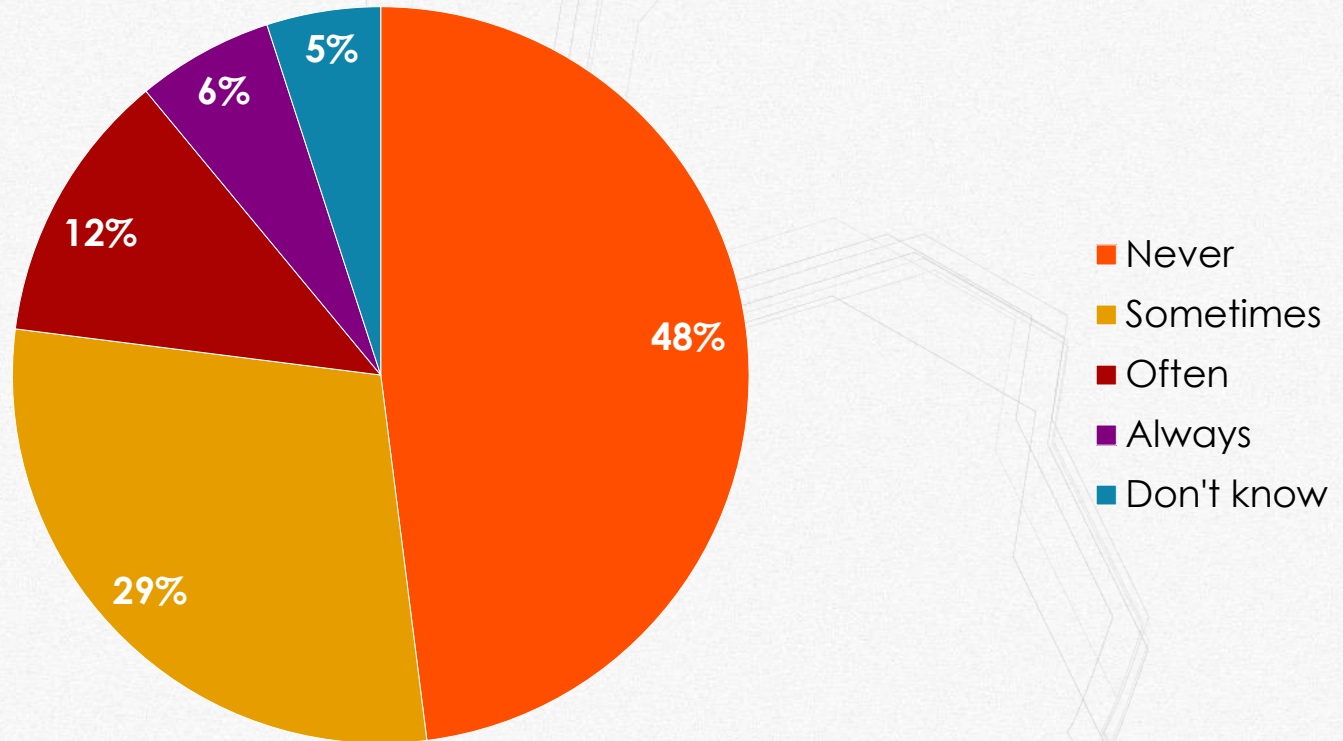
Respondents were asked: Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: The freedom of opposition parties or candidates to speak or hold rallies, state their views, or criticize the government?

More or less freedom than in the past to join any political organization? | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: Your own freedom to join any political organisation you want?

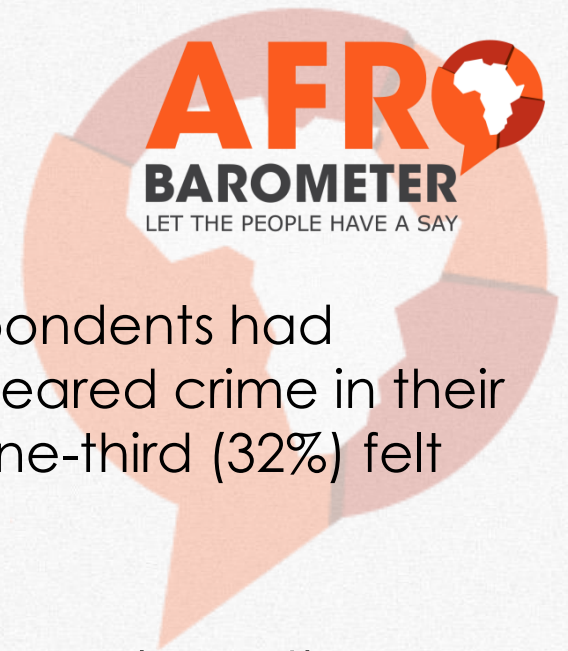
Opposition prevented from running? | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, during this country's elections, how often are opposition candidates prevented from running for office?

Personal safety and freedom

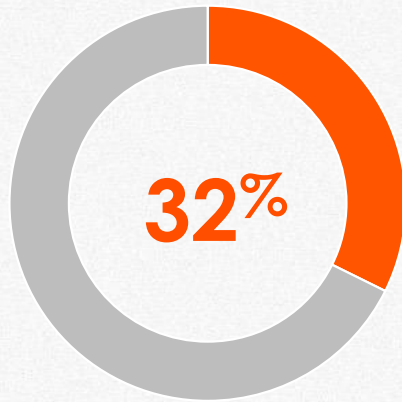
Key findings



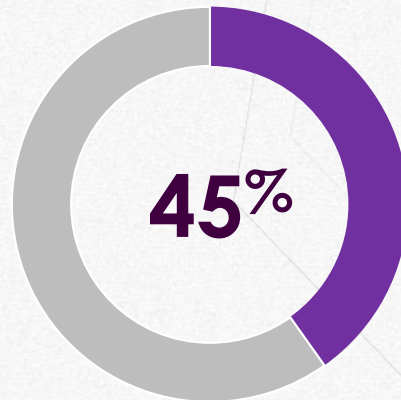
- Domestic insecurity is high. Almost half of respondents had something stolen from their home (47%) and feared crime in their home (45%) during the previous year, whilst one-third (32%) felt unsafe walking in the neighbourhood.
- Solid majorities say the armed forces often/always keep the country safe (85%) and are professional and respectful to citizens (63%).
- If necessary to safeguard security, about half (48%) of respondents say the government should be able to monitor private communications. And more than six in 10 say it should be able to impose curfews and set up roadblocks (65%) and regulate what is said in places of worship (61%).

Personal, community, and domestic safety

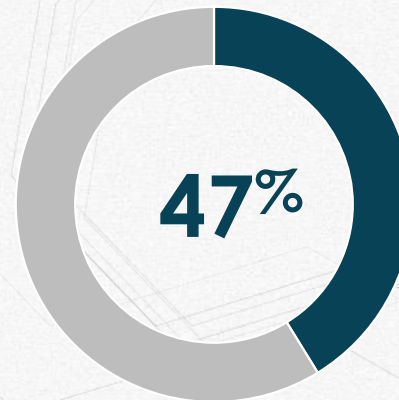
| Uganda | 2017



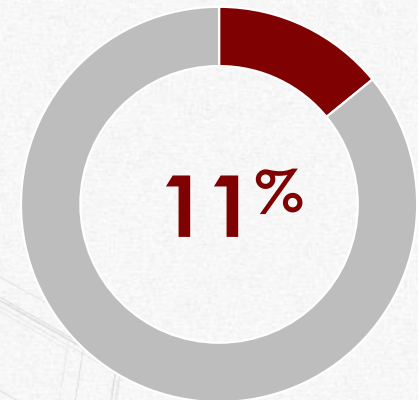
felt unsafe walking in neighbourhood



feared crime in the home



had something stolen from the house



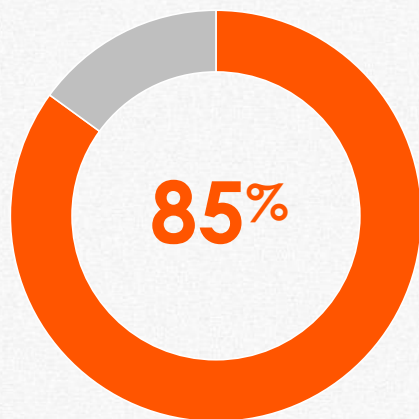
were physically attacked

Respondents were asked:

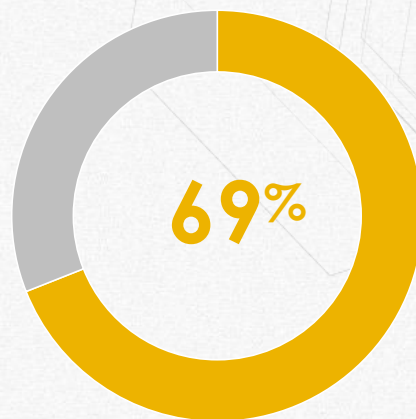
1. Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family:
a) Felt unsafe walking in your neighborhood? b) Feared crime in your own home?
2. During the past year, have you or anyone in your family:
a) Had something stolen from your house? b) Been physically attacked?

Views on professional conduct of armed forces

| Uganda | 2017

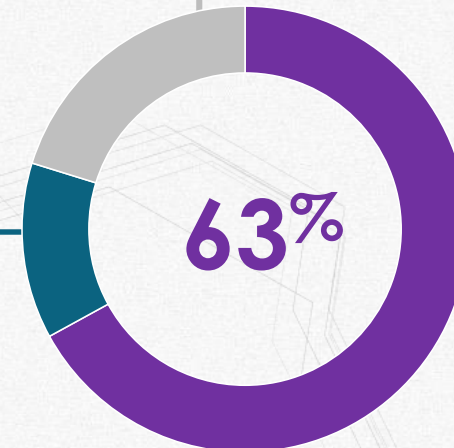


85% say armed forces often/always keep country safe



69% say armed forces often/always get necessary resources

12% say armed forces are never/rarely professional and respectful to citizens



63% say armed forces are often/always professional and respectful to citizens

19% say armed forces are sometimes professional and respectful to citizens

Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, to what extent do the armed forces of our country: a) Keep our country safe from external and internal security threats? b) Get the training and equipment needed to be effective? c) Operate in a professional manner and respect the rights of all citizens?

Support for freedom in exchange for improved security | Uganda | 2017



65% say the government should be able to impose curfews and set up special roadblocks.

48% say the government should be able to monitor private communications.



61% say the government should have the power to regulate what is said in a place of worship.

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

1. Statement 1: Even if faced with threats to public security, people should be free to move about the country at any time of day or night. Statement 2: When faced with threats to public security, the government should be able to impose curfews and set up special roadblocks to prevent people from moving around.
2. Statement 1: Government should be able to monitor private communications, for example on mobile phones, to make sure that people are not plotting violence. Statement 2: People should have the right to communicate in private without a government agency reading or listening to what they are saying.
3. Statement 1: Freedom of religion and worship are absolute, meaning that government should never limit what is said in a place of worship. Statement 2: Government should have the power to regulate what is said in places of worship, especially if preachers or congregants threaten public security.

Conclusions

Can fear of political intimidation or violence erode Uganda's democratic gains?

- Whereas Ugandans say “they have much freedom of speech”, the freedom to talk about politics appears restricted
- More women, those in urban areas, and those with more education attainment appear to be more fearful of political intimidation or violence during elections,
- Fear is highest in the most politically competitive regions of Uganda
- This fear appears positively related with perceptions of corruption in public offices, but negatively related with trust in state institutions, contact elected leaders, satisfaction with democracy and electoral participation

Thank you

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