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Eleven injured in blasts on Christmas eve

ELEVEN civilians were admitted to Mulago Hospital, in Kampala, with serious injuries, after unidentified armed men wearing Uganda Army uniform threw hand grenades into crowds of merry-makers in two separate incidents on Christmas eve in Wandegeya, an independent Luganda language daily, *Taifa Empya*, reported today.

The daily, reported that uniformed men in a Land-Rover threw a hand grenade at a civilian vehicle which was driving near Makerere Secondary School in Wandegeya. Six people were seriously injured and admitted in the hospital.

And on Gayaza road near Wandegeya, uniformed men travelling in a Land-Rover threw a hand grenade in a crowd who were enjoying a drink, seriously injuring five, the daily added.

About a month ago, an unidentified attacker threw a hand grenade in an open drinking place in Wandegeya killing seven people on the spot and injuring over 30 who were admitted at Mulago Hospital with serious injuries.

Meanwhile, passengers of Uganda's national airline, Uganda Airlines Corporation, have been stranded in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, for about one month, due to the total grounding of all aircrafts belonging to the airline according to an airline official.

Two aircrafts both Boeing 707's, which are used by the airline for international flights are at London and Nairobi respectively for repairs and structural inspection, the official said.

A Fokker Friendship plane which was hijacked two months ago to Kasese, Western Uganda, was due to be returned to Uganda today, the official added.

Standard Correspondent, Kampala, Saturday.

He said the problems facing Ugandan passengers stranded abroad in Europe and the Middle East were compounded because the tickets issued by Uganda airlines were not transferable to other carriers. Uganda airlines has not yet been admitted as member of Iata because of its financial problems.

The repair and servicing work on the two Boeing 707s has been delayed because the airline has not yet settled an outstanding bill of over \$150,000, sources close to the airline said. An official of the airline said they were still waiting for allocation of the necessary foreign exchange to be able to pay the outstanding debt "since we do not get any special treatment at the Bank of Uganda".