As the world commemorates the International Humanitarian day, Uganda Red Cross joins the IFRC to pay tribute to all humanitarian workers, and volunteers who have offered their lives to serve humanity under tough circumstances. The Red Cross staff and volunteers are always at the front line, as first responders at every emergency. We also remember the recent killings in Central Africa Republic where 6 fellow Red Cross staff lost lives. We mourn their demise and again stand in solidarity to claim for protection that deserves an aid worker. None of us should die on the line of duty. Our services are out sacrifice, good Samaritan spirit driven by goodwill to serve those who are afflicted by unavoidable circumstances.

In Uganda today, Uganda Red Cross staff and volunteers are at the fore front of the South Sudan refugee operation, giving support to South Sudanese refugees who come to Uganda on a daily basis in thousands. We sacrifice our lives to receive them and share the little resources available to ensure they are given the dignity they deserve. The Red Cross volunteers being part of the host community are always the first to respond whenever refugees come to a community even before Government or any humanitarian actor responds. That is how we become part of every one's life who deserves our services. We commit to continue doing the same anytime, anywhere. Today, we recognize the efforts of the humanitarian actors especially the Red Cross Volunteers and staff all over the world whose lives are at risk, who beat all odds to endure the trauma, the threats and other risks associated with serving human kind. Your sacrifice is not in Vain.

Our IFRC theme this year is “Everywhere for Everyone” which directly translates that the Red Cross is everywhere in this world to serve everyone who needs our services. We will not tire, retreat or surrender. As we observe the World Humanitarian Day, our staff and volunteers are guided by the theme “Aid Workers are #Not A Target.” We join the rest of the world to call for protection for aid workers. Our collective voices should be heard, world allover to emphasize that we shouldn't be endangered but rather protected. Nobody aid worker should die on line of duty because of being targeted. Here in Africa, we are exposed to a lot of conflict, natural and man-made disasters, and a lot of other complex issues. As Red Cross Volunteers and staff respond to such emergencies, they need to be valued. Our Fundamental principles guide our operations and are a model to other humanitarian actors. Therefore, I encourage all of us to take pride in them and ensure that we employ them in our daily operations. And to the rest of the world, join humanitarian workers and add your voice as we together call for protection.

Together for Humanity.
Red Cross staff and Volunteers pose with International Humanitarian Day message; I am #NotATarget