

Righting Wrongs

The LLM in Human Rights &
Democratisation in Africa
Alumni Association Newsletter
Issue No 6 - December 2012

DEFENDING
with **Excellence**,
ADVOCATING
with **Ubuntu**



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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Law





Vera Chirwa Award

Women Alumni Duo Receives Vera Chirwa Award

The presentation of the Vera Chirwa Human Rights Award has become one of the most anticipated elements of the traditional 10 December LLM HRDA graduation ceremony. This year was not an exception. For the first time since its inception in 2006, the Vera Chirwa Award was presented jointly to Justice Monica Mbaru (Kenya, 2005), Judge of the High Court of Kenya, and to Dr Lilian Chenwi (Cameroon, 2002), Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

On 2 November 2012, the Selecting Committee of the (Centre for Human Rights) Vera Chirwa Award completed its examination of this year's nominations, awarding the prize jointly to Justice Mbaru for her singular contribution

to the protection of sexual minorities in Africa, particularly through her work with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and to Dr Chenwi for her contribution to the development of economic and social rights in South Africa, mainly through academic research and publication, teaching and litigation.

Instituted in 2006, on the occasion of the Centre being awarded the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, the Vera Chirwa Human Rights Award is named after Vera Chirwa, a lawyer and human rights activist who fought for independence, multi-party democracy and was saved *in extremis* from execution in Malawi.

The immediate past winner of the prize is Swazi Advocate Thulani Maseko (Swaziland, 2005) known back home as 'the people's lawyer'. For simply challenging the Swazi 2008 Terrorism Act, Thulani was refused bail by the High Court of Mbabane before which he appeared in leg-irons. He was awarded the Prize on 10 December 2011 for his "fearless pro-democracy activism and his personal sacrifice".



Vera Chirwa Laureates Dr Lilian Chenwi (left) and Justice Monica Mbaru (right) pause with Alumni Coordinator just after being awarded the Prize



Editorial

A Human Rights Mafia: And then?

Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)

Alumni Coordinator

There should be no concern that we are increasingly been referred to as the “Pretoria Mafia” by other human rights and democracy actors in Africa and beyond. Yes, we should be proud to be mentioned as who we are: A human rights mafia. Our headquarters are at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa and we have now established country chapters in more than 15 African countries. More chapters are expected to operate in the rest of the 25 other countries in Africa, the Americas and Europe where our alumni are originally from or are based.

The Human Rights Mafia

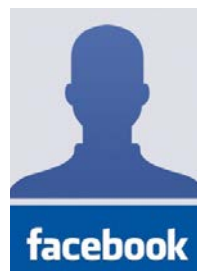
The Centre being awarded the first African Commission NGO Prize demonstrates that there is little contest that our presence and contribution owe us to be qualified as a human rights mafia. I cannot but congratulate everyone for these achievements and encourage us to do more. However, a question is becoming unavoidable: We are a human rights mafia, and then?

Having served two years as the Coordinator of our Association, I believe being referred to as a human rights mafia is meaningless as long as we consider it to be an end in itself. From 10 December, we will be exactly 375 alumni from 38 African countries, the USA, Finland, Spain and Brazil. The problem is that our impact is still far below our potential in terms of both numerical and qualitative achievements.

One way in which we have decided to contribute to the operation of the network is to pay annual dues. I would however beg to submit that the current dues are very minimalist in the light of our commitment to become a force of change that spearheads a new era for the Centre and for human rights development in Africa. Is it beyond our reach to establish a fully-fledged HRDA Trust Fund to which more substantial contributions could be made for implementing human rights and democracy strategic litigation and advocacy? My target is an Alumni Trust Fund with thousands of rand worth annual individual contributions under the umbrella of an independent human rights society or non-governmental organisation.

Is it beyond our reach to put in more tangible contributions as actual shareholders of the Centre? As from 10 December the Alumni Association will be represented on the Centre’s board. How do we intend to use that opportunity to make our voices heard and directly ensure the sustainability of what others refer to as a human rights mafia? Ultimately, who better than us have the legitimacy and capacity to take over and own what the LLM HRDA programme becomes in a near future?

These are the real challenges that lie ahead of our journey as a human rights mafia, and I have not seen many of us making ground breaking contributions in line with those challenges so far. Life changing action, action that significantly and dramatically changes the lives of our common African fellows, that is what will legitimise us as a real human rights mafia.



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The Centre's Word

'You are my hope'

Prof Michelo Hansungule

Professor in Human Rights Law

Academic Co-ordinator: LLM (Multidisciplinary Human Rights) and MPhil (Multidisciplinary Human Rights)

Dear Alumni!

It is a great pleasure for me to address you, my young people. As you know, we engaged on a number of issues critical to Africa's development during your LLM study.

Now, you are engaged in not the elaboration of the concepts you learnt while here, but in the task of implementing them on the ground.

You are my hope for living. You are our people's hope for loving in this difficult world and particularly the hope for the future.

I salute you for all your efforts to add value to our society in its different dimensions. I salute you and urge you to even do more to make our people's life even better.



New Graduates

Ms Jane Connors Addresses new LLM HRDA Graduates

Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007)

Alumni Coordinator

With their graduation on 10 December, this year's students officially become alumni, and therefore join the Association of the Alumni of the LLM HRDA programme. The Alumni Association welcomes the new graduates and wishes them well in their future endeavours. As they are sent to defend the values that the programme instilled into them, they must at all times remember what family they henceforth belong to. The ultimate goal is to bring about tangible change in leadership and human development in Africa.

One could not agree more with UN OHCHR Chief of the Special Procedures Branch Jane Connors, who spoke at the graduation ceremony: she called the new human rights combatants to play a strong role in some of current endeavours, one of them being the UN OHCHR 'My Voice Counts' initiative, aiming at working for an inclusive and participatory legal, political, economic and social system, in which all human rights are enjoyed by all.





Ms Jane Connors, the head of the Special Procedures Branch at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was the key note speaker at the recent graduation ceremony





Alumni in the Field

Alumna attends 3rd Pan African Forum towards Africa Fit for Children

Martha Guraro (Ethiopia, 2010)

Save the Children Africa Advocacy Office, Addis Ababa

Children Participation in Children's Forum

It is a great pleasure to share with you my activities this year in the alumni newsletter. Currently I am working for Save the Children Africa Advocacy Office here in Addis Ababa Ethiopia and 90% of my work is with the African Union - Department of Social Affairs where children issues are dealt with. The 3rd Pan African Forum towards Africa Fit for Children was held on November 19th and 20th with the theme 'Accountability for investment in Children'. The planning meeting for this forum between the AU, NGO's, inter-governmental agencies and UN agencies started around March this year. Throughout the meetings the issue of having children to participate in the Forum was mentioned as a necessary part of the forum, which gave partners of the AU like Save the Children an opportunity to engage children from the five regions of Africa as having children only from Ethiopia will not cover problems and issues faced by different children in different parts of Africa.

Accordingly we consulted with partners like Plan International and UNICEF in bringing a child from each regions of Africa to participate in the form and most importantly for the intergenerational dialogue plenary on the first day of the forum. Given the short time for the selection process it



Martha Guraro with the girls who participated in the forum from four countries – Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Mali

was very challenging to bring the children on board. Furthermore, meeting the guidelines of child participation/protection was the bigger challenge, especially for a person like me who has never worked on child participation. Fortunately we succeeded in bringing children from four regions of Africa, Zambia (representing Southern Africa), Somalia (representing Eastern Africa), DRC (representing Central Africa), Mali (representing Western Africa) and two children from Ethiopia (representing the host country of the Forum).

The children came up with a joint statement which was read at the Opening Session to all the participants of the forum. They also took part as panellists in a plenary session on inter-generational dialogue, which included experts from the Government of Namibia, UNICEF, Plan International, Humana Africa and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The children's views were reflected in an outcome document which is expected to be adopted during the Conference of AU Ministers for Social Development and endorsed by the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in January 2013. Throughout any challenges that I face in my work, one simple fact calms me down and makes me to believe that everything is possible – I am one of the Pretoria Mafia who successfully underwent the master's program at the Centre for Human Rights University of Pretoria. This is the award that is given to me through this master's program which is one of a kind in the world. The master's programme really tested my abilities and showed me that I can achieve the impossible. I would like to thank the Centre for giving me this great deal of opportunity.





From the heart of Africa

Celebrating unacceptable humanitarian situations

Azubike Onuora-Oguno (Nigeria, 2008)
Lecturer, Madonna University Okija

The recent flooding that ravaged some States in Nigeria left communities in dire need of humanitarian assistance. It has brought to the fore the paucity of Nigeria's preparedness to forestall and manage disasters. People now live in IDP camps with situations surely below acceptable conditions.

The irony, however, stems from the celebrations which greet a few visitors-NGOs, Faith Based Organization and Governments to the camps. It is a celebration of mediocrity by the displaced persons especially from a point that they are unaware that have any rights. A right to a healthy and safe environment, which the government has an obligations to ensure by providing very basic core standards of living for people who have lost their homes, crops, money and kinsmen in a disaster they were not warned of by the departments of government responsible.

A visit to the IDP camps reveal a situation where 50 persons or more cluster in a poorly ventilated classroom; over thrice the same population scramble for toilet facilities not sufficient for a score; children exposed to dangers while out of school and pregnant women at the mercy of non-qualified medical personnel's for medical attention.

It remains not an issue of lack of policy but implementation of same. With the Presidency allocating billions to assist the displaced persons, issues of accountability are called to question in the chain of distributions. Allegations of diversion of relief materials may yet go uninvestigated. This underscores the dangers that people face in the various camps especially the ones visited by the Anglican Diocese of Mbamili Health and Community Development Services (ADMHCDS) at Onitsha and environs. It is a call for support of the Igbokenyi, Anam communities and the entire Anambra West which lost all its land in the ravaging flood. The post flood challenges loom large with possible breakout of epidemics and further environmental hazards.

With poor awareness and lack of public interest litigation, the unacceptable response of the government to the flood issues will end up becoming part of political score cards that the ignorant IDP's will be swayed with to vote in future elections. Let us all lend our voice for a better Africa.

Ubuntu





Professional Prospects

Alumna involved in Youth Policy Reviews

Sima Mavundla (Swaziland, 2009)

Many countries have developed youth related policies. These policies are meant to govern and direct how young people may be empowered and guided to help improve society. The key question however is: are these policies being implemented? In order to respond to this question, Open Society Foundation (OSF) is supporting a youth policy review series, which is now in its second stage. Swaziland is one of the seven countries selected for the second round of the review series.

From the 9th to the 12th of November 2012 an orientation meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, where research teams from these countries; namely Colombia, Czech Republic, Guinea, Hungary, Mongolia, Swaziland, and Tunisia, as well as the international editorial board and staff of Demokratie & Dialog e.V., were brought together to discuss the overall framework for the research and review process, as well as clarify expectations and plans for national reviews. The review reports are expected to be finalised by December 2013.

Research teams on the ground have been allocated to conduct analyses based on a specially developed evaluation matrix. The team for Swaziland consist of Simangele Mavundla (Lead Researcher) and Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima (International Advisor) as well as two young researchers. The international advisor assists and supports the team while an International Editorial Board supervises and evaluates the process. Researchers are currently being recruited to support the work of the different national teams.

For example, Swaziland is looking for a young researcher with time on her hands, and preferably with both qualitative as well as quantitative skills. For further information on these posts please visit <http://www.youthpolicy.org/>. In Swaziland; the goal of this review is to gauge the progress and effectiveness of public policies that affect young people, and to identify areas and opportunities for future engagement on youth reform.



Back to the classroom

Interview: Dr Chacha Bhoke Murungu

Chacha Bhoke Murungu (Tanzania, 2002)

Senior Lecturer in Law and Head, Department of Law, University of Dodoma, Tanzania

Righting Wrongs (RW): Welcome to Pretoria and to the Centre for Human Rights, would you please introduce yourself to our readers?

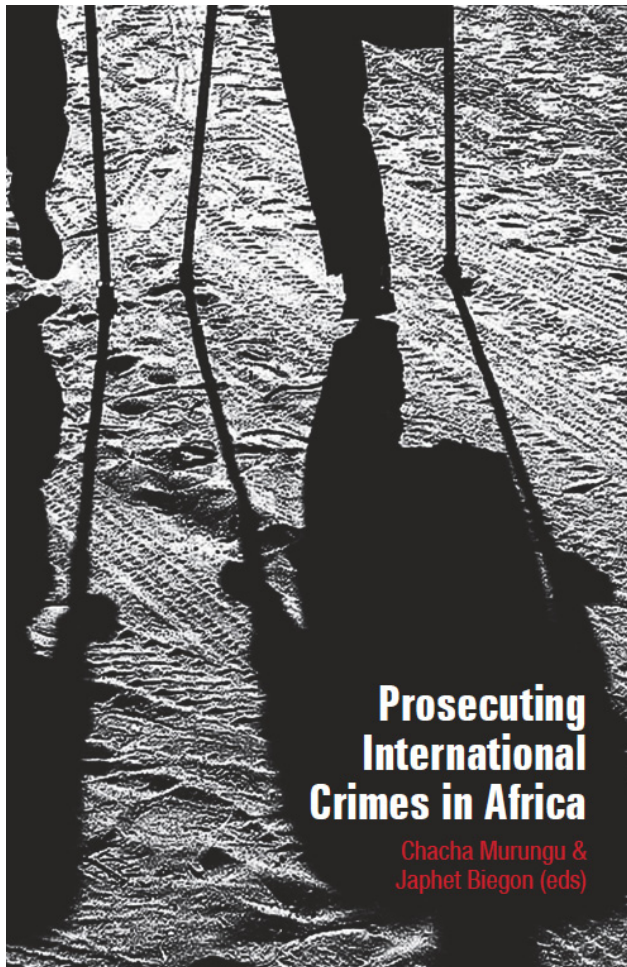
Dr CBM: Thank you! It is a great pleasure to be back here. I serve in the capacity of a Senior Lecturer in Law and Head of the Department of Law at the University of Dodoma in Tanzania. Also, I have been practising law in Tanzania since 2007 when I was admitted to the bar as an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania.

RW: Can you tell our readers briefly what you have been doing since you completed the LLM HRDA in 2005 at the Centre for Human Rights?

Dr CBM: Well, lots of things. After graduating in 2005 I served as a research intern at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria in 2006. From February to December 2007 I worked with the Centre for the Study of AIDS of the University of Pretoria where I undertook a review of the Tanzanian HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Bill. In light of this, I organised a major national workshop to discuss and validate the Bill. In December 2007 I was admitted to the bar and I fully commenced legal practice with a commercial law firm in Dar Es Salaam.

In March 2008 I was sub-contracted by a law firm to serve as a consultant for UNHCR at Mpanda refugee camps where I administered oaths to thousands of Burundian refugees who had applied for naturalisation to become Tanzanian citizens. In July 2008 I was appointed a Senior Legal Officer for the Tanzania Commission for Universities – an institution monitoring higher education in Tanzania where I served until the beginning of 2009 when I helped found a law firm trading in the name of Mega Attorneys. Here I served as a Managing Partner but in August 2009 I had to leave for doctoral studies at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria where I served as a researcher and tutor and at the same time a doctoral candidate until 9 December 2011 - the day I graduated with a Doctor Legum degree in International Criminal Justice.

During my doctoral studies I was able to publish many academic articles, book chapters and I co-edited a book titled 'Prosecuting International Crimes in Africa.' This book is a collection of essays from alumni of the Centre for Human Rights and it was published at the time I was writing my thesis titled 'Immunity of State Officials and Prosecution of International Crimes in Africa.'



RW: How have the LLM and your stay at the Centre contributed to your professional life?

Dr CBM: The LLM programme was a get way to the world of academic writing and constitutional rights litigation. I am confident to say that I acquired the best writing and research skills in law, and to prove that, I have been able to publish widely in the fields of international criminal justice, human rights, international humanitarian law and constitutional law. Some of my writings above are evident, but a remarkable article is titled 'Towards a Criminal Chamber in the African Court of Justice and Human Rights' – a very critical piece of writing on the African human rights and judicial systems in relation to the obligations of African states as arising from the ICC Statute. Exposure to human rights cases in the world has added value to my understanding of comparative research and litigation skills a result of which I have handled two major cases on constitutional and human rights law in Tanzania, one dealing with election petition and another on the unconstitutionality of the death penalty and its mandatory imposition in Tanzania.

RW: What role do you think human rights education can play in addressing the human development issues in Africa?

Dr CBM: Undoubtedly, human rights education is vital to development issues in Africa, the right to development itself as contentious as it is, is inevitably attached to human right, so for me the two are entwined.

RW: According to our information you are currently visiting the Centre to lecturer this year's students of the LLM HRDA. How do you feel about coming back to teach on this programme almost ten years after you have completed it yourself?

Dr CBM: I feel honoured. It is a privilege, but I also feel that I have a moral obligation to serve Africa, the main focus of the LLM programme. By teaching LLM students from Africa, I feel happy to contribute to my brothers and sisters from this continent. We had a very wonderful experience, the class was such wonderful.

RW: What is your opinion about the development of the programme and how do you think it can be improved?

Dr CBM: Well, I think it has changed a lot since 2005. I see there are moot courts, debates and weekly presentations and discussions on topical issues in and around Africa, the Arab spring being one of them. More and more partner and sister universities need to join this programme so that we have a really wider reflection of Africa. Focus should also be on bringing North Africa on board, as there are few students from that part of Africa. A multidisciplinary approach and engagement is also important.

RW: Are you aware of the existence of the Alumni Association and what potential do you think that network has to become an advocacy force in the development of human rights and democracy in Africa?

Dr CBM: Yes, I know we established on in 2009, and it has worked, we have an active team of coordination. This network is good and it can serve as a platform for change in Africa and a means to address new issues of interest to Africa. It is a way of getting all of us into one common family and bond. It keeps our unity.

RW: What message would you like to send to other alumni of this programme?

Dr CBM: Well, Africa is for us. We should serve Africa from wherever we are regardless of whether we are out of our countries.



Current year

Centre for Human Rights Rewards Excellence and Ubuntu

**'Excellence at the beginning, excellence at the end.
Ubuntu in the spirit, Ubuntu in the soul.'**

So should the LLM HRDA programme be described.

It all begins with a tough competition from which only 30 stand from hundreds of applications from more than 40 African countries and the rest of the world.

Although candidates to this challenging programme have always passed the course, four of them will also be rewarded for having reached remarkable heights. While almost forced to cultivate international level human rights and freedoms' lawyers' talents, they are also asked to develop the inherent African being of compassion, togetherness and humanity: Ubuntu.

How do you compete in a very intensive Master's programme, against most talented young legal professional comrades but remain compassionate and serving?

Ask this year's winners of the Nelson Mandela, Victor Dankwa, Keba Mbaye and Ubuntu prizes:

- **Josua Loots** (South Africa) has been awarded the Nelson Mandela Prize for the best overall performance.
- **Romola Adeola** (Nigeria) and Satang Nabaneh (Gambia) have jointly been awarded the Victor Dankwa Prize for the best performance in the 'Human Rights in Africa' module.
- **Romola Adeola** (Nigeria) received the Keba Mbaye Prize for the best dissertation.
- The Ubuntu Prize went to **Samuel Bizen Abraha** (Eritrea) who was voted by his colleagues as the one who best embodies the Ubuntu values and spirit of humanity.

'LLM HRDA graduate wins Dean's Essay Prize'



MY LLM JOURNEY by Romola Adeola

Righting Wrongs publishes the winning essay in full:

It was on the 17th of October 2011 that I received a mail that began this journey. The mail was from the Centre for Human Rights and the most important part read 'Dear Miss Adeola ... I am pleased to inform you that your application to study for the Master of Law (LLM) in Human rights and Democratisation in Africa has been successful.' A low sound of surprise escaped my throat partly because, at the time, I had started giving up hope. An alternative for the long year ahead had become a wise decision and in fact, the only feasible choice besides wavering on the brink of wild expectations. But when the mail came, everything changed. It seemed as though my life for the following year had been placed on a pedestrian of fortune beyond luck. To my anxious mind, time suddenly crawled slowly as I was filled with hopes and expectations of what the following year would bring.

It was in this frame of mind that I arrived at the Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 9th of January 2012. In the weeks that followed, I nestled into my new home on 1230 South Street and in a matter of days met my other colleagues from different parts of Africa. It was exciting to know about the struggle for democracy in Swaziland, it was great to know that Mauritius was a welfare state that invested greatly in the

welfare of its citizens. With the diversity of information on the human rights situations in the countries represented on the course, the essence of this Masters programme and my place in the circle of change became real to me.

On a light note, the first few weeks were filled with warmth, charms and smiles. Everyone was exceptionally polite. If at this stage, I was asked to cast my ubuntu vote, I would have abstained because choosing one person above another was way too partial. But it didn't take long before the intensity of the Masters programme set in, and extreme politeness began to seem far and in between. Deadlines for assignments moved in quick succession and as much as one finished task meant relief, that relief was often savoured in the thought of another looming deadline. In the intensiveness of the course, we embarked on a field trip. Along with six other colleagues, I arrived in Swaziland in hopes to investigate the human rights implications of the Umhlanga reed dance. The reed dance is an annual event performed in honour of the Queen mother, also known as the Ndlovukazi. Young girls came from all over Swaziland to dance before the King and the Ndlovukazi.

The international press created the impression that at this event, the King of Swaziland often chose a young girl below the age of 18 and with the impression received from the desktop information I conducted prior to going to Swaziland, I felt that the King violated the rights of these unsuspecting young girls. Fully armed with facts and data, particularly the criticisms of the international media, I embarked on the exercise of exploring the interface between cultural relativism and human rights. I had thought that the majority of Swazis, and even human rights activists and NGOs working in Swaziland, would agree with me. I thought I would receive wide support for the fact that it was a violation of the rights of women, particularly, the rights of young girls to dance bare-chested for a King and be paraded as objects of gratification.

But Swazis felt differently. At a stage, I felt that I had overreached myself in picking a topic that seemed to have no human rights implication at all. But then, I understood a vital lesson, which I later got to understand was the real reason why we had been sent out to different countries to conduct this field trip exercise. I understood that if answers to questions were easily discernable from conducting desktop research, then it would not be necessary to conduct field trip researches. This exercise thought me to be open-minded and not approach issues – human rights or otherwise – with a pre-set mind. In relation to my research, I began to understand that even after an idea is conceived, I must let it evolve, through extensive research, balancing different views.

With this lesson learnt, I began to think more practically about creating solutions to human rights problems that would fit the peculiarity of the context in which these solutions are proposed. It was significant to keep this in mind particularly in light of the global political reticence

to the actual implementation of human rights, which I got to understand in the course of the first six months of the coursework. But besides this lesson, I also gained insights into the different systems of human rights protection. I understood the complexities of litigating socio-economic rights. I understood that even when there are constitutional firewalls to the justiciability of rights, such as the right to adequate housing, there are strategies for exploring civil and political rights and even galvanising the support of civil societies to bring such right into focus in order to get the executive arms of states to ensure the implementation of these rights.

Outside the rigours of academic work, there were rewarding times of socialising within the multicultural environment of the University of Pretoria. From these interactions, I got to understand that if I only stay within the comfort space of the familiar and as such, only think of the problems in my country and only interact with those from my country, I would be confined to thinking within the box of the conventional wisdom afforded by an understanding of my society. Hence, it was necessary to think outside the box and in doing so, it was important to take on issues of a broader African concern.

For my dissertation, I decided to write on development-induced displacements, exploring the normative content of state obligation to prevent this form of internal displacement. For my second semester, I was given the opportunity to travel to Finland. Before arriving in Finland, it was beyond me to think that there was any country that granted free education to the point of a doctorate degree.

For my internship, I had the privilege to work with an organisation involved in development cooperation in the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities. Though I had learnt about the rights of these persons during the coursework in Pretoria, the practical socio-economic deprivations of these persons in some countries in the global south never really occurred to me. I got to understand the implication of the emerging norm of the human rights-based approach to development and realised that if I intended to create a change, I could start by advocating for the mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach to development policies in African states.

Throughout the year, I have grown to understand that creating changes in Africa, significantly in relation to human rights and democracy must go beyond creating lofty ideas, to advancing viable strategies and taking proactive measures to ensure that these strategies are realised.

With this knowledge, I intend to create sustainable solutions to African human problems relating to human rights and democratisation.



Current year

'Fun in the apparent unpopular destination': Second semester in Cameroon

Joyce Freda Apio (Uganda, 2012)

The end of the first semester opened a new challenge for the students on the LLM programme. It was time to head to destinations unknown to many of us, if one had never been there before. This was real for me and my comrade Walter Ochieng Khobe, I had never been to Cameroon neither had I thought nor wished to travel to Cameroon to say the least. Yet, my previous engagement on human rights work accorded me opportunities to travel in the United States, Europe, Latin America but only a few countries in Africa. During the process of making choices for second semester placement, Cameroon was unheard of as a choice of any student in the 2012 programme, since Ashwanee Budoo who previously thought of researching on 'breast ironing in Cameroon' changed her mind and headed to Mozambique for something else.

Many times, I told people back home in Uganda that I would be going to Cameroon, the response was 'what the hell are you going to do there?' This traumatized me more, I expected the worst in Cameroon. Indeed, on arrival, the first month was quite miserable. Life was tough, communication was an issue, all the French words learnt from Madam Nichole's class seem to have evaporated during the flight between Johannesburg through Nairobi to Yaounde. Students at the Catholic University were on holidays, the campus looked abandoned. We had long days and cold nights.

The turning point

The day we met our neighbours was a turning point in our life. These were the Jesuit Community at the Catholic University – 'the men of God' as Dr Mbalwa, the Academic Director of the Human Rights Centre – UCAC calls them. First we were invited for lunch; if you have ever visited priests you would know what I am talking about. This was astonishing having spent days feeding on beignet (local bread made of wheat and cassava flour). Our neighbours became very useful since then and we got to meet many more people who made our lives easy day by day. We got access to the Jesuit wireless internet, so we could save our meager internet allowances to do shopping in December for graduation.

The alumni treat

Through Horace, the alumni coordinator at the Centre for Human Rights, we got linked to the coordinator for Central Africa region – Polycap Ngofur (Commissioner of Police, Head Human Rights Desk, Cameroon). Central Africa could not have had a better coordinator. This guy is amazing, full of 'swag' rooted in the Pretoria mafias. He took us places to have fun and especially enjoy poulet brazzer (herbal spiced roasted chicken done the Cameroonian way). The climax of these treats was yet to come. The special treat was the time we spent at his recently completed storied mansion, with a tasteful charming interior design. We were simply speechless; we were hosted to assorted wines and spirits and later the meal, a mixture of typical Cameroonian dishes and nyama choma (roasted meat done the Cameroonian way). Thank you so much Polycap and the family, you truly made us feel great and special and we are proud of you.

the issues they feel are being ignored and which are important to them and to their communities in the Johannesburg townships of Hillbrow and Diepsloot.

An encounter with the only Ugandan I met in Cameroon Day-in-day-out, I yearned to find someone from my home country but that took quite a while. I had sincerely lost hope to meet a fellow Ugandan here. But I finally met one just at the right time, two days after submitting my dissertation and guess what he came over on a Friday. This was not just any ordinary Ugandan but a long serving corporate executive now heading Guinness Cameroon as the Director General,

Residence of Polycap Ngofur (centre), alumnus, class of 2007. Polycap calls his house the alumni empire, 'any alumni travelling to Yaounde has got a room in this house, no need to spend money or time in hotels!'





With Baker Magunda, Director General, Guinness, Cameroon.

Baker Magunda. I recollect passing in Yaounde city and friends often showed me (pointing from a distance) some of the hot places in the city including the most famous and glamorous hotels. Now it was the opportune moment to walk in, sit and feel it. Hilton hotel was awesome, the jazz music and the beautiful view of the city gave me renewed life. I felt fresh, reloaded and original (in the words of Thabiso Mavuso), before heading to a classic corporate club to end the day. Thanks to you Baker, this was specially imported hospitality all the way from the pearl of Africa - Uganda.

Academic life

Second semester academic life is less fatigue as Professor Hansungule always referred to it as 'a holiday for the students in different countries'. Indeed, most of us who completed module 7 in Pretoria had only the dissertation, French classes and internship to deal with. With a huge swimming pool in front of our apartment at the Catholic University, some leisure could be greatly explored. I only feared drowning in this extremely deep pool.

The dissertation experience was great. Having, a supervisor who takes time to thoroughly scrutinize your work is so rewarding. This made a significant difference not only in our work but also in my life as a researcher and perhaps an expert on the subject. It was not absolute work all time. Our supervisor adopted 'feed the mind and feed the body approach' and so we would get feedbacks on our work from one of his favourite joints; a restaurant where we were treated to fantastic dinners preceded by a discussion on the thesis. Thanks Prof Atangcho. Our stay in Cameroon was rewarding, we have learnt a lot, we have made friends and our thoughts have been shaped, no 'mega' (in the words of Komakech Kilama, meaning big) complaint.



The Banjul 'Mafia'

What's on the menu?

Hors d'oeuvre: Introducing the "Banjul Mafia"

The Banjul Alumni Country Group, fondly known as the 'Banjul Mafia,' currently has nine (9) Members all based in Banjul, The Gambia. Their profiles are summarized hereunder.

Main course: Profiles

Abiola Idowu-Ojo née Ayinla (Nigeria, 2003) is a Senior Legal Officer for Protection at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ("the Commission") and is also responsible for assisting the Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of PLHIV and those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV in Africa. She also serves as a focal person for the collaboration between the Commission and the African Court. Abiola has had nine years of dynamic and varied legal experience working in diverse capacities as a legal expert in the areas of human rights, natural resources exploration and management; foreign direct investments laws and practice; corporate governance and general business compliance. In her strides as a human rights lawyer, she has interned and worked in different capacities, including with the International Bar Association, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the African Commission. Abiola is a graduate of the University of Lagos, a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, a member of the Nigerian Bar Association and of the Negotiations and Conflict Management Group, Nigeria.

Irene Desiree Mbengue Eleke (Cameroon, 2006) is a Legal Officer at the Commission, assisting the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa. She previously assisted the Working Group on Older Persons and People with Disabilities in Africa, and was the Coordinator of the Human Rights Education Project, with theme "Using Theatre as a Vehicle for Human Rights Education in Africa". Additionally, she is the focal person on the

rights of children at the level of the Secretariat of the Commission. Prior to joining the Commission as a Legal Officer, Irene received sponsorship from the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, to intern with the Secretariat in 2007. In this sense, she is the oldest serving member of the “Banjul Mafia” at the Commission, which earned her the appointment as the Coordinator of the Banjul Alumni Country Group in January 2012. Irene’s professional career outside the Commission includes working in the area of HIV/AIDS, and refugees. She continues to progress in her passion for human rights especially in her areas of expertise: women’s rights, freedom of expression and access to information in Africa.

Samuel Tilahun (Ethiopia, 2008) is an Assistant to the Commission’s Working Group on Indigenous Populations and Communities. Additionally, Samuel’s main area of interest is the protective mandate of the Commission. He is involved in drafting of decisions of the Commission on Communications.

Bright Theu (Malawi, 2009) is a Legal Officer at the Institute for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (IHRDA) where he is involved in human rights litigation between regional and sub-regional bodies. He is also engaged in other forms of advocacy work which includes conducting of workshops and presentation of papers. His approach is simply “break it down, be practical and get stuff done”.

Tem Fuh Mbuh (Cameroon, 2010) is Assistant to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa at the Commission. He also acts as project Liaison of the Article 5 Initiative and as the Focal Person on policing and human rights in Africa within the Secretariat of the Commission.



His work mostly focuses on the treatment of people deprived of their liberty in addition to contributing to all aspects of the Commission's promotion and protection mandate.

Meskerem Geset Techane (Ethiopia, 2011) is the Deputy Executive Director of the IHRDA. She has worked for various human rights organisations such as the Children's Legal Protection Centre of the African Child Policy Forum, the Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association.

Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2011) is a visiting Lecturer at the Faculty of Law University of the Gambia (UTG) and a founding member of the Banjul Chapter of the Alumni Association. He arrived in Banjul on 16 January 2012 as part of the growing collaboration between the Centre for Human Rights and the UTG. He teaches public international law, international human rights law and private international law.

Charles Beautrel Nguena (Cameroon, 2011) gratefully received an opportunity to do an internship with the Commission's Secretariat. Charles works with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa. Moreover, he has been appointed to assist in the task of liaison between the Commission and the Special Procedures of the United Nations.

Akho Ntanjana (South Africa, 2011) has just joined the IHRDA as a legal intern. His interests include women and children's rights, international human rights, human rights and business, good governance and democracy. He believes in the 'doing it right or not do it all' approach. He is currently working on gender and violence, women's rights litigation, capacity building, and implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Dessert: Prospective activities

The 'Banjul Mafia' is planning to engage in a number of activities, some of which are aimed at strengthening the existing ties between the Centre for Human Rights and the University of the Gambia. They include: Forming part of the Editorial Board of the UTG Law Review; being involved in clinical legal education (also known as law clinics); organising public lectures in the UTG for public awareness and information sharing; contributing articles for publication in different issues of the Alumni Newsletter; and contributing articles in the African Human Rights Law Journal.

Yummy yummy menu isn't it?



Alumni News

Alumnus Publishes Book on Police Corruption in Cameroon

Polycarp Ngufor Forkum is currently heading the human rights unit of the National Advanced Police School of Cameroon in Yaounde. He is an alumnus of the LLM HRDA of the class of 2007.

It is with great joy and excitement that we announce the publication by Lambert Academic Publishing (Saarbrücken, Germany) of his first book titled *Police corruption in Cameroon and Uganda, a comparative analysis*. Commissioner Ngufor testifies that the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa is the programme that 'transformed me into a world citizen as far as expertise in human rights and policing is concerned'. According to him, the book is a fruit of the Centre as it was nursed in the centre, developed at Makerere under the supervision of Professor Joe Oloka-Onyango and submitted to the Centre in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Master of Laws Degree (LLM) in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. In addition, Polycarp is the author of a entitled 'HIV/AIDS in Cameroon: The policy response' in the book *HIV/AIDS and the security sector in Africa*, Aginam and Rupiya (eds) (2012), United Nations University Press.

Currently, he is completing a PhD thesis at the University of Yaounde on *The image of the police in African fiction: An analysis of selected crime novels from Cameroon and South Africa*.



Polycarp Ngufor Forkum

Police Corruption in Cameroon and Uganda

A comparative analysis



Alumni News

Alumni Gauteng Sub-Chapter Meets in Pretoria

Alumni based in the Gauteng Province, South Africa, held a meeting on 3 November 2012 at the Centre for Human Rights. The formal meeting was held in the morning followed by a braai that took place at Professor Frans' house. Annual dues were collected at the meeting where alumni also discussed a national action plan for 2013. The meeting was made possible with the support of the Centre and the Tuks Alumni Department, University of Pretoria.



Left to right: Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007) – Fleur Norton (South Africa, 2009) – Clement Mavumgu (DRC, 2006) – Okyerebea Ampofo-Anti (Ghana/South Africa, 2005) – Maushami Chetty (South Africa, 2004) – Lloyd Kuveya (Zimbabwe, 2006) – Adiam Woldeyohannes Nsibirwa (Eritrea, 2001) – Nicola Whittaker (South Africa, 2010) – Adem Kassie (Ethiopia, 2009) – Ololade Shyllon (Nigeria, 2007) – Martin Nsibirwa (Uganda, 2000) – Akinola Akintayo (Nigeria, 2007) – Jacqui Pietersen (UP Tuks Alumni) – Lilian Chenwi (Cameroon, 2002) – Frans Viljoen (Director, CHR) – Kenekukwu Esom (Nigeria, 2006)



Alumni News

Ghana Chapter Meets in Accra

Alumni based in Ghana met on 17 October 2012 at Grand Mensvic Hotel in Accra on the occasion of the Alumni Coordinator attending an ECOWAS Court conference in that country. Attendance included alumni based in Accra and LLM students on second semester at the University of Accra as well as Sudan based alumna Leda Limann. Issues on the agenda included the operation of the Ghana chapter. Annual dues were collected.



Left to right: Left to right: Abba Masoperh (Ghana, 2000) – Leda Limann (Ghana, 2003) – Sandra Tabitha Saoyo (Kenya, 2012) – Horace Adjolohoun (Benin, 2007) – Marian Atta-Boahene (Ghana, 2010) – Moeti Onthatile Olerile (Botswana, 2012)



Alumni News

Alumni Cape Sub-Chapter Meets in Cape Town

On 9 November 2012, alumni based in Cape Town held a meeting at La Perla restaurant on Sea Point. The meeting was honored with the presence of the current Director of the Centre, Professor Frans Viljoen but also with the attendance of the Centre's former Director, Professor Christof Heyns. Issues discussed included setting up a coordinating committee for the sub-chapter and activities for 2013. Annual dues were collected during the meeting.



Alumni News

Alumnus delivered inaugural lecture at North-West University, South Africa

On 23 August this year, alumnus Oladejo Justus Olowu (Nigeria, 2001) delivered his inaugural lecture as Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy of North-West University's Faculty of Law at the Mafikeng Campus.



Alumni News

Alumnus elected as Chairperson of the African Children's Committee

During its 6th pre-session and 20th Session held between 12 - 16 November 2012 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child elected a new chairperson.

The new chairperson is alumnus Alumnus Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia, 2005) who has previously served as Second Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

He is a Research Fellow at the Community Law Centre of the University of Western Cape, South Africa, and a Lecturer at the Faculty of Law in the same institution. He is also an Assistant Professor at the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, where he is lecturing child rights, among other subjects. From 2003 to 2005, he was working as a Legal officer at The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) and continues to be a Research associate with the organisation.



Alumni News

Alumnus Obtains PhD at University of Alabama

Dejene Girma Janka (Ethiopia, 2007) obtained a PhD from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA on 1 November 2012. Dejane's PhD is in Interdisciplinary Studies with special emphasis on environmental law. His thesis research was on Environmental impact assessment in Ethiopia: Laws and practices. Dejane is currently Assistant Professor at the School of Law, College of Social Science and Law, Jimma University, Ethiopia.



Alumni News

Adem Kassie Abebe completes LLD at University of Pretoria

Alumnus Adem Kassie Abebe (Ethiopia, 2009) started his doctoral studies in February 2010 under the supervision of Professor Frans Viljoen and co-supervision of Dr Magnus Killander. The title of his doctoral thesis is 'the potential role of constitutional review in the realisation of human rights in Ethiopia'. The purpose of the thesis was to investigate the normative and institutional aspects of constitutional review in Ethiopia and understand its impact on the failure of constitutional review to ensure the realisation of human rights. The thesis concludes that constitutional review has failed to protect human rights because of the lack of an independent constitutional adjudicator (constitutional design deficit) and the reluctance of litigation support structures to actively resort to constitutional adjudication to challenge controversial government decisions.

The oral defence was conducted on 19 October 2012. The final draft of the thesis was submitted on 26 October 2012 and Adem will graduate on 10 December.

His plan in the immediate future is to continue researching on comparative constitutional law issues with African regional focus. I will return to the Centre for Human Rights for 2013 as a post-doctoral fellow. He intends to start a book project that will expand the geographical focus of his doctoral thesis to Africa. In the same period, he will work on identifying competent and willing contributors and a reputable publisher. The concept note and the call for contributors will be sent out during the first half of 2013 and it is expected that some of the contributors will be LLM HRDA alumni.



Alumni News

Alumnus attends former Director's lecture at Yale Law School

On 22 October 2012, Professor Christof Heyns (LLM 1987 Yale), former Director of the Centre for Human Rights and current co-Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa presented a lecture at Yale Law School on "Protecting Life through the UN: From Drones to the Death Penalty".

Alumnus Benson Chinedu Olugbuo (Nigeria, 2003) who is currently a Fox International Fellow at Yale University attended the lecture on which information is available at <http://ylsinfo.law.yale.edu/MasterCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?data=hHr80o3M7J6n4eMZICpvu7GRP5a36KWgV2G9yb1N%2Fi6Fb9CLOku7RyE2rwdM3fk8>



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Centre for Human Rights

Righting Wrongs

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