

Righting Wrongs

The LLM in Human Rights &
Democratisation in Africa
Alumni Association Newsletter
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DEFENDING
with **Excellence**,
ADVOCATING
with **Ubuntu**

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Editorial

The common song of our voices

Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)
Alumni Coordinator

For 12 years, the Masters programme has strictly been an LLM and as such only law graduates were eligible to apply. However, this year, there is a new development. The Masters programme is now LLM/MPhil Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. Why “MPhil,” you might ask? The answer to this question must necessarily begin with an understanding of what the realisation of human rights entails. While on the programme, I personally observed that when we talk of human rights and democratisation, we talk of disciplines beyond our legal comfort space. We talk of politics when we begin to access the benchmarks for democracy. We speak in scientific languages when we demand states to provide essential medicines. We segue into the figures of economics when we assess the argument of budgetary implications for the realisation of socio-economic rights. We rely on journalism to provide details on information we cannot personally gather.

While the list our engagement on the subject provides is almost inexhaustible, it clearly reveals to us the necessity on having sundry perspectives in assessing states’ compliance with the human rights commitments made in notable places like Nairobi, Maputo and Kampala. And I can truly say that this justification is enough motivation to extend the frontiers of our common vision and union to those outside the legal profession and set our ears to an audience of refreshing perspectives.

In commemoration, this edition of our newsletter includes an interesting piece from Solomon Cobbinah a journalist from Ghana in the current year – the 2013 class. In sharing his experiences, Cobbinah brings to light an issue that demands our attention. Personally, I must say that his article reinforces the ambition to sing the human rights song in experiences and not just in the rhythms of laws and policies.

Gabriel Shumba (2002) shares a personal experience with us on a case brought before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and includes certain lessons learnt which is important for us not only to avert our minds to but also to seek solutions for.

Solomon Ayelo Dersso (2003) shares his experience on his work at the Institute for Security Studies through a reflection on the 50th anniversary of the OAU/AU.

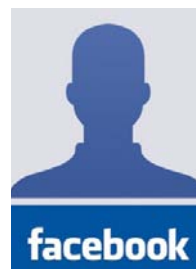
Anthony Diala (2007) shares an interesting piece that causes us to ponder on the relationship between ‘customary law’ and actual practice.

On a lighter note, Rhoda Igweta (2008) shares with us a ‘major celebration in Nairobi of the nuptials of a Rasparian country man’ – Japheth Biegon (2008).

Simangele Mavundla (2009) shares a piece on the international women’s rights day and its celebration in Swaziland. She reminds us that ending gender-based violence requires concrete actions.

In our section on ‘What Motivated You,’ Maria Assim (2009) shares an interesting piece on her experiences as a doctoral researcher in South Africa following the completion of the masters; Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (2011) shares his professional experience as a lecturer in The Gambia.

While all of these pieces shed light on issues which we must give our ears to, they further remind us that it is through our different perspectives that we can ultimately achieve the ‘common song of our voices!’



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The Centre's Word

Martin Nsibirwa

Programme Manager, LLM/MPHIL Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa

Dear Fellow Alumni,

This marks the first time that I contribute to the Alumni Newsletter even though to some extent I have been involved in matters related to the establishment and continued running of key issues related to the alumni of the Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. Our association is gaining strength and I think I can confidently say that as the alumni we are becoming even more united thanks to the activities of the association.

I would however like to take this opportunity to say a special thanks to Horace Adjolohoun who played a pivotal role in helping to lift the Association to new heights. Horace did a remarkable job while he was the coordinator of the Alumni Association. I think he worked through some of the most challenging period such as adoption of our Constitution, setting up the website section, introduction of a newsletter and trying to ensure that all of our contact details were updated. Horace also worked to ensure greater contact among alumni and for instance I recall the successful meeting that he organised for those of us in Pretoria. He also kept a tab on similar get-togethers elsewhere be it in Gambia or in other places. Horace was reliable and I can vouch that he was effective and was fully committed to the success of this Association. Horace has therefore worked to ensure that the Alumni Association is a "living organism" something of which we should all be proud. Personally I therefore extend my appreciation to him for all that he did.

Romola has now taken the baton and I know she is committed to ensuring that the Association reaches new heights during the time when she will coordinate its activities. Romola is known around here as being a prolific writer, serious academic, focussed individual and someone who is truly committed to her tasks. I therefore encourage you as my fellow alumni that we should please support her in what she does. This Association has the potential to do great things and that is why the Centre for Human Rights is so interested in its success and as a result supports it so much.

All the best.



Campaign

Each One, Bring One Campaign

Each year our Alma Mata (the Centre for Human Rights) gets different applications from people who wish to study for the masters in human rights and democratisation in Africa. As you may imagine, the process of selection can sometimes not be easy as actually knowing who wants to make a change and who just needs the degree cannot be easily determined through looking at the content of the application. But then imagine if each one of us 'brings one.' 'One' that has the passion and drive to see Africa arise; one that has the drive for advocacy and can articulate reason to the minds of others on the need to protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and children; one that has the audacity of hope for a greater Africa.

If each one of us brings this 'one,' then we will be sure that collectively we have 'ones' that not only want the certificate but also seek to create the Africa we need.

The step to bringing one is to lend support by giving that one a recommendation letter in application for the masters' programme.





Highlight

Gabriel Shumba v Zimbabwe 288/2004: A Case of Justice Delayed

Gabriel Shumba (Zimbabwe, 2002)
Executive Director, Zimbabwe Exiles Forum

Introduction

8 years after I lodged a Communication with the then highest judicial body on the continent, I obtained a ruling. I drew my case to the attention of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR or the Commission) in 2004 alleging several violations by the government of Zimbabwe. They included among other things, violations of Article 5 of the African Charter (torture) as well as Articles 4, 6, 7(c) and (d), 10(1), and 14. When it granted its decision, the ACHPR only made a finding that I had presented "more than enough evidence of torture", and did not find the Zimbabwe government guilty of arbitrary arrest, threat to my right to life and other things. In this article I wish to focus mainly on the challenges attendant to bringing a case before the Commission, and to suggest recommendations on what can be done to improve its operations.

Background to Gabriel Shumba v Zimbabwe

In 2002, I graduated with an LLM from the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. In spite of the fact that I knew that my life might be in danger following threats, in December I went back to Zimbabwe to resume my work as a Legal Officer of the Zimbabwe Human Rights (NGO) Forum. In February 2003, I was called upon to represent a Movement for Democratic Change Member of Parliament (MP). He was then in hiding from the secret police and army, alleging fear for his life. During my consultation with the MP, I was abducted by members of the police, the CIO and the army. I use the term abducted because procedures for booking me into cells were not followed, and I was never informed of the reasons for the arrest, apart from the fact that I was also denied legal representation.

Subsequent to my abduction and incarceration at Mbare police station, I was blindfolded and taken to torture chambers whose whereabouts I still do not know.



However, in the Communication lodged with the Commission, I was able to mention some of the individuals involved, some of whom are now senior security personnel in Zimbabwe. Among them was Garnet Sikhova, who has to date never been prosecuted.

Subsequent to my abduction and incarceration at Mbare police station, I was blindfolded and taken to torture chambers whose whereabouts I still do not know. However, in the Communication lodged with the Commission, I was able to mention some of the individuals involved, some of whom are now senior security personnel in Zimbabwe. Among them was Garnet Sikhova, who has to date never been prosecuted.

While in detention, Zimbabwean authorities interrogated and tortured me. I was stripped naked and assaulted, as well as electrocuted intermittently for about eight hours. I vomited blood, and often lost control of my bladder. I was forced to drink my vomit and urine. I was also urinated upon and debased with my tormentors chanting "this is humiliation, this is humiliation". I lost consciousness several times and was drenched in chemicals. Furthermore, I was forced to write several documents under dictation, implicating myself and senior members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in subversive activities.



When the case was brought to court to answer to treasonous activities based on the dictated document, the case was dismissed on the basis that I had been tortured. I was threatened with death because I had promised not to disclose the torture in court, which I did. It is indeed a mockery of the justice system in Zimbabwe that some of the torturers were able to come to sit in court and threaten me after.

After the threats, I fled to South Africa where the Centre for Human Rights and in particular, my good friend David Padilla assisted me in lodging the Complaint with the ACHPR. Due to the fact that I skipped the country urgently, I failed to collect my belongings before departing for South Africa. Upon arrival in South Africa, I secured a three-year student visa in order to remain in South Africa to pursue an LLD. My continuing fear is attributable, in part, to the political climate in Zimbabwe. There appears to be widespread violations of human rights carried out by uniformed army and police personnel, with no investigations or clear action taken by the government to stop such abuses. The government of Zimbabwe has also passed statutes that limit political opposition, among them the Public Order and Security Act and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Procedure before the Commission

On 24 May 2004, the Commission received my Communication and on 16 June of the same year, it acknowledged receipt. The Commission was seized of the case during its 36th Ordinary Session held in Dakar, Senegal from the 22nd of November to 7 December 2004. On 13 December 2004, both parties were informed of the need to submit arguments on admissibility within 90 days. On 8 March 2005, the Government of Zimbabwe wrote to the Commission seeking an indulgence for failure to submit its arguments and seeking a postponement to the 38th Ordinary Session. On 15 March 2005, the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa submitted amicus arguments on admissibility on behalf of the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program Clinical Advocacy Project. My friend David Padilla's daughter, the late Elizabeth Padilla and then law student at Harvard, drafted the arguments with the help of her colleagues.

Two days after the amicus documents were filed, I also filed my arguments on admissibility, which I drafted with the help of the Centre for Human Rights, especially my good friends Bill Alexander and Tshepo Madlingozi. On 18 March 2005, the ACHPR wrote a letter to Zimbabwe, extending their deadline for submission to the 18th of April 2005. At its 37th Ordinary Session held in the Gambia, the Commission postponed argument on admissibility to give the Zimbabwean government more time to submit its arguments. By *Note Verbale* of 24 May 2005, Zimbabwe was notified of this decision and given 3 months within which to file arguments. There were 2 other reminders to the Respondent State, but only on 1 November 2005 did the State communicate by *Note Verbale*, alleging that the arguments were ready, but due to logistical problems, filing was slightly delayed.

At its 38th Ordinary Session held in Gambia from the 21st of November to the 5th of December 2005, the ACHPR heard oral arguments from the parties in respect of admissibility. I was represented by my friend and lawyer, David Padilla. At the hearing of the arguments, we contented that apart from the fact that I had fled my country in fear, torture was not specifically outlawed in Zimbabwe's criminal laws, meaning that it was punishable as an assault. This, we argued, undermined the gravity of the offence which is internationally proscribed, thus necessitating that those aggrieved approach the Commission without necessarily exhausting local remedies. We further argued that the remedies available in Zimbabwe are in any event inadequate due to a politically compromised judiciary and that the State is in the habit of disobeying court orders. In this regard I cited the torture of Ray Choto and Mark Chavhunduka. Although the courts ordered an investigation into their torture by the army for reporting President Mugabe's secret wedding to Grace Marufu, to date no such investigation has been carried out.

On its part, the State argued that I could still pursue internal remedies from exile through the NGO that I worked for. The State denied disobeying court orders and said the judiciary was independent. They also maintained that my fear was exaggerated and I could come back and argue my case in Zimbabwe, although they could not give guarantees of safety. In pre-empting my submissions on merit, the State submitted that I had been legally detained on suspicion of treasonous activities, and that although they could not definitely deny that I had not been tortured while in custody, they wanted the case dismissed because 16 months had expired before I brought the case. A decision on the submissions was deferred to the 39th Ordinary Session. At its 39th Ordinary Session, the Commission deferred making a decision to the 40th Session. Again at its 40th Session in Banjul, the Commission failed to make a decision, and postponed it to the 41st Session 'to give it more time to study the legal arguments closely.' Finally, at the 41st Session held in Ghana from the 16th to the 30th of May 2007, the Commission declared the Communication admissible. The Commission to its credit arrived at the unavoidable finding that local remedies in Zimbabwe 'are inadequate, ineffective and unavailable.' I submitted my arguments on merits on 7 November 2007, and it took very long for the government to submit its own. Again the Commission indulged it at my own detriment, especially as the Minister of Justice, Patrick Chinamasa and the Zimbabwean embassy in Canada were able to continue to peddle falsehoods that I was a fugitive from justice who was never tortured.

Merits of the Case

In my merits submissions, I argued that Respondent commits torture with impunity and that the evidence in the instant case indicates torture. I submitted a document in which the Magistrate who first heard our case in Zimbabwe had noted injuries on my body. I also submitted reports by two medical practitioners, one from Parirenyatwa hospital. In addition, I obtained evidence of trauma that I had been subjected to and provided this in the form of reports from psychologists and other practitioners from the Centre for the Study of Violence and from Denmark where with the help of Redress Trust I had undergone counselling for nightmares that still bedevil me, temporary impotence, alcohol abuse, insomnia, depression and other post-traumatic stress disorder. This went a long way in building a case against Respondent, whose argument was very weak regarding the merits because it should have simply conceded violation of Article 5 of the African Charter and saved everybody the hassles and resources used to prosecute this case in several countries over a long period of time. In its argument, the State averred that it was my arrest that traumatized me, and not any form of ill-treatment! In consequence of my submissions and evidence thereon, the Government of Zimbabwe was found to

be in violation of Article 5, but strangely, not to have committed arbitrary arrest as it was deemed to have had a reasonable suspicion that I was committing a treasonous crime. The government was also found not to have violated my right to freedom of association with the MDC. I will not go further into the findings on merits as the decision is now a public document. I will however observe that the Commission found Zimbabwe to have committed torture, and recommended that the Respondent pays adequate compensation, conduct an inquiry and within 90 days of notification of decision, report to the Commission on steps taken.

Lessons to be Learnt

In seeking justice, it surely pays to be persistent. In bringing this case, I have so often been frustrated, and have relived the trauma to the extent that I almost withdrew the case.

The second lesson to be learnt is that justice on the African continent is very expensive. Without the enormous weight of the Centre for Human Rights, Harvard Law Clinic, Redress Trust, Rights and Democracy of Canada, MEDICO International, OSISA and David Padilla's experience, this case might not have been adequately argued. Friends such as Blessing Chimhini, Blessing Gorejena, Jacob Mafume, Irene Petras, Jurgen Scurr, Kevin Louw and Dzimbabwe Chimbwira were also of enormous inspiration regarding the conduct of this case. Resources and support systems should be made available to victims. In some instances, I was unable to travel to countries where the Commission sat to advance my case. I was also plagued by nightmares because of inadequate treatment and counselling. Thus, it is important that material resources and psycho-social support be given to victims of torture so that they can energetically pursue the fight against impunity.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights is urged to adopt a victim- friendly approach, rather than one that favours the delaying tactics of governments.

Enforcement of this decision is critical in getting justice finally delivered. Thus, I still remain hopeful that the friends who have stood with me before, will continue to do so to ensure that this decision is enforced. Lessons from the SADC Tribunal are not very encouraging.



Reflections

Reflections on the 50th anniversary of the OAU through the prism of the launch of the 'Annual Review of the PSC 2012/2013'

Solomon Ayele Dersso (Ethiopia, 2003)
Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies
[@SolomonADersso](#)

I was part of the 2003 LLM class of the Centre for Human Rights. I work for the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), one of the top think tanks on the Continent, as a senior researcher on AU's peace and security regime with a focus on the role of Peace and Security Council. In this piece, I wish to share my experience on this work through a reflection on the 50th anniversary of the OAU on the basis of a publication that the ISS launched on 27 January 2013 at the AU HQ in Addis Ababa.

2013 marks the 50 years anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor to the African Union (AU). Accordingly 2013 is declared as a year of 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance'. In this context, it is not inappropriate to characterize the OAU/AU as the official/state-centric manifestation of Pan-Africanism, which is an ideal much



deeper and broader than OAU/AU. An important aspect of Pan-Africanism is the right to self-determination. Africa's is a history of a struggle for self-determination. None other than the quest for achieving control over our politics, culture, geography and economics can best capture the essence of the political history of our continent. In the sphere of peace and security, this is best expressed in terms of what Ali Mazrui, the renowned Kenyan political scientist, called *Pax Africana*, a peace 'that is protected and maintained by Africa herself' (Mazrui 1967:203).

Many dismiss the OAU/AU as a club of undemocratic leaders with a bias to regime protection. There are also many who dismiss the OAU/AU as nothing more than a talking forum. For example, what the AU does hardly impacts directly on the day to day life of the vast majority of the people of the continent. Thus, these sentiments are not entirely misplaced. But they also harbor a great deal of ignorance and manifest and feed into outdated stereotypes about things African. For anyone willing to look deeper, there is truth that is different from what such stereotypes represent. One would discover the encouraging strive that AU has made towards realizing *Pax Africana*, although this is not something that is widely publicized and known.

A very important avenue through which member states of the AU have sought to give institutional expression to this Pan-African ideal is the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU. Like the UN Security

Council (UNSC), the PSC is composed of 15 member states, of which 10 are elected for a two-year term and the remaining five for a three-year term. It does not have permanent members nor does it have veto holding powers. On this, the PSC follows the principle of sovereign equality of states to its letter and hence is much more democratic than the UNSC.

While its establishment itself was acclaimed as a historic watershed in Africa's progress towards resolving its conflicts, much more important is what the PSC has made of its mandate of protecting and maintaining Africa's peace, and hence its contribution towards the achievement of the Pan-African ideal of *Pax Africana*. In order to find these out, ISS published a monograph entitled Annual Review of the Peace and Security Council 2012/2013. The monograph, which I had the privilege of conceiving and writing, was launched on 27 January 2013 at the new AU Commission Complex on the margins of the 20th Summit of the AU Assembly.

The monograph has two major parts. One of these parts reviewed the peace and security dynamics and trends of the continent. In this regard, one of the findings of the monograph is that traditional conflicts involving armed rebel groups operating with formally structured armies are generally on decline and generally evolving, while they are not completely eradicated as the situations in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali illustrate. On the other hand, the continent is also witnessing a rise in new forms of violence: emerging and transnational security threats and governance based crisis taking the form of popular protests, electoral violence and unconstitutional changes. Although these situations continue to attract the majority of new headlines, the reality is that increasing number of countries continue to enjoy stability during the past

decade even in parts of the continent that are generally regarded as being conflict prone.

Although wars are not as widespread as they were in the 1990s and increasing number of countries enjoy stability, different parts of the continent continue to face major challenges and there are a number of countries that are characterised by instability. The Annual Review in this regard found that in 2012 while East Africa and North Africa showed relative improvement in their peace and security trends, West Africa and Central Africa witnessed serious deterioration with Southern Africa showing no remarkable change either ways. While the deterioration in the security situation of parts of the continent reflect the challenges that currently face Africa, the improvements manifest the contribution that the AU is making through its PSC towards the settlement of conflicts. A case in point is the progress made in Somalia during 2012.

Accordingly, another major finding of the Annual Review is that the PSC has increasingly been able to lead the effort in the settlement of conflicts and crisis on the continent. As a result, as the cases discussed in detail in the review show, the work of the PSC has come to influence the domestic politics of significant number of AU member states and the relations between AU member states and to increasingly shape the nature of international involvement on the continent. The international community including the UN now look towards the PSC for leadership whenever they consider most, if not all, situations on the continent. A



good testimony to this, elaborated in detail in the annual review, is resolution 2046 of the UNSC, which constitutes a full verbatim endorsement of the PSC's 24 April 2012 communique on Sudan and South Sudan.

The upshot of the above is that the PSC is becoming the body that carries visible hope for the realization of the Pan-African ideal of *Pax Africana*. On the year of 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance,' this is one reason for celebration, which demonstrates the continuing import of Pan-Africanism. If one considers the fact that the PSC will be a decade old in March 2014, its impact is indeed something that makes one genuinely hopeful about the possibilities of achieving *Pax Africana* as an important facet of Pan-Africanism.

As important and encouraging as this finding of the Annual Review is, much of the space of the Annual Review is also dedicated to the notable gaps and challenges facing the young continental body. The most notable and widely recognized limitation in the work of the PSC is its heavy dependence on external support for pursuing the implementation of its peace and security agenda. Close to 90 percent of the funding for AU peace and security activities come from donor funding. In this regard, the Annual Review warned that 'without addressing this gap, the PSC will face serious challenges in achieving adequate control over the peace and security agenda of the continent and credibly deliver on its mandate of peace and security in Africa.'

The Review also pointed out that there is huge gap between the nature and scope of the mandate entrusted to the PSC and what the PSC can realistically carry out. This is partly an issue of capacity. Significantly, however, it is a function of the will of member states and the weaknesses that characterize them. It is not always the case that the national interests of different members of the PSC are coherent and reconcilable and this is reflected in the weak or total lack of consensus among member states which frustrates the deployment of the right response and doing so in a timely manner. As highlighted in the Review, this was manifested in the case of Mali for example.

One other issue noted in the review was the bias of the PSC to use conflict management and conflict resolution tools with little focus on conflict prevention tools. This is reflected in what I call the fire-fighting approach that dominates the work of the PSC. This means that the PSC either lacks the capacity/required tools or is not well equipped to deal with the underlying causes of conflicts or crisis. This is particularly the case with respect to what the Review called governance related issues. The consequence of this is that without being in a position to address the root causes of political crisis in Africa, the real risk of new conflicts breaking out (Mali) and old ones starting up again (DRC and CAR) is something that the PSC cannot avoid despite its existence.



Reflections

The implications of the distortion of African customary law on human rights

Diala Anthony C. (Nigeria, 2007)
Lecturer, Madonna University

While teaching my students last term, an issue came up concerning women's inheritance rights. As we debated it vigorously, I realised that there is a serious disconnection between the popular perception of customary law and its actual practice. As Van Niekerk captured it, 'it should be borne in mind that the official version of indigenous law which is reflected in government documents, text books, fossilised law reports and legislation is often a distorted version of the true indigenous law position.' This distortion, which is now attracting scholarly attention, is what we term the tension between official customary law and living customary law.

Official customary law refers to that version of customary law perceived or described by observers outside the community in which the customary law in question is practised. These observers may be scholars, public administrators, or courts. Its distinctive characteristic is its detachment from the actual customary law lived by the concerned community. Official customary law sources include statutes, court decisions, and descriptions of African customs in legal and anthropological literature. The problem with these sources is that they often promote customary rules that are out of date and unrepresentative of what people do in practice. On the other hand, living customary law denotes the practices and customs of the people in their day-to-day lives. It emerges from the lived ideas and behaviour of people, in contra-distinction with what legal experts consider to be their rights and duties. The differences between official and living customary law have been acknowledged by the Constitutional Court of South Africa, which even declared in the *Re Certification* judgement that the Constitution protects only the living version. A troubling question is why there is tension between these two versions of customary law.

The answer lies partly in Africa's colonial heritage and partly in the malignant influence of legal positivism on African customary law. Contrary to what some early colonialists tried to portray, Africa did not exist in legal vacuum before the advent of colonialism. Studies have shown that African people did not necessarily accept the formal legal systems colonialism foisted on them to regulate their social conduct. They preferred, and continue to prefer, their own indigenous systems of social ordering. An easy outlet for this preference is their resort to non-state justice systems, which encompass traditional and religious law, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Instead of statutory authority, these systems derive their legitimacy from cultural traditions, local structures and communal acceptance. Specifically, they include traditional chiefs, spiritual, family or village heads, vigilante groups, and also title or age-grade societies. They are the dominant form of social regulation and dispute resolution in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Regrettably, little is known about their normative framework and compliance with human rights standards. This has serious consequences regarding access to justice for vulnerable groups, and presents a challenge to (LLM HRDA) alumni working in Africa.

Alumni in the academia are, accordingly, called to push for increased reception of socio-legal theory in African law schools. As customary law is a living thing, an interdisciplinary research approach involving socio-legal anthropology will be useful in shedding light on how the tension between official and living customary law affects access to justice for native women, children born outside wedlock, persons with disabilities, and homeless persons. This is what I am presently engaged in at the University of Cape Town within the Chair in Customary Law.



Reflections

Celebrating International Women's Rights Day

Simangele Mavundla (Swaziland, 2009)

Gender Specialist, Gender Coordination and Family Issues Unit

The international women's rights day was celebrated across the globe in different parts of the world and it was also commemorated in the Kingdom of Swaziland on the 7th of March 2013. This important day celebrates the social, economic and political achievements of women around the world. It is not just a day for women only, but also for all the men who believe and advance women's rights, safety and equality.

The theme for the international women's day in 2013 is: **"A Promise is a Promise: Time for Action to End Violence against Women and Girls."** The theme comes at a time when women and girls' abuse is captured in the media almost on a daily basis. In one reported incident, a 20 year old man was sentenced to 11 years for raping a school going girl of 17 years whom he later married as his wife (Times of Swaziland, 12 March, 2013). It must be noted that the nations of the world have been grappling with the problem of violence against women and girls and a look at previous themes reveals this. For instance, the theme for 2009 was "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls;" the theme for 2007 was "Ending impunity for violence against women and girls" and the theme for 1999 was "World free of violence against Women."

In Swaziland the commemoration was held at a community named Nkwene and government officials and representatives of the international community as well as NGOs and community members graced the occasion. Moving keynotes addresses were delivered on the day. It



is common practice for government to make appropriate progressive statements about ending or eradicating violence against women and children however, it is walking the talk that needs to be seen. The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini in his speech highlighted Swaziland's commitment to ending gender-based violence by citing international instruments ratified by the country and national laws aimed at curbing the problem. It is true Swaziland has ratified a number of international, regional as well as sub-regional treaties. For instance, Swaziland is a party to the Beijing Platform for Action; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. It is also commendable that recently the country has ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Laws that aim at protecting women and girls from gender-based violence include the following: the Constitution of 2005 which captures the rights of women in section 28; the Crime's Act No.6 of 1889; the Girls and women's Protection Act No.39 of 1920; the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act No. 67 of 1938 and the two recent Acts: the People Trafficking and People Smuggling (prohibition) Act of 2009 and the Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2012. It must be noted that the new Child Protection and Welfare Act is not yet effective because the minister responsible omitted to gazette it (Swazi Observer, 6 March 2013). However, the crux of the matter is domestication and implementation of the instruments and laws. Are international and regional conventions translated into national laws in Swaziland? The answer to this question is a yes but with a caveat.

The Deputy Prime Minister's speech emphasised the need to intensify our efforts and to adopt an integrated approach to ending violence against women and girls. The

National Surveillance System on Violence report of 2011 revealed that 77% of females were victims of abuse and perpetrators were male and were known to the survivors. In light of these statements and escalating incidences of gender-based violence in the country, there is a clear need that positive statements emulating continued political support by government officials must be backed by excellent policies and translated into budgets or actions which will bring about the changes required to end gender-based violence. Laws must be reviewed in time and implemented. The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill of 2009 needs to be promulgated into law urgently so that it can fill the gap and cater for emerging forms of crime associated with domestic violence and sexual offences which are not captured in the 1889 and 1920 Acts. The out-going government owes it to the people of this country to leave office having enacted the Bill into an Act more so because it has been in the pipeline for over 10 years and it seeks to provide comprehensive legislation to address domestic violence and sexual offences.

Finally, men and women can and must take concrete action to change the conditions that fuel violence against women and girls by speaking out when they see or hear violence in their homes, on the streets, in taxis and in the workplace; and women need to stand together while challenging gender-based violence. "A happy Belated Women's Day to all and remember to keep the promise".





Current year

The intersection of journalism and human rights

Solomon Cobbinah (Ghana, 2013)

MPhil (Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa)

In the heart of Kwame Nkrumah Circle in Accra, the capital of Ghana were two visually impaired boys begging for money to survive. Barefooted they walked, in the sweltering weather chasing after passers-by. The boys gave their names as Christian, 8 years and Sammy, 5 years. With many passers by turning a blind eye to them, their cries increase and tears stream from their eyes.

The boys yawn in unison, a sign that they were tired and perhaps hungry. The younger one Sammy stumbles slowly to his mother for food but she pushes him away but she nothing to offer him. The hungry boy was visibly upset and he cries louder perhaps to attract the attention of generous hearts.

Drenched in tears Sammy walks slowly and clings to a metal railing and dozes off in the sun but he wakes up after 5 minutes and continues crying and so I stopped observing and bought him lunch.

Sammy is not selfish: he calls his older brother Christian who was hustling people for pocket change and they ate together with amazing rapidity. Within minutes they had finished consuming the food and walked to their mother who hugged them tightly and as I went close to them I heard her whisper "thank you". But she refused to answer questions.

I captured the time I spent with the homeless family on camera, poised to tell a simple story that may change the lives of the visually impaired street family. It was at this point that I realized how journalism was closely linked to human rights. The story exposed many human rights issues, the right to food, shelter, education, health, and protection and dignity.

On 24 June 2009, the story on the plight of the boys aired on television and as the story ended my newsroom phone rang relentlessly – many people wanted to help.

It was the first time I had covered a story that received so much attention and touched the hearts of so many.

But after 5 days all the philanthropists who had promised to relocate the boys from the street and find shelter for them had failed to fulfil their promises so I had no choice but to return to the street and re-tell the story over again.

When I captured the plight of the boys for the third time, the Department of Social Welfare took custody of the children and housed them in a state shelter. Recapturing the story of their rescue on television again attracted so much sympathy that a group of doctors offered to investigate the possibility of helping the boys with their sight.

They estimated how much the surgery would cost, I launched a strong fundraising campaign and with constant appeals on television many people contributed to the eye surgery of the two boys. After hours of surgery, the surgeons informed that it will take some time to tell if the surgery was successful. On the 24th of August 2010, after two months of waiting, hoping and praying, there was good news – their eyesight was fine.

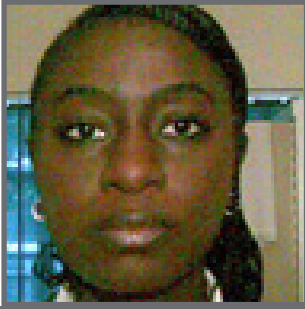
I have been practicing journalism for more than 4 years and reported on many issues but the highest point in my career was when I focused on human rights. A simple story I had run had helped two boys and for me it has become a burning desire to give more to the society.

Being part of the Centre for Human Rights is the great adventure of my career. I look forward to gathering enough knowledge on human rights and I have plans of returning to Ghana determined to investigate and report human rights violations one issue at a time.



This photo ('Life and hope for a better day'), was taken by Solomon Cobbinah in Zimbabwe, and was submitted to the LLM/MPhil Democracy through Photography competition*.

**More about the competition in the next edition of Righting Wrongs*



What motivated you?

Excerpts from the Motivation Letter (20 July 2008)

Maria Assim (Nigeria, 2009)

Doctoral Researcher, Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape

I would like to do the course on Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa basically because it would be a huge step towards my intention to specialise in this unique field of law. I developed a keen interest in human rights during my second year in the University and I consistently tailored the choice of my elective courses in that direction so as to position myself for professional effectiveness in my chosen field.

My horizon in the field of human rights has been further broadened through my participation in human rights training programs and competitions within and outside Nigeria... I therefore see the course as an opportunity to be firmly grounded in the field of human rights in order to be better equipped to make a contribution to this indispensable field of law and life, which touches every 'human' being.

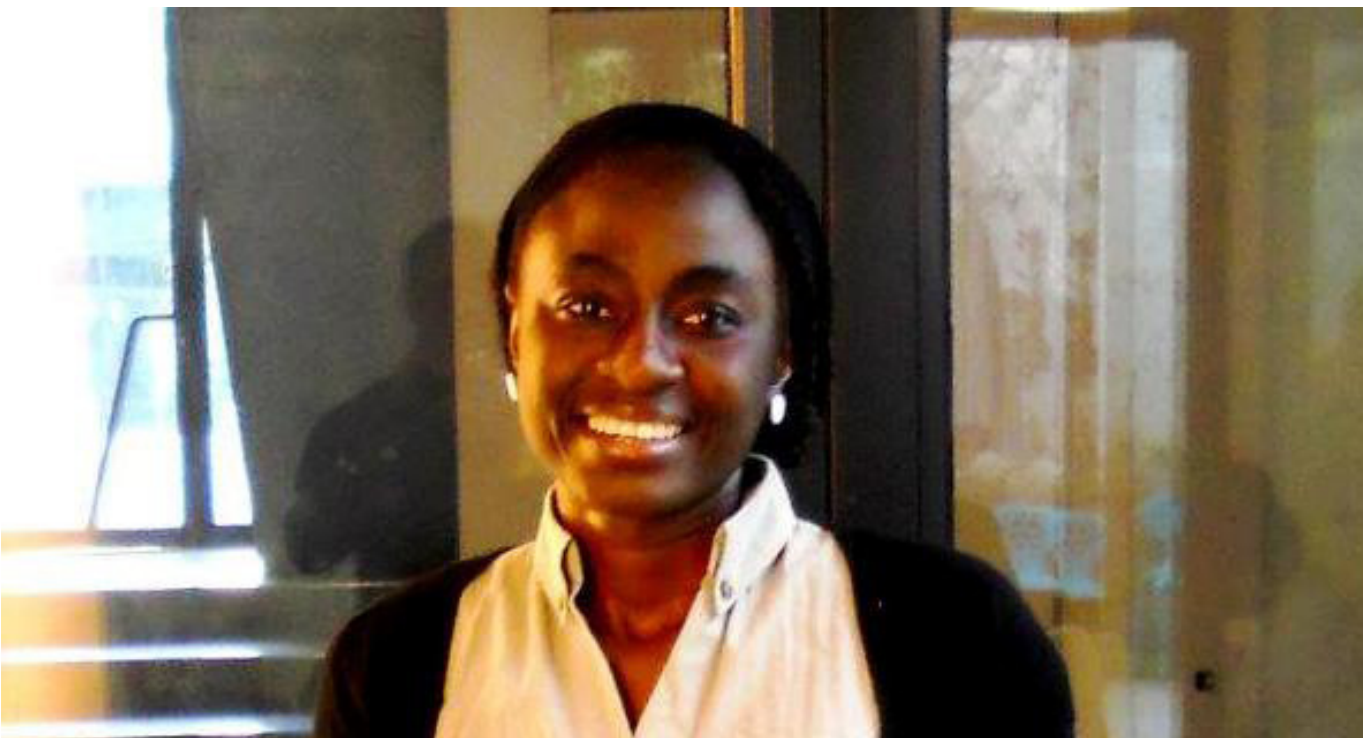
Response:

Living true four years on!

Upon completing the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa in 2009, I chose to continue with further studies, for specialisation purposes and to prepare myself for a career in the academia. This decision was in line with my career aspirations and goals, as indicated in my motivation letter when applying for admission into the LLM programme.

I am currently a doctoral researcher on children's rights at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa where I am attached to the Children's Rights Project of the Community Law Centre. I also serve as a Research and Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the Law Faculty of UWC, who doubles as my thesis supervisor. In these capacities, I have gained considerable experience in research, writing, advocacy and teaching; the LLM programme indeed enabled me to lay a solid foundation for my growing academic and professional pursuits and profile. To my credit, I have a number of academic publications on human rights generally, and children's rights particularly, and I have also gained extensive experience in legal and policy research projects.

Since 2010, in addition to my PhD studies, I have been assisting with research and teaching on a number of undergraduate and post graduate modules which include: Child Justice; Children's Rights and the Law; International Family Law; International Protection of Human Rights Law; and International Humanitarian Law. I expect to complete my PhD studies this year (2013), and register another milestone in my life and career with a Doctor of Laws degree.





What motivated you?

Excerpts from the Motivation Letter (26 July 2010)

*Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo (Ghana, 2011)
Lecturer, The University of The Gambia*

What has motivated me to apply for this Masters program is the same as that which motivated me when I decided to study law. I strongly believe in the ability of a strong legal order to transform society and maintain peace and stability. A society built on the rule of law has the best chances of safeguarding the human rights of each and every citizen within that society. Furthermore, it is an open democracy where a strong legal order and the rule of law thrive. A strong judiciary is the protector of the poor, marginalised and the minority from oppression and unjustified discrimination from the government and the rich. Corruption, poverty, diseases and abuse of human rights which continues to plague our continent is due to the inability and pseudo democracies which are in place in many African States. Whilst keeping the basic principles of democracy intact, we should strive to adapt it to accommodate the positive elements of an African society such as: the spirit of ubuntu and at the same time overcoming issues which sets back our development, tribalism, to name but one.

The past pessimism about Africa being a dark continent still haunts as till this day. The challenges which this continent faces are many however, they are not unprecedented. I believe that the solutions are there and just like everything in life one cannot discover until one starts searching. Given the opportunity to participate in this program I hope that I will be in a position to help discover lasting solutions to many of the challenges which this continent faces. To translate this into practical terms I hope to one day give Africa a louder voice within the United Nations. Through the United Nations, the African Union and the various Non Governmental organizations focusing on the development of Africa to establish an NGO which will consolidate all the strengths of these organizations and provide assistance and advice to African nations on the various legal and social challenges which continue to set back our development. Just as education is the key to a person's knowledge, a strong and Independent Judiciary

will ensure that Africa develops towards a direction which promotes and respects the human rights of all citizens. I have a strong academic background and believe that with the grace of God I will be able to complete the program in time.

Response: Living true two years on!

Introduction

I am a Ghanaian national resident in South Africa. I completed my LLB degree in 2009 at the University of Pretoria. I successfully completed the LLM programme in 2011. Following my successful completion of the program, I was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to serve as the Centre for Human Rights' visiting lecturer to the University of the Gambia (UTG). This initiative is part of the growing collaboration and partnership between the Centre for Human Rights and the UTG. The faculty of law of the UTG was established in 2007 and in February last year it graduated its first batch of LLB students. This short note highlights my activities since my completion of the LLM programme, particularly how I am using the knowledge I gained as a lecturer at the UTG and in the Gambia.

Activities after the LLM

I arrived in the Gambia on 16 of January 2012 and immediately assumed the position of a lecturer. I teach International Human Rights Law, Public International law and Private International law. Gazing around my classroom this morning, I realised how much I am enjoying teaching. It is true! There is nothing more rewarding than guiding "young" people in their learning and witnessing the process of transformation from students into legal scholars. Being a young lecturer, and not much older than the majority of my students, I have developed a platonic and yet a professional relationship with my students. Working at the UTG, is an experience like no other. The warm and friendly environment within which students and staff interact has made my experience at the UTG the more pleasurable so far.

The Law Clinic

I co-established the Faculty of Law's Legal Aid Clinic. This project is part of the ambition of the UTG and the faculty of law to establish a Law Clinic that will provide greater access to justice to the majority of Gambians who will otherwise not have access. Since its establishment in 2012, the Law Clinic has added a new dimension to the legal scene of the Gambia. The clinic in 2013 continues to receive clients and lobby legal practitioners to represent indigent

clients in court. The clinic has also organised sensitisation projects into the community to sensitize people about their rights on access to justice. Credit to the success of the Law Clinic so far should be attributed to the leadership and guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Law, the Interim Director of the Clinic and the Students who have devoted their time and energy to the daily running of the clinic.

Co-ordinating the moot activities of the UTG

Following the UTG's first and successful participation in the All African Moot Court Competition in 2011, I was assigned the role of preparing the 2012 moot team to the All African moot in Maputo. The experience was unforgettable both during the preparation stage and more so at the competition. The Gambia's team participation in the competition has been the best so far on record. As a result of this, the Dean assigned me the role of Heading the Mooting and Advocacy Programme of the Faculty.

This year, the Faculty of Law, has registered to participate in three International Mooting Competitions. In March 2013, the Gambia will be represented at the Philip Jessup Moot Competition. In May and September this year, I will be coaching two teams that will participate in the Inter-American moot in Washington DC and the All African moot in Cape Town, South Africa respectively. As the mooting coach I have the singular honour of preparing and guiding these students. All these competitions I believe will expose participating students to different experiences which they will otherwise have not acquired in the four corners of the classroom. Most importantly, these mooting competitions will further stimulate interest of current and future generation of Gambian lawyers in the area of promoting and protecting human rights.

The SOS Children's Village the Gambia

I believe that in whatever field of work one is engaged, there is always room however, big or small that may be to contribute towards the greater realisation of human rights on the African Continent. For this reason I was very happy when in March last year I was called to prepare, teach and train the future social workers of the Gambia in a Certificate programme offered by the SOS Children's Village.

Challenges / Prospects

A key area which is of great concern to me is that of access to justice by the general population. In this respect the efforts of the government of the Gambia is commendable. The government has provided several mechanisms through which access to justice can be realised by all. These mechanisms include a National Agency for Legal Aid, an Alternative Dispute Resolution body and an Ombudsman. The challenge, however, remains that of lack of awareness by the general population of their basic human rights. I am therefore grateful that I have the opportunity to contribute to the establishment of the Gambia's first law clinic and the development of a legal culture in the Gambia through the different initiatives outlined above. These I believe will contribute amongst other things to the sensitization of the



community about human rights and access to justice. Another important area of concern to me is that of lack of awareness amongst students and legal practitioners in general of the available African human rights jurisprudence. Although as a human rights lecturer I have the opportunity to bridge this gap, the gaping gap is far too wide. For this reason I am working in collaboration with the Institute for Human Rights and Development (IHRDA) to promote greater access to African human rights jurisprudence using the IHRDA's Case Law Analyser. Through this initiative I aim to train and create greater awareness amongst African law students, legal practitioners and Civil Society about the important role played by access to African human rights jurisprudence and research in the promotion and protection of human rights. Through this collaborative effort, a symposium was organised at the faculty of law to train students and lecturers on the importance of access to African human rights jurisprudence for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Gambia Chapter of the Alumni Association

The Gambia is truly a beautiful country in every sense. Nowhere on the continent of Africa is the spirit of Ubuntu more felt than in the Gambia. Living and working far from home and closest friends is a difficult challenge but the warmth of people in the Gambia makes it less so. At the core of my social life experience so far in the Gambia is the LLM Alumni Association (Banjul Chapter). I am an active member of the Association and hope that despite its infancy the Banjul Chapter will move on to make a great impact on the realisation of human rights in the Gambia. A commendable step taken by the Banjul Chapter is the strong bond it has established with the Faculty of Law of the UTG.

Conclusion

I strongly believe in the ideal of a free and democratic society as the basis for the realisation of the rights and freedoms of all Africans. Although some may argue about the feasibility of democracy as the mode of governance in Africa, any other alternative that respects the rights and freedoms of All Africans is an ideal that I am prepared to live for.



Ayekoo!!*

Alumna appointed Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana

Alumna Nana Oye Lithur (Ghana, 2001) has been appointed cabinet Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana. Prior to her appointment, she has been engaged in human rights advocacy, working in diverse capacities with various organisations inclusive among which are the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Police Accountability, Freedom of Information and Access to Justice, International Freedom of Information Advocates Network, Freedom of Information Centre for Africa, Governing Board of the Ghana Internal Revenue Service, the Disciplinary Committee of the Ghana Bar Association and Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Ghana. In 2007, Alumna Nana Oye Lithur received the Vera Chirwa Award for her human rights advocacy on the continent.

Congratulations Alumna Nana on your appointment as Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection. Have a good stay in office.

** Ghanaian word for 'congratulations.'*



*Adiam Wolday Woldeyohannes
(Eritrea, 2001)*

Dear Nana

Hope it is still fine to call you by your first name. I knew you as a student in the LLM programme on Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa and I still feel you are the same person I knew. I am really happy and pleased to hear that you have taken the protection and promotion of human rights very seriously and are willing to contribute more in the promotion of women's and children's rights. I do believe that you are a very determined and hard working person and I would love to use this opportunity to tell you that I am very proud of you.

I remember when you once encouraged me and told me that you came to study leaving your children behind. I was very impressed and I could really see that you were very determined in your studies.

I remember you were very serious with your studies but I could also see that you had a good heart towards others. I do believe that the combination of these personalities will do justice in the work that you are involved.

Having said this I would like to wish you all the best and may God bless you with His wisdom and strength to accomplish more than expected.

With lots of love,
Adiam



Celebrando!!*

Alumnus obtains LLD from the University of the Western Cape

On 13 March 2013, alumnus Aquinaldo Célio Mandlate (Mozambique, 2008) obtained an LLD (Public International Law) from the University of the Western Cape. His graduation adds the number of law experts in Africa, especially in African Portuguese speaking countries, which have a minute number of professionals with high qualification in the legal field. Aquinaldo's thesis entitled "Assessing the implementation of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child in Lusophone Africa (Angola and Mozambique)" was written under the supervision of Professor Julia Sloth-Nielsen - member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - and co-supervision of Dr Benyam de Mezmur - UNCRC Committee member - (who both are children's rights experts and teach in the LLM HRDA programme). His composite thesis which can be described as a magnificent piece of fine legal writing investigates how the United Nations Children's Convention is being implemented in the two countries highlighted. The thesis delves into laws and policies and it provides immensurable discussions on administrative avenues, institutional measures pertaining to children's rights in these countries.

By carefully assessing the gains and exploring what more could be done to advance children's rights in the jurisdictions highlighted, Aquinaldo provides some important solutions and makes original contribution to scholarship. Despite his expertise in corporate law, banking and investment law, Aquinaldo is currently involved in children's rights initiatives in the region.

Parabéns Aquinaldo!

* Mozambiquan word for "celebrating."



Remember Miamingi (Sudan, 2008)

*Ag. Managing Director, Sudan's Institute for Human Rights,
Good Governance and Development (SIRD) Juba, Republic of South Sudan*

Congrats De Mayor!

At the risk of sounding arrogant at worst and biased at best, I think the Selection Committee that pulled together the LLM Class 2008 was, perhaps, at its best. I said this because the LLM Class 2008 was and still is a fraternity of great minds and personalities.

One of such a great mind and an amazing personality is Dr. Aquinaldo Mandlate. A naturally disciplined, determined and hardworking man and a scholar, Dr. Mandlate was De Mayor of our class - a title conferred in recognition of his varying life skills.

De Mayor, I was personally delighted and the LLM Class 2008 thrilled when we learnt of your academic achievements-especially your receiving LLD from the University of the Western Cape.

Congratulations De Mayor for making all of us proud yet again!



Sherehe!!*

Major celebration in Nairobi of the nuptials of a Rasparian countryman

Rhoda Igweta (Kenya, 2008)

Senior Public Policy and Advocacy Officer, Africa, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

For those of you who were not in the class of 2008, we need to explain to you where the term ‘people of Raspara’ came from in another space – suffice it to say that class of 2008 refers to itself as ‘The people of Raspara’.

In November 2012, our beloved master wordsmith and comedian-in-chief Japheth Biegon wrote and told us that he was leaving and cleaving. The response to that email was in true Rasparian fashion hilarious. It was also an opportunity for a get together and therefore a few folks packed their bags and planned to jet into Nairobi for the big celebration. On December 1, the man indeed left and cleaved to the lovely Eva. Below are some photos from the day. Other highlights from the wedding were that the ring bearer took off screaming during the wedding march BUT, he showed up when he was good and ready.

* Swahili word for “celebration.”



Japheth says a prayer before his bride arrives.



Vows are exchanged.
Do you see the beginnings of smiles?



It's all smiles and a jig for the happy couple after exchanging their vows.



Representing the people of Raspara: L-R Bonolo (Botswana), Sarah (SA), Eva and Japheth, Rhoda (Kenya), Rosemary (Uganda) and Angela (Rwanda)



Chisangalalo!!*

Alumnus Mandala wins election to Malawi Bar Association

Mandala Mambulasa (Malawi, 2010)
Managing Partner/Legal Practitioner,
Mambulasa & Co. Advocates

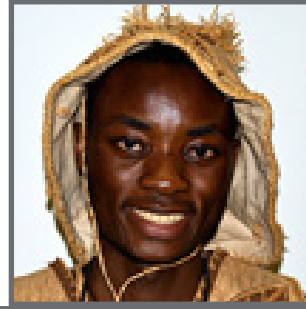
At the Annual General Meeting and Conference of Malawi Law Society, held on 24th February 2013, Mandala Mambulasa (2010) was elected President of the Malawi Law Society.

Wishing you a great term in office! Zabwino zonsel!

For more information please see:

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/02/25/mambulasa-elected-malawi-law-society-president-replaces-mwakhwawa/>

* Chichewa word for "celebration."



Célébration!!*

Alumnus Frank wins prize in Human Rights and Business Essay Competition

Frank Maxime Yankam Lemdjo (Cameroon, 2012)

Alumnus Frank Maxime Yankam Lemdjo (Cameroon 2012) is one of the prize winners of the Human Rights and Business Essay Competition launched by Africa Legal Aid and Webber Wentzel. His prize winning article is titled: "The indigenous people property rights abuses in the Cameroon-Chad pipeline: new approaches to human rights protection by the World Bank Group."

Congratulations Frank!

For more information, please see:

<http://www.africalegalaid.com/news/human-rights-and-business-essay-competition-winners>

* French word for 'celebration.'

THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR), FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
invites applications for the

MASTER'S (LLM/MPHIL) DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION IN AFRICA

This premier degree is presented in partnership with 12 leading African universities: students spend the first semester at the University of Pretoria, and the second semester in smaller groups at a partner university.

Duration - One year full-time January to December 2014

Eligibility - For law students: A degree allowing access to the legal profession. **For other students:** At least an Honours degree in a discipline relevant to human rights and democratisation

Application requirements:

Visit the CHR website at
www.chr.up.ac.za

Medium of instruction - English

Finance - Limited scholarships are available

Application deadline: 31 July 2013

Applications must be sent by post to:

The Coordinator (LLM/MPhil: HRDA), Centre for Human Rights,
Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa

South Africans, in particular women, as well as members of minority groups such as indigenous people, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants must have excellent academic credentials and demonstrate human rights experience or interest.

For more information on CHR projects visit: www.chr.up.ac.za

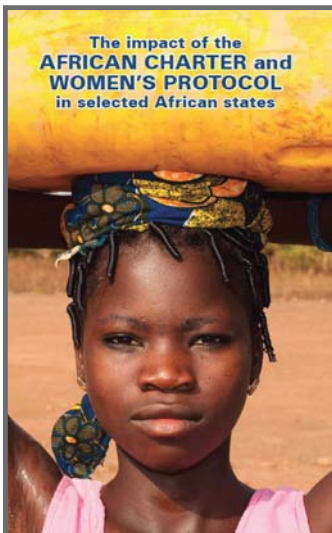


Centre News

Impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in selected African states

The Centre for Human Rights is implementing a research project on the impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in selected African states.

Nineteen countries have been reported on namely; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe. A book has been published by the Pretoria University Law Press on 28 September 2012 on the 'Impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in Selected African States.'



The book includes chapters all written by alumni of the LLM HRDA programme on the impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in African states.

The Centre calls for contribution from Alumni in countries not represented above.

Please send your contribution to the Alumni Coordinator, Romola Adeola (romola.adeola@up.ac.za).

Call for nominations for the Vera Chirwa Award

As you may recall in 2007, the Vera Chirwa Award was instituted for the alumnus or alumna of the programme who best embodied the principles of the programme in his or her subsequent career by "making a difference" to the protection of human rights or the strengthening of democratisation in Africa.

To be considered for this award, subsequent to obtaining the degree (LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa), the candidate must have demonstrated:

- Dedicated human rights activism;
- Leadership in the field of human rights and democratisation affecting Africa and Africans;
- A contribution to a specific human rights cause or causes;
- Commitment to improving the lives of people everywhere in Africa

You are kindly requested to nominate an alumna/us for the Vera Chirwa Award. As an alumna/us, you are welcome to nominate yourself. A nomination should be accompanied by a motivation letter, with reference to the nomination criteria, and a recent curriculum vitae of the nominated person.

Kindly ensure that the nomination reaches the alumni coordinator by 15 August 2013 via email. Send your mail to romola.adeola@up.ac.za.

LLD on children's birth registration at UWC

You are invited to let Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen know as soon as possible if you are interested to study towards an LLD at the University of the Western Cape, on the topic of children's birth registration. You must have good writing and research skills, and should preferably have more than just very basic French language competence. Successful candidates will act as research assistant to Prof. Sloth-Nielsen on the same topic.

Send brief letter of interest and CV as soon as possible to: jsloth-nielsen@uwc.ac.za

Contact Details - Righting Wrongs

Email: hrda.alumni@up.ac.za | **Website:** www.chr.up.ac.za/hrda

Editor: Romola Adeola (Nigeria, 2012)

Advisory and Review Team: Prof Frans Viljoen, Norman Taku, Martin Nsibirwa, Magnus Killander, Yolanda Boozyen.

Alumni Dues:

To pay your dues, please obtain transfer details from:

Harold Meintjes (harold.meintjes@up.ac.za) or Romola Adeola (romola.adeola@up.ac.za)

Centre for Human Rights

Righting Wrongs

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THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Faculty of Law
University of Pretoria
PRETORIA
0002
Republic of South Africa

Phone: +27 12 420 3810

Fax: +27 12 362 5125

Email: chr@up.ac.za

Website: www.chr.up.ac.za



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