



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Kenya: Tensions Between Human Rights and Security, and The Shrinking Space for Civil Society



Jedidah Wakonyo Waruhiu is a seasoned Human Rights Attorney currently serving Commissioner in the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and an expert on security sector reforms, legal aid, paralegal approach, traditional justice mechanisms, refugee law and human rights education. Prior to joining the Commission, she served at Diakonia Sweden as the Program Director for Lake Vitoria Rights Program. She has also previously served as the Executive Director of the Legal Resources Foundation Trust. At the National Commission on Human Rights, she is the Convener of the Complaints, Investigation and Redress Departments which forms the Directorate of Legal Affairs. The National Commission is an independent National Human Rights Institution established under Article 59(1) of the Constitution of Kenya with the primary mandate to advise and assist state and non-state actors, and to watchdog over the various government organs as they fulfill their constitutional obligation to respect, uphold and defend human rights in the Republic of Kenya.



Njonjo Mue is a Rhodes Scholar and human rights attorney. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a transitional justice expert. Until recently, he served as the Deputy Director for Africa and Head of the Kenya Office of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). Prior to that, he worked as the Head of Advocacy at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. He has also served as the Legal Advisor to the Africa Program of the Freedom of Expression watchdog, ARTICLE 19, and the Regional Director of Panos Eastern

Africa. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Governing Council of the Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya) and as a Program Advisor to Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice (KPTJ), a coalition of over thirty legal, human rights and governance NGOs established to pursue truth and justice in the wake of widespread violence that engulfed Kenya in the wake of the disputed presidential elections of 2007.



Hussein Khalid is currently the Executive Director of HAKI Africa – a national human rights organization based in Mombasa, Kenya. For the last 16 years, Mr. Khalid has been at the forefront of agitating for rights of community members at the grassroots level in Kenya and the general East African region. Mr. Khalid has worked with and served as a member of numerous civil rights groups and institutions, including Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC). He has been involved in various national and international processes to promote and protect

fundamental rights and freedoms of the people including giving testimonies to numerous taskforces. Mr. Khalid is a lawyer by profession and has also undertaken other courses including Fundamentals of Social Accountability at Rhodes University (South Africa), International Human Rights Conventions at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and Crime Prevention in Kenya with the United States International University (Kenya).



Abdulkadir Noormohamed is a Legal Officer for the Kenya Program of the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, working to promote domestic accountability for the 2007 Kenya post-election violations of international criminal law. Noormohamed has a dozen years of experience in legal and human rights work in Kenya. He practiced law for several years at a private firm in Mombasa before joining the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights where he served at different times as a senior human rights officer, the regional coordinator for the Northern Kenya office, and department head for

redress/legal services. He received a law degree from University of Nairobi and an LLM in public international law from the University of London.