
3-4 July 2019
Plenary Hall
National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia
Banjul (The Gambia)

Panellists

Mr. Sainey Bah is an Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the University of The Gambia. As an academic, he has worked in constitutional law, governance, international law, national human rights institutions in Africa-Contemporary Developments and human rights law with a focus on the right to development, freedom of information, public interest litigation and social policy. Mr. Bah is also a coordinator at the Institute for the Advancement of Children’s Rights in the Gambia (IACR) and a member of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). The TRRC is mandated to investigate and establish an impartial historical record of the nature, causes and extent of violations and abuses of human rights committed during the period of July 1994 to January 2017 as well as considering the granting of reparations to victims.

Ms. Neneh Cham is engaged in private general legal practice. From 2011 to 2016, she was the President of a leading women's rights civil society organization in The Gambia: Female Lawyers Association - Gambia (FLAG). FLAG is dedicated to improving the legal and social situation of women and children in the country. Its activities include pro-bono legal advice and representation to indigent women and children; lobbying for gender equitable laws; advocacy, sensitization, and training on laws and issues affecting women and children; and strategic litigation on women's rights issues. Ms. Cham is an author at FLAG Publications.
Ms. Sirra Ndow is the Executive Board Member and Interim Country Representative in The Gambia of the African Network against Extrajudicial Killings and Disappearances (ANEKED). Ms. Ndow describes herself as a lifetime activist with over 25 years’ experience and involvement with non-profit and advocacy organizations in the areas of education, disability justice, homelessness, orphans, widows, sexual violence, summary executions and enforced disappearances both in the United States and The Gambia. A trained rape crisis counselor, Sirra is also an accomplished senior business management executive at one of the most prominent business entities in The Gambia. She is a victim of Yahya Jammeh’s human rights violations by virtue of her uncle, Saul Ndow, who went missing in 2013.

Mr. Hussein Thomasi joined The Ministry of Justice of The Gambia as a Special Adviser to the Honourable Attorney General & Minister of Justice in April 2017. His work has been focused on the transitional justice program of The Gambia, launched in early 2017. Prior to joining the Ministry, Mr. Thomasi was the Director of Legal Affairs at the West African Monetary Institute in Accra, Ghana. His service in Ghana was preceded by a legal career in government institutions and the private sector. He holds an LL.B. from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and an LL.M. from the American University in Washington, USA.

Mr. Suzgo Lungu is an international criminal lawyer and Programme Consultant at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), whose mission is to promote and advance human rights, democratic governance, the rule of law and access to justice in Southern Africa through strategic litigation, advocacy and capacity strengthening. Mr. Lungu has experience working with governments and international organisations and agencies including the African Union (AU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Law Commission (ILC), UN Environment Programme, UN Population Fund, UNICEF, UN Women, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Mr. Lungu just completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Law) at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. His research focused on enforcing State cooperation and compliance with decisions of the International Criminal Court (ICC) drawing lessons from the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the African Court of Human and Peoples Rights.
Mr. Sadikh Niass is an environmental researcher graduated from the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the University of the Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar. In March 1990, Mr. Niass participated in the creation of the African Exchange for the Defence of Human Rights (Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'Homme, RADDHO), with other fellow students. In 2009, Mr. Niass received a Chevening Scholarship from the United Kingdom and joined the training course at the Human Rights Center (University of Nottingham) on the implementation of international human rights conventions and treaties. He held various positions at RADDHO, including Project Assistant responsible for the protection of refugees and detainees, Secretary of External Relations, Project Officer, Representative before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Mr. Niass is currently RADDHO's Secretary General.

Lady Justice Susan Okalany was appointed Judge of the High Court of Uganda in 2016. She is the Resident Judge in the Mbale Circuit. She is also an Associate Judge to the International Criminal Division (ICD) of the High Court in Kampala and was the Pre-Trial Judge in the ICD case of Uganda vs. Kwoyelo. This trial is being undertaken under the complementarity provisions of the Rome Statute. In the course of the two-year pre-trial hearing, she rendered several decisions, including one allowing victims in the case to participate at all stages of the trial subject to the relevant rules of procedure, and confirmed 93 charges of war crimes/violations of common article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, crimes against humanity and Penal Code Act offences. Ms. Okalany was a Senior Principal State Attorney working for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Uganda, with 16 years of public prosecution experience, handling hundreds of prosecutions (most of which, were cases of sexual violence against children and women) in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and Magistrates Courts.

Mr. Tondjoa Sagnan is a Deputy Prosecutor to the Ouagadougou Tribunal since 2010. In 2017, he also became a member of the Special Unit on Terrorism-Related and Terrorism Financing Offences. He is also the Focal Point in Burkina Faso for the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organised Crime (WACAP). In 2019, Mr. Sagnan will become the Prosecutor of Burkina Faso to the High Court of Ziniaré. His areas of expertise are the protection of human rights in the criminal justice response to terrorism; international mutual legal assistance; and investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, money laundering and terrorist financing.
**Mr. Oludayo Fagbemi** is a Nigerian lawyer, passionate about human rights litigation, who currently works as a Legal Officer at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA). In this role, he litigates human rights cases before the African regional human rights mechanisms and carries out capacity building initiatives for other human rights actors across Africa. Before joining IHRDA, he was a private practitioner in Nigeria and worked with the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS). He holds an LL.B. from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and an LL.M. from the University College London.

**Ms. Elsabe Boshoff** is a Technical Assistant at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. She was a Legal Intern at the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights. Ms. Boshoff has carried out legal research in various institutions, including the University of Pretoria, the Directorate General of the Environment and Climate in Cotonou (Benin), and Origin Systems South Africa, Legal Resources Centre and Cullinan & Associates, all three of them in Cape Town (South Africa).

**Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu** is a lawyer and a legal academic. Since January 2013 he has been teaching various law courses at the Faculty of Law of the Ghana Institute of Management & Public Administration (GIMPA) in Accra, Ghana. In September of 2013, Kwaku established The Justice Foundation, an apolitical not-for-profit, non-religious human rights organization, with the sole purpose of increasing access to justice in Ghana. In this capacity, he has represented numerous indigent criminal defendants in the courts of Ghana on a pro-bono basis. Presently, he is the Head of Law Centers at the Faculty of Law, GIMPA, where he oversees the management of the African Center of International Criminal Justice (ACICJ) and the African Center on Law & Ethics (ACLE). His research interests include Constitutional Law, Human Rights and International Criminal Law & Justice.