

9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## Press Release

The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya), leading legal and policy experts from across the continent convene in Durban, South Africa, from November 9 to 12 to reflect on the state of democracy in Africa.

Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye, former South African Constitutional Court judges Albie Sachs and Dali Mpofu, Zimbabwean opposition leader Tendai Biti, Judge Jody Kollapen of the High Court of South Africa headline a galaxy of over 30 judges, legislators, lawyers, scholars, policy experts and human rights activists speaking. The discourse on state of democracy is convened under the auspices of ICJ Kenya's Annual Jurists Conference (AJC). This year's conference theme is **State of Democracy and Transitions in Africa: Addressing the Regression**.

The conference will interrogate recent developments in relation to the rise of irresponsible leadership around the continent, the deficiency of political will for reform, as well as socio-economic implications for the decline in democracy for the African citizen.

The legal profession has traditionally played a pre-eminent role in the birth, growth and perpetuation of Africa's search for democracy. Despite the early influence by the legal profession during the search for democracy, Africa's experience demonstrates the lack of a sustained commitment to the democratization process, yet African jurists and citizens are well suited to tackle the problems presented by the failed democratic transitions.

Panel topics include:

- State of Peace, Security, Stability and Governance in Africa: *A Reading of the Current Landscape*
- Comparative Perspectives on Electoral Democracy and Building Peaceful States
- Beyond the Will to Intervene - *Preventing Chronic Conflicts in Africa*
- Resisting Political Arrogance Through Civic Engagement
- From Fragility to Stability: *Cultivating Responsible and Responsive Leadership in Africa*

You are all invited to provide coverage for the event.

For more information or Interviews kindly contact: Stella Ndirangu on telephone number **+254722336399** and/or Nelly Warega on telephone number **+2547202813456** or send an email to: [stella.ndirangu@icj-kenya.org](mailto:stella.ndirangu@icj-kenya.org) and [nelly.warega@icj-kenya.org](mailto:nelly.warega@icj-kenya.org).

[Please also join our conversations on Twitter: #AJC2016](#)

**Kind regards,**

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