



AFRICA JUDGES & JURISTS FORUM

Annual Report 2024



CONTACT US

☎ +27 716 405 926

✉ INFO@AFRICAJURISTS.ORG

📍 OFFICE 504A, ROSEBANK MALL OFFICES 50 BATH AVENUE,
ROSEBANK 2196 JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

Twitter: [@africanjurists](https://twitter.com/africanjurists) | Facebook: [-Africa Judges And Jurists' Forum](https://www.facebook.com/AfricaJudgesAndJuristsForum) | Registration: 114-472Npo



Executive Summary

The year 2024 was a period of significant consolidation and impactful advancement for the Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF). In a continent navigating complex political transitions, digital transformation, and a resurgent global movement for reparatory justice, our mandate to protect judicial independence and uphold the rule of law has never been more critical. This annual report details a year of strategic interventions, high-level diplomacy, and tangible outcomes that have strengthened the foundations of constitutional governance across Africa.

Our flagship **Judicial Independence Program** remained at the forefront of our efforts. Through high-level fact-finding missions, such as our delegation to Senegal, and the landmark inaugural **All Africa Judges and Jurists Summit (AAJJS)** in Nairobi, we fostered crucial dialogue among the continent's leading judicial minds. The resulting **Nairobi Declaration**, a 28-point action plan, stands as a testament to our collective commitment to safeguarding courts from interference. Furthermore, our strategic MoU with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and technical contributions to the UN Special Rapporteur have amplified our advocacy on the global stage.

The **Africa Reparations Program** emerged as a cornerstone of continental policy shaping. AJJF played a pivotal role in co-drafting the **African Union White Paper on Reparations**, a historic document that provides a concrete framework for redress. By engaging judiciaries, legal practitioners, and international bodies like the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, we have successfully positioned reparatory justice as a central, actionable component of Africa's legal and transitional justice agenda.

Our work in **Civic Space and Digital Rights** demonstrated our unique capacity to mediate between state and civil society, exemplified by the successful Lilongwe National Dialogue in Malawi. Meanwhile, the **Electoral Justice Program**, through the **Africa Electoral Justice Network (AEJN)**, provided a vital safe space for judges and practitioners to share best practices and confront emerging challenges, including the profound implications of Artificial Intelligence on electoral integrity.

Finally, the **NOREC Program** continues to be our investment in the future, cultivating a dynamic network of next-generation legal leaders equipped to tackle cutting-edge issues from AI governance to climate justice. Their contributions to research, advocacy, and thought leadership ensure the sustainability of our mission.

None of these achievements would be possible without the steadfast support of our members, partners, and funders, including the Open Society Foundations, NOREC, and the Ford Foundation. As we look ahead to 2025, we are poised to build on this momentum—hosting the second AAJJS, developing model laws for judicial independence, and deepening our work on AI and electoral justice. AJJF remains unwavering in its commitment to an Africa where justice, accountability, and the rule of law prevail for all.



A Word from the President

The year 2024 underscored the critical importance of our mission to uphold the rule of law across Africa. Amidst both challenges and triumphs, the Africa Judges and Jurists Forum made significant strides.

Our inaugural **All Africa Judges and Jurists Summit** united judicial leaders around the landmark **Nairobi Declaration**, reinforcing our foundational commitment to judicial independence. Simultaneously, our contribution to the historic **African Union White Paper on Reparations** marked a pivotal step in translating the quest for reparatory justice into actionable policy.

Our work in electoral justice and digital rights, particularly through the Africa Electoral Justice Network, equipped legal professionals to handle emerging threats and mediate complex disputes.

These achievements belong to every member, partner, and courageous jurist who stands on the front lines of justice. My deepest thanks for your steadfast commitment. Together, we are not just navigating the present; we are building an enduring legacy of justice for the future of our continent.



Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF).



Formed in 2012, the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) is a registered non-profit organization (114-472NPO) in South Africa, with offices in Uganda (Kampala) and South Africa (Johannesburg). AJJF is an influential pan-African network of eminent judges and jurists committed to promoting the rule of law and development in Africa.

AJJF's governance structure includes the General Convention, the Judicial Elders Council, which consists of Honourable Retired Chief Justices: Willy Mutunga (Kenya), Mohamed Chande Othman (Tanzania), Ernest Sakala (Zambia), David Maraga and Andrew Nyirenda (Malawi). The President of AJJF is Justice Willy Mutunga. The Board is chaired by Judge Moses Chinhengo. It includes Justices Lillian Tibatemwa (Uganda), O.B.K Dingake (Botswana), Charles Mkandawire (Malawi) and Thomas Nhlane (Swaziland). The Secretariat, led by Secretary General Martin O. Masiga, consists of legal experts, administrators, and communication and finance practitioners.

ABOUT US



VISION



A just, peaceful and prosperous Africa

MISSION



Foster Development through the Rule of Law



OBJECTIVES



Prosperity For All

To promote socio-economic transformation and shared prosperity for the people of Africa based on the rule of law and taking due account of regional and global strategic frameworks for sustainable development.



Impartial Rule Of Law

To promote and improve the impartial and effective administration of justice in accordance with regional standards and universal principles of the rule of law.



Supporting Judges & Jurists

To promote the independence, accountability and effectiveness of judges, lawyers and prosecutors in accordance with regional standards and principles of human rights and the rule of law.

What we do



HUMAN RIGHTS

Promote the respect for constitutionalism, human rights and the rule of law in Africa in a manner consistent with regional and universal human rights law



IMPARTIALITY

Promote and improve the impartial and effective administration of justice in accordance with regional standards and universal principles of the rule of law



TRAINING

Promote the independence, accountability and effectiveness of judges, lawyers and prosecutors through training, the exchange of knowledge and other tools of professional development



DEVELOPMENT

Support and complement the legal aspects of the development efforts of the AU and African sub-regional economic communities.



PROTECTION

Represent and protect the professional interests of judges, lawyers & prosecutors including Training support to those that may be in distress owing to their professional work



NETWORKING

Promote networking and collaborative partnerships of judges and lawyers across the region in a pan-African spirit



PEACE

Contribute to the peaceful resolution of political conflict in a manner that is consistent with the rule of law and human rights values



SHARED PROSPERITY

Contribute to socio-economic transformation and shared prosperity in the region by enhancing the relevance of judges and lawyers to the developmental challenges in Africa

Programs Overview



1. Judicial Independence

Lead: Ms Elizabeth Oriakhogba

Funder: Open Society Foundations (OSF)

The Judicial Independence Program served as AJJF's flagship initiative to safeguard constitutional governance across Africa's diverse legal systems. Through high-level judicial diplomacy, institutional partnerships, and evidence-based advocacy, the program addressed systemic threats ranging from executive interference to chronic underfunding of judiciaries. Its 2024 interventions particularly strengthened protections for Francophone African courts while advancing model legislation for judicial tenure security. The program's continental approach combined immediate crisis response with long-term capacity building for sustainable judicial autonomy.

Key Activities

(a) Fact-Finding Mission to Senegal (7th–12th July 2024)



A high-level delegation, comprising Chief Justice Emeritus David Maraga (Kenya), Prof. Danielle Darlan (former President, CAR Constitutional Court), and Justice Marcelline Afouda-Gbeha (former Vice President, Benin Constitutional Court), conducted intensive consultations with Senegal's judicial leadership. Over five days, the mission held structured dialogues with the full bench of the Constitutional Council, Supreme Court President Hon. Mamadou Badio Camara, and Justice Ministry officials, focusing specifically on constitutional safeguards against executive overreach. The resulting 48-page mission report detailed 12 specific recommendations for strengthening judicial tenure protections under Senegal's constitutional framework.

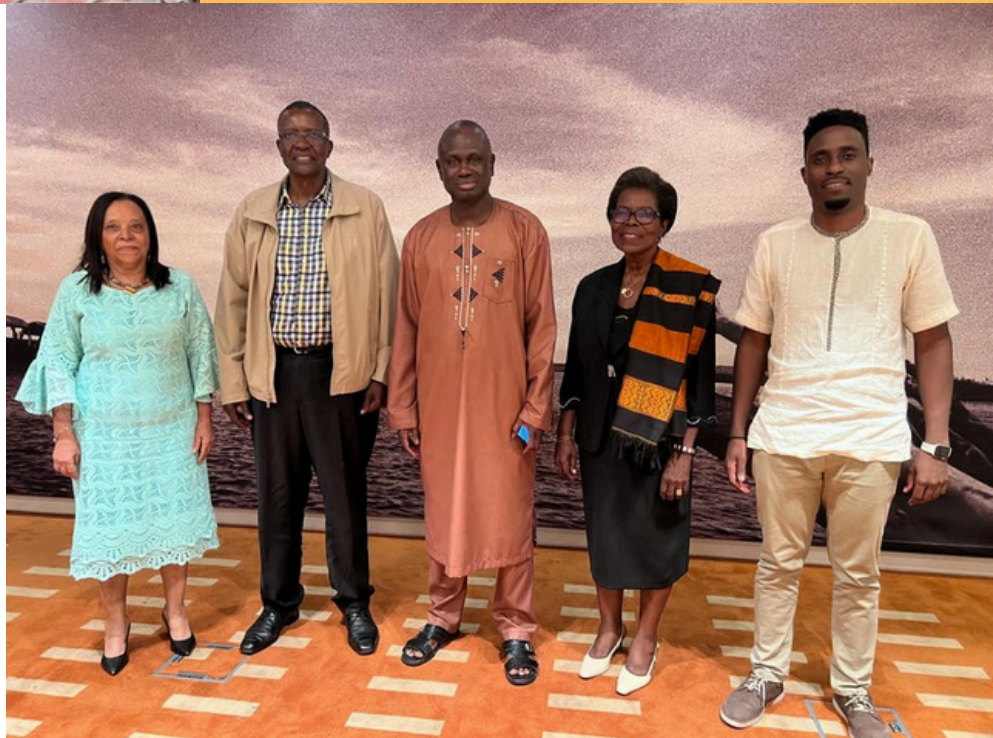
Key Activities

(a) Fact-Finding Mission to Senegal (7th–12th July 2024)



A high-level delegation, comprising Chief Justice Emeritus David Maraga (Kenya), Prof. Danielle Darlan (former President, CAR Constitutional Court), and Justice Marcelline Afouda-Gbeha (former Vice President, Benin Constitutional Court), conducted intensive consultations with Senegal's judicial leadership. Over five days, the mission held structured dialogues with the full bench of the Constitutional Council, Supreme Court President Hon. Mamadou Badio Camara, and Justice Ministry officials, focusing specifically on constitutional safeguards against executive overreach. The resulting 48-page mission report detailed 12 specific recommendations for strengthening judicial tenure protections under Senegal's constitutional framework.

Head of AJJF delegation to Senegal, Chief Justice Emeritus David Maraga pays courtesy to Senegal's Head of Judiciary, & explains AJJF philosophy on the role of judges in a Constitutional Democracy.



Key Activities

(b) Participation at the Africa Chief Justices' Alternative Dispute Resolution Summit (4th–8th March 2024)



AJJF's delegation, led by Secretary General Martin Masiga alongside two retired chief justices, contributed substantively to the Kampala summit's working sessions on ADR institutionalization. During closed-door sessions with Uganda's Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, the team presented AJJF's model guidelines for ADR integration, which subsequently informed three of the summit's seven final resolutions. The delegation's technical inputs particularly emphasized maintaining judicial oversight of ADR processes to preserve constitutional safeguards.

AFRICA CHIEF JUSTICES' SUMMIT ON ADR. AJJF Well Represented by Members of JEC; Retired Justice David Maraga / Lady Justice Lillian Tibatemwa together with Justice Alfred Mavedzenge, PhD & AJJF SG Martin Okumu-Masiga .



Key Activities

(c) All Africa Judges and Jurists Summit (AAJJS) 2024 (17th–18th September 2024)



AJF JEC and Board members with the Chief Guest CJ Martha Koome at the AAJJS in Nairobi together with some of the partners.

The inaugural AAJJS summit held in Nairobi in collaboration with the **Kenyan Judicial Authority (KJA)**, brought together 7 sitting Chief Justices and 126 other legal and judicial professionals for intensive thematic working sessions totalling 133 judicial leaders out of 157 participants. Over two days, participants engaged in six moderated panel discussions examining comparative jurisprudence on judicial independence, with particular focus on recent constitutional court rulings from Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal. The summit's secretariat, comprising 12 AJF legal officers, synthesized these discussions into the Nairobi Declaration - a 28-point action plan subsequently adopted by acclamation.



Key Activities

(d) Regional Webinars on Judicial Independence

The Africa Judges & Jurists Forum
Join our

ZOOM WEBINAR

TOPIC

THE STATE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN EAST AFRICA

CONTEMPORARY THREATS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Dr. Mercy Deche
ICJ Kenya Member and
Former Vice chairperson of the
Judicial Service Commission.

Margaret Satterthwaite
United Nations Special Rapporteur

Dr. Willy Mutunga
Retired Chief Justice - Kenya

Ms. Faith Mony Odhiambo
Vice President, Law Society of Kenya

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8wbnXpVwDw>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the webinar.

TIME: 15:30HRS - 17:00HRS EAT DATE: 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

OUR PARTNERS

icj EAST AFRICA LAW SOCIETY TANGANYIKA LAW SOCIETY SEAJCF

www.africajurists.org

The four-webinar series employed an innovative "case clinic" methodology, where participating judges analysed real but anonymized cases from peer jurisdictions. The Francophone West Africa session (25th July) featured detailed examination of recent rulings from Ivory Coast's Constitutional Council, with Council President Prof. Yao N'Dre providing insider commentary on judicial security challenges. Each webinar concluded with participants adopting region-specific action points. These were later included in AJJF's standard reporting documents on judicial independence.

FORUM DES Juges ET JURISTES D'AFRIQUE

WEBINAIRE ZOOM

INDÉPENDANCE DE LA JUSTICE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST FRANCOPHONE

DÉFIS ÉMERGENTS ET SOLUTIONS

MAÎTRE COULIBALY BRAHIMA
VICE-PRÉSIDENT MOUVEMENT FROREN
DES DROITS HUMAINS (FROREN) ET
AVOCAT AU BARREAU DE
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**HONORABLE JUDE WILLIAM
KOOJO-KPAVALSOU**
PRÉSIDENT DE LA COUR
D'APPEL DE COMMERCE DE
CÔTODOU, BÉNIN

**MME PROCUREUR AFUA AMA
RUTWAGA KLEVI**
PROCURER, TRIBUNAL DE PREMIÈRE
INSTANCE À COMPÉTENCE PÉNALE
ET CIVILE DE TSEVIE, TOGO

MAÎTRE ERIC AIME SEMIEN
PRÉSIDENT, OBSERVATOIRE
FROREN DES DROITS
DE L'HOMME (OIOH)

25 JULIET 2024

1200HRS CÔTE D'IVOIRE, TOGO ET SÉNÉGAL
1300HRS BÉNIN
1400HRS AFRIQUE DU SUD
1500HRS HEURE D'AFRIQUE DE L'EST

NOS PARTENAIRES

www.africajurists.org

The Africa Judges & Jurists Forum

ZOOM WEBINAR

TOPIC

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND CIVIC SPACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

JUSTICE MOSES CRINENGO
ACTING JUSTICE OF THE
COURT OF APPEAL, LESOTHO

JUSTICE DAGILE DINKAKE
JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DR. MAKANATSA MAKONESE
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ROLE OF LAW INITIATIVES' COUNTRY
REPRESENTATIVE IN ANGOLA

DR. PAUL MULINDWA
ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS
LEAD FOR AFRICA WITH CIVICUS

7th MARCH 2024
1400HRS-1530HRS (SAST)

OUR PARTNERS

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEFENDERS Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network CIVICUS SADC LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

www.africajurists.org

Key Activities

(e) Official Statements on Judicial Independence in Kenya



AJJF's rapid response team formulated two substantive declarations following critical incidents threatening judicial independence. The 13 June statement condemning the attack on Magistrate Monica Kivuti incorporated comparative analysis of judicial protection mechanisms from six African jurisdictions, while the 10 January response to presidential criticism cited five relevant African Court precedents on executive-judiciary relations. Both statements were formally endorsed by 14 regional legal associations.

*Statement published on AJJF website
[click here to view it](#)*



Key Activities

(f) Engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to design and introduce an independent Special Mechanism on the protection of the independence of the legal profession in Africa.



Through a series of technical working sessions in Banjul, AJJF legal officers collaborated with three ACHPR commissioners to draft the framework for a Regional Judicial Protection Unit. The proposed mechanism includes monitoring procedures adapted from the Inter-American human rights system, with customized provisions for Africa's unique legal pluralism context.

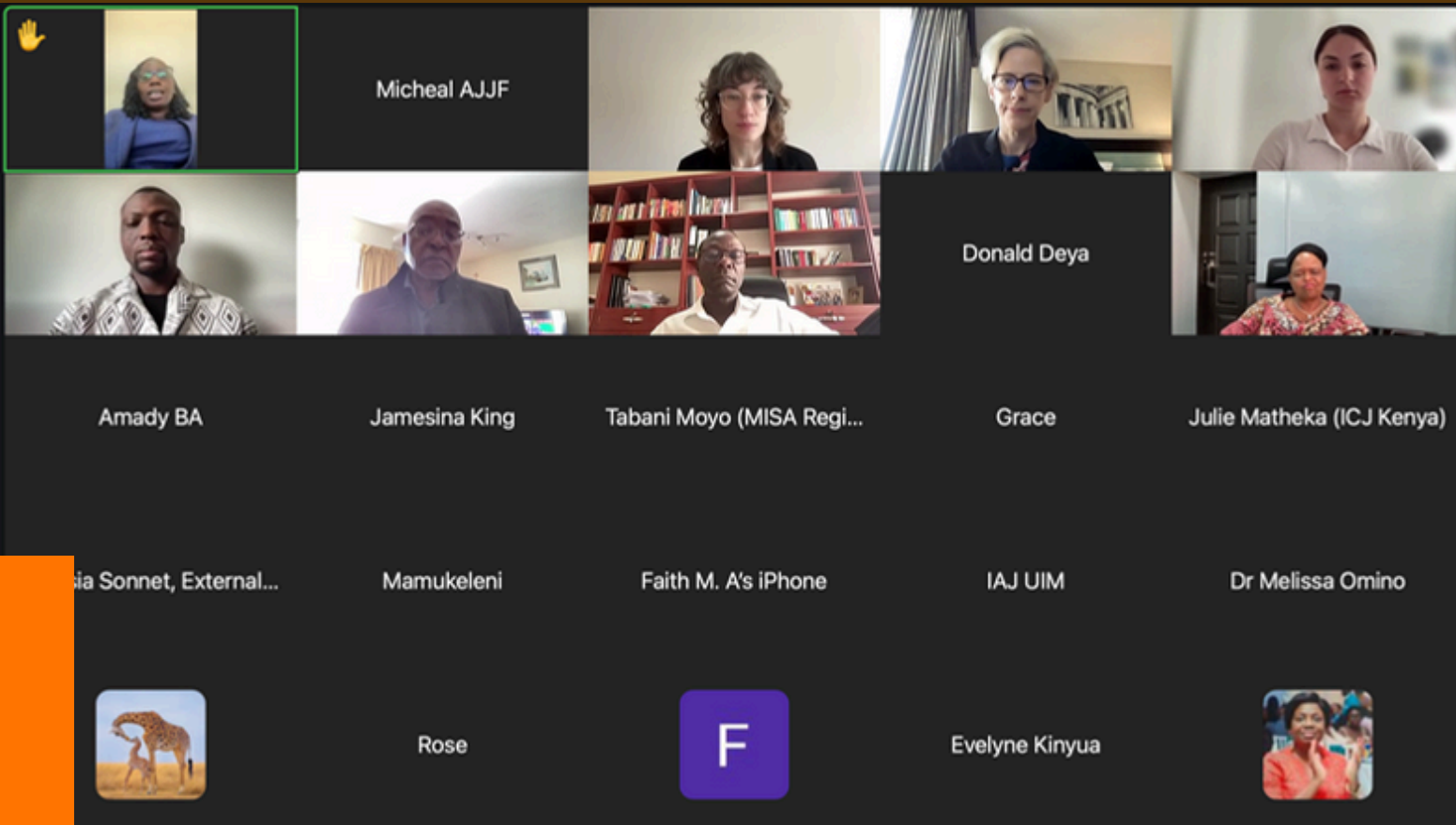
(g) MoU with African Court on Human Rights



The 20 May signing ceremony in Arusha brought together Court President Imani Aboud and AJJF's senior leadership to formalize five collaborative domains. Notably, Annex III of the agreement establishes joint capacity-building materials on adjudicating digital rights cases, drawing on AJJF's pioneering work in this field.

Key Activities

(h) Technical Support to the UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers



AJJF convened a closed-door consultation with 25 African judicial experts to inform the UN's 2024 judicial independence report. The session produced a 17-page submission analysing trends in judicial harassment across 12 focus countries, with particular emphasis on emerging digital surveillance threats to judicial officers.



Programs Overview



2. Africa Reparations Program

Lead: Ms Henrietta Ekefre

Funder: Open Society Foundations (OSF)

The Africa Reparations Program is one of the flagship initiative of the Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) and it is designed to respond to the enduring consequences of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and systemic racial injustice on the African continent. The program seeks to strengthen the legal, institutional, and advocacy frameworks necessary to advance reparatory justice across Africa.

In 2024, the Africa Reparations Program of the Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) laid critical foundations for a continental reparatory justice agenda rooted in law, policy, and community engagement. As African institutions geared up for the African Union's 2025 theme on reparations, AJJF provided legal leadership through convenings, capacity building, and strategic partnerships with AU organs, legal practitioners, and civil society.

The program's interventions focused on raising legal consciousness on reparative justice, strengthening technical capacity for advocacy and litigation, and shaping continental frameworks that support redress for historical and systemic harms, including slavery, colonialism, and apartheid. Through high-level summits, lawyer trainings, technical consultations, and the co-drafting of the AU White Paper on Reparations, AJJF played a central role in advancing legal and institutional momentum across Africa.

By the end of 2024, the program had trained and sensitised 274 legal professionals and transitional justice practitioners on their role in advancing reparatory justice for the continent, spearheaded the development of the AU White Paper on Reparations and integrated reparatory justice into key regional, legal and transitional justice platforms, positioning the program as a leading voice in Africa's journey towards achieving reparatory justice.



Key Activities

(a) Drafting and Validation of the AU White Paper on Reparations



Date: **Finalised May 2024**

AJJF co-led the development of the AU White Paper on Reparations for Africans and People of African Descent in collaboration with AU ECOSOCC. The White Paper proposed a continental programme of action and institutional mechanisms such as an AU Reparations Committee and a Global Fund. The document was formally adopted by the Permanent Representatives' Committee in February 2025.

(b.) Access to Justice panel at the All-Africa Judges and Jurists Summit

Date: **17–19 September 2024**

Location: **Nairobi, Kenya**

AJJF convened 157 participants—133 of whom were judges, jurists, and legal professionals—for the inaugural All-Africa Judges and Jurists Summit. A key session on Access to Justice for Historical Crimes explored legal frameworks for redress, judicial interpretation, and strategic litigation for reparations. The session significantly contributed to sensitising the judiciary on the role of courts in addressing historical and systemic injustices.



Key Activities

(c.) Participation in the African Transitional Justice Forum



Date: **12 September 2024**

Location: **Port Louis, Mauritius**

At the 8th African Transitional Justice Forum co-hosted by the African Union (AU) Commission and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), AJJF's Africa Reparations Program Lead, Ms Henrietta Ekefre, served as a panellist in Session 5, which focused on the role of legal institutions in promoting accountability. Her presentation addressed linkages between transitional justice and reparations and urged practitioners to integrate reparative justice into broader TJ processes across the continent. The session reached 102 participants, including transitional justice practitioners, policymakers, academics, and civil society actors.



Key Activities

(d.) Lawyers' Training at PALU's 14th Annual Conference



Date: **18 October 2024**

Location: **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

AJJF hosted a legal training themed “Reparative Justice in Africa: Legal Pathways to Address Historical and Contemporary Violations.” The session, attended by 39 lawyers, covered reparations mechanisms, legal strategy, and the AU’s Common Position on Reparations. The session strengthened technical capacity for strategic litigation and advocacy.



Key Activities

(e.) Engagements with regional and international organisations on the issue of reparations



AJJF continued its active engagement with key regional and international organisations in 2024 providing technical assistance, legal insight, and strategic guidance to strengthen ongoing efforts towards reparatory justice for Africans and people of African descent.

Building on existing collaborations, AJJF maintained its strong partnerships with the:

- African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC);
- The AU Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO); and
- The United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UNPFPAD).



AJJF's core role has been to offer technical support and legal expertise to these mechanisms as they design, refine, and implement continental and global reparations interventions. This includes:

1. Supporting AU ECOSOCC in developing and finalising the White Paper on Reparations, now adopted by the AU and integrated into its formal decisions;
2. Advising AU CIDO on mechanisms for engaging diaspora stakeholders and amplifying global campaigns for reparatory justice;
3. Convening consultative sessions with UNPFPAD and civil society actors to inform international reparations strategies grounded in African experiences.

Key Activities

(e.) Engagements with regional and international organisations on the issue of reparations



A notable highlight was the participation of AJJF's Secretary General, Mr. Martin Okumu, at the 35th Session of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, held from 2–6 December 2024. During this session, Mr. Okumu delivered a presentation addressing the critical issue of reparatory justice for people of African descent. His intervention:

1. Reaffirmed that the Transatlantic Slave Trade and slavery constitute egregious violations of human rights;
2. Emphasised the legal foundations supporting claims for reparations, grounded in international human rights law;
3. Highlighted that reparations go beyond financial compensation—they serve as public acknowledgement of historical injustices and an affirmation of the dignity and humanity of affected communities.

Through this engagement, AJJF helped frame the reparations discourse within a global human rights and legal justice framework and advanced the Africa's reparations agenda on the international stage. Moving forward, AJJF will continue to leverage its expertise and networks to influence global reparatory justice mechanisms, facilitate cross-continental exchanges, and ensure African voices remain central to all reparations policy spaces.

Programs Overview



3. Civic Space and Digital Rights

Lead: Dr Justice Mavedzenge

Funder:

This program, in collaboration with Youth and Society (YAS), explored the intersection of judicial protection and fundamental freedoms in an era of digital transformation. Focusing on high-risk environments, it facilitated dialogue between judiciaries, policymakers, and civil society to balance rights protection with national security imperatives. The 2024 Malawi National Dialogue exemplified AJJF's unique capacity to mediate between state institutions and civic actors, creating actionable frameworks for constitutional rights preservation. Future initiatives will expand this model to other digital rights flashpoints across the continent.



Key Activities

Lilongwe National Dialogue (23rd-24th August 2024)



The high-level mediation brought together Chief Justice Razine Mzikamanda, Justice Minister Titus Mvalo, and representatives from 22 civil society organizations for structured negotiations. Using a modified dialogue format developed by AJJF, participants resolved three longstanding sticking points on NGO regulations, resulting in the Lilongwe Pact's actionable 90-day implementation timeline.



Programs Overview

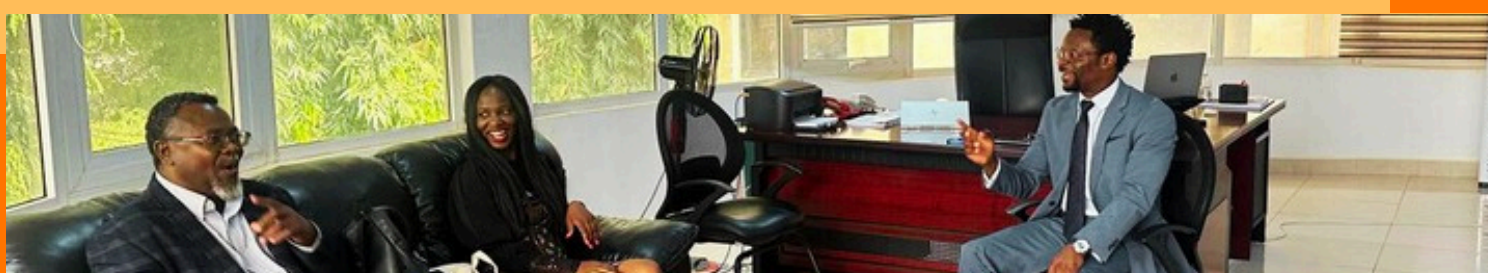


4. Electoral Justice

Lead: Mr Arnold Tsunga

Funder: AJJF CORE, NOREC

As electoral tensions escalate across Africa, this program provides critical technical assistance to judiciaries handling politically sensitive disputes. Its methodology combines comparative jurisprudence analysis with practical training on evidence assessment and conflict mitigation. The 2024 engagements focused on building judicial consensus around ADR mechanisms as tools for de-escalating electoral conflicts, while maintaining strict adherence to constitutional timelines. The 2024 engagements also focused on strengthening the platform that the AJJF incubated in 2019 in collaboration with the South Africa Judicial Education Institute of a safe space for judges, EMBs, Electoral experts and election dispute resolution practitioners in Africa titled the Africa Electoral Justice Network. The program's success lies in its dual focus on immediate dispute resolution and long-term electoral jurisprudence development.



Key Activities

ADR Summit Participation (5th-6th March 2024)



AJJF's technical team conducted intensive pre-summit consultations with Uganda's Judicial Training Institute to develop the "Kampala ADR Competency Framework." During the summit itself, Dr. Justice Mavedzenge led a masterclass on electoral ADR techniques attended by 37 judicial officers from 15 countries.



Consolidating the Africa Electoral Justice Network

AJJF continued in its role as the primary leader in the incubation and support with resources and technical expertise, of a platform for electoral justice practitioners who work in the difficult area of electoral dispute resolution. Through this AEJN platform, AJJF has created a sustainable safe space for judges from all jurisdictions in Africa irrespective of their context and whether members of the AJJF or not, to share experiences openly, mentor each other and appreciate best practices from each other without facing pressure from authorities in their jurisdictions. AJJF together with SAJEI of the Office of the Chief Justice of South Africa are the official secretariat of the AEJN platform, designing and implementing all policies and programmes of this platform.

TWITTER/X SPACE!

JUSTICE SYSTEM AND IMPACT ON ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

The Twitter Space will seek to increase awareness of key election stakeholders, judges, EMBs, electoral experts, lawyers, political parties of the importance of electoral adjudication on election integrity and enhance their contribution in the electoral field and to respond to the most urgent and pressing capacity development needs and challenges encountered by stakeholders in interpreting electoral laws

CORE PRESENTERS

Mrs Tanele Masoko

Mary Pais Dasilva

Dr. Justice Mavedzenge

Luciana Thuo

Waike Wanyoike

Professor Lovemore Madzuku

AJJF - Norec Fellows (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya and Uganda)

MODERATORS
Arnold Tsunga (Elections and Rule of Law Advisor – AJJF), David Mburu (ICJ Kenya and Norec Fellow) and Mondokazi Ntshhele (AJJF and Norec Fellow)

Join via link: <https://bit.ly/3Yz9c3w> or scan QR code

Thursday
8th August 2024

3-5pm (EAT) 2-4pm (CAT)
12noon-2pm (GMT).

Key Activities

3rd AEJN Annual conference (31 January -2 February 2024)



AJJF in collaboration with the Judicial Service Commission of Zimbabwe, the Southern and East Africa Chief Justices Forum and the South Africa Judicial Education Institute co-organised the 3rd AEJN Annual conference held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in January-February 2024. The theme of the Annual Conference was Turning the Hope of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to Action – The Role of the Judiciary in Upholding the Rule of Law and Ensuring Free, Fair, and Credible Elections in Africa. The meeting was attended by 130 people comprising Chief Justices, judges, magistrates, Election Management Bodies representatives, civil society leaders, academics and elections experts, representatives of the African Union and the United Nations from the following countries, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Seychelles, the United Kingdom, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The African Union was represented by Ambassador Salah Hammad of the Africa Governance Architecture.

Key Activities



The United Nations independent expert and Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite also participated as did the Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and focal person on judicial independence, Prof Remy Ngumbu Loy. The conference report can be found [here](#)



Africa Day Seminar May 2024

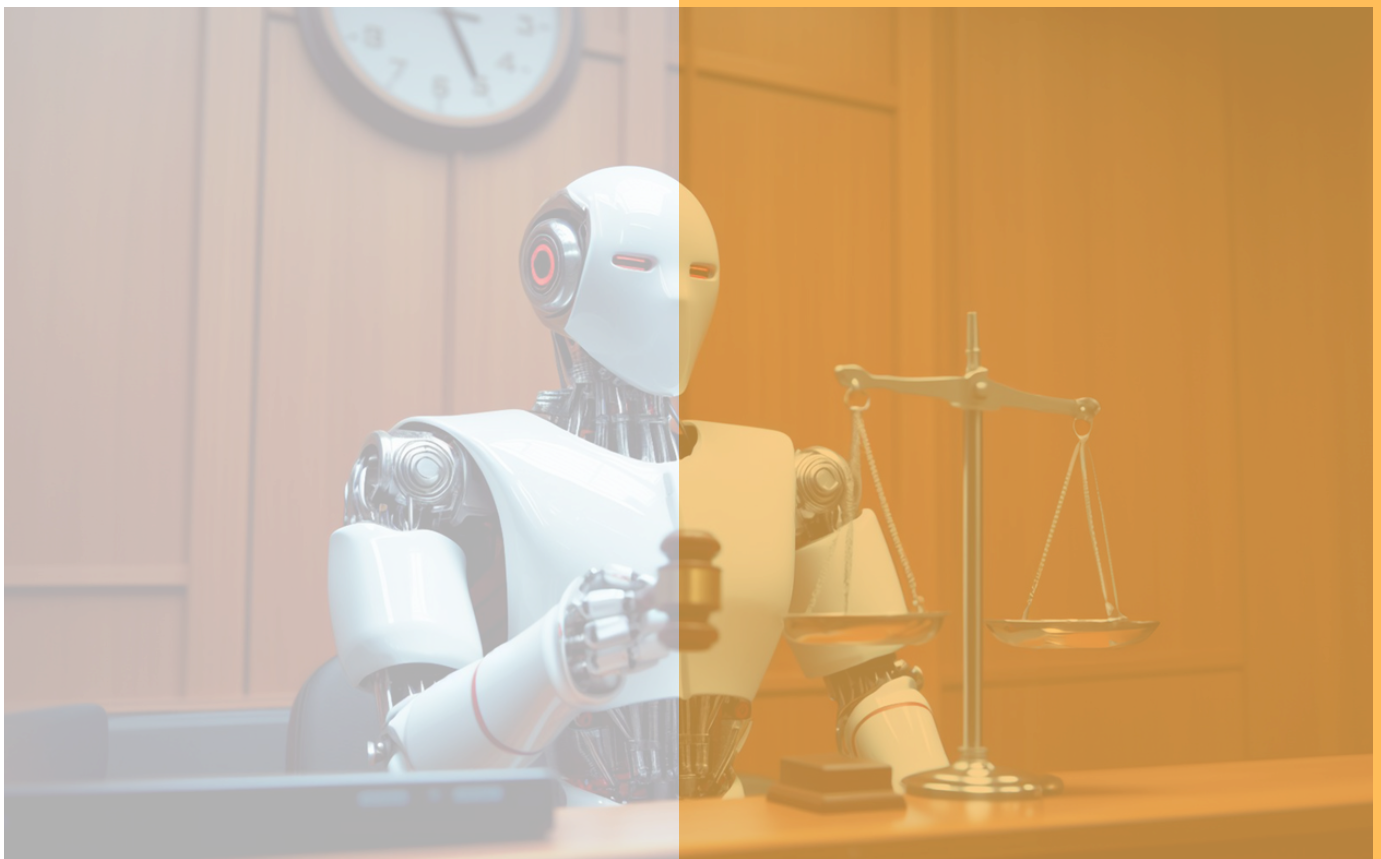
In May 2024 AJJF via the auspices of the Africa Electoral Justice Network held a webinar that explored the role of electoral judges, EMBs, and civil society activists in protecting and promoting women's participation in electoral processes in line with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and international norms. The webinar facilitated the exchange between judicial officers, electoral management bodies, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to address barriers to political and public life and access to electoral justice for women and other marginalized groups.

Key Activities

Webinar 31 October 2024



In October 2024 through its platform Africa Electoral Justice Network, AJJF and collaborating partners organized a webinar on the Future of Artificial Intelligence in African Elections: A Double-Edged Sword? The Webinar reflected on Artificial Intelligence in elections and the benefits and challenges posed by AI to democracy, political and electoral decision-making and the delivery of electoral justice. Artificial intelligence was seen as presenting challenges, risks and opportunities that required judges and other electoral justice actors to update their knowledge and capabilities before widespread AI deployment in electoral processes.



Programs Overview

5. NOREC Program

Lead: Mr Arnold Tsunga

Funder: Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)

The NOREC Program represents AJJF's investment in the next generation of African legal leaders. By facilitating cross-border exchanges between emerging practitioners and established jurists, it creates dynamic networks for knowledge transfer and best practice sharing. The 2024 cohort focused particularly on cutting-edge issues including AI governance, climate justice litigation, and digital rights protection - areas critical to Africa's future legal landscape. This program's unique value lies in its ability to translate academic theory into practical judicial innovation across multiple jurisdictions.



Key Activities

Participation in Conferences and Summits.



Fellows played substantive roles at three major events, with particular impact at the Africa Public Interest Litigation Conference where they contributed to drafting the conference working document at the Conference. At the World Movement for Democracy Assembly, the cohort organized a special session on digital authoritarianism featuring testimony from five African human rights defenders.

Workshops on Emerging Legal Issues.

The AI Governance workshop at University of Pretoria utilized a unique simulation format, where fellows developed technology impact evaluations for actual pending legislation from their home countries. This practical exercise yielded nine policy briefs subsequently submitted to respective parliamentary committees.



Key Activities Advocacy and Public Engagement.



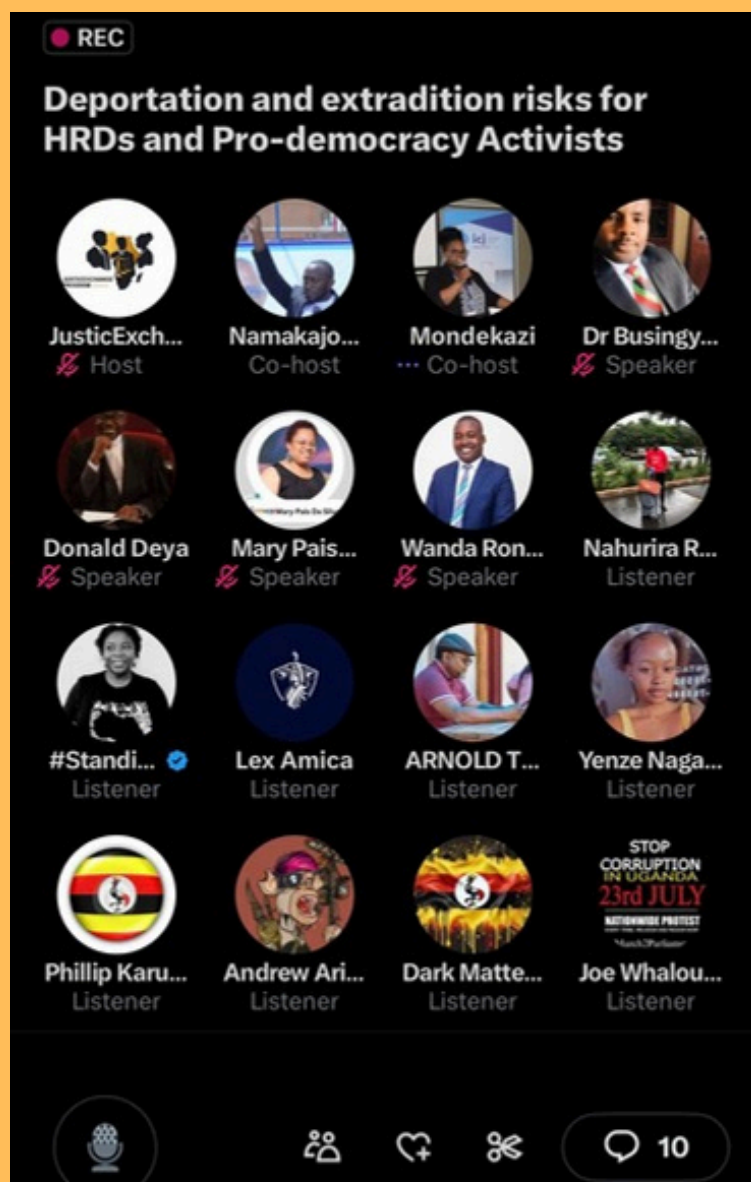
Fellows designed and executed a coordinated social media campaign reaching over 150,000 stakeholders, producing 12 technical recommendations on digital rights enforcement. The Twitter Space series featured live interventions from seven African human rights commissioners discussing contemporary challenges.

Thought Leadership Lectures.

The Thulani Maseko Memorial Lecture hosted 85 participants in Johannesburg, with parallel virtual attendance from 14 law schools across the continent. Panelists analysed six emblematic cases of judicial harassment under AJJF's leadership.

Research and Knowledge Production.

The compendium development process involved rigorous peer-review by senior jurists, resulting in case studies with standardized analysis frameworks. Chapter 3 on "Algorithmic Accountability in African Courts" has been adopted as supplemental reading at three regional judicial academies.



Collaborations and Partnerships



The Africa Judges & Jurists Forum
Join our
ZOOM WEBINAR
TOPIC
**THE STATE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE
IN EAST AFRICA**
CONTEMPORARY THREATS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Speakers:
 Dr. Mercy Deche (ICJ Kenya)
 Margaret Satterthwaite (United Nations Special Rapporteur)
 Dr. Willy Mutunga (Retired Chief Justice - Kenya)
 Ms. Faith Mony Odhiambo (Vice President, Law Society of Kenya)

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR:
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/wn_YLzgniAMTieMWwbXPwVeDw
 After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

TIME: 15:30HRS - 17:00HRS EAT
DATE: 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

OUR PARTNERS
 ICJ, EAST AFRICA LAW SOCIETY, TANGANYIKA LAW SOCIETY, SEAJCF

The Africa Judges & Jurists Forum
ZOOM WEBINAR
TOPIC
**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND CIVIC SPACE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

7th MARCH 2024
1400HRS-1530HRS (SAST)

OUR PARTNERS
 SOUTHERN DEFENDERS, CIVICUS, SADC LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

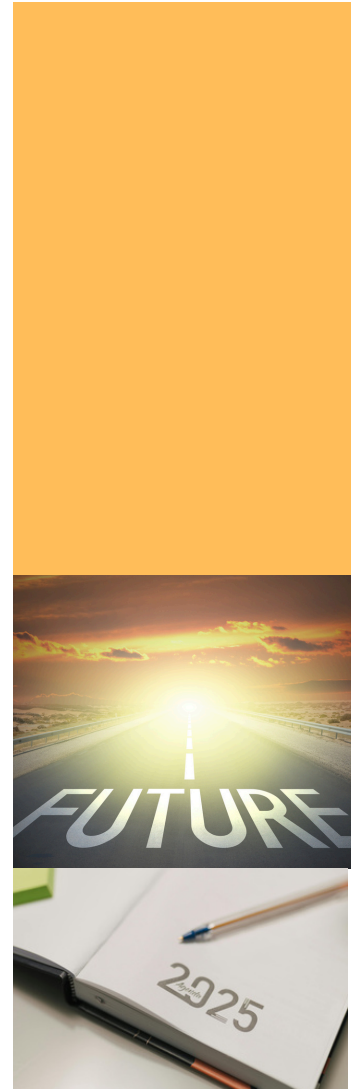
The Africa Judges & Jurists Forum
WEBINAIRE ZOOM
**INDÉPENDANCE DE LA JUSTICE
EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST
FRANCOPHONE**
DÉFIS ÉMERGENTS ET SOLUTIONS

25 JUILLET 2024
 1200HRS CÔTE D'IVOIRE, TOGO ET SÉNÉGAL
 1300HRS BÉNIN
 1400HRS AFRIQUE DU SUD
 1500HRS HEURE D'AFRIQUE DE L'EST

OUR PARTNERS
 SOUTHERN DEFENDERS, CIVICUS, SADC LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

What Is Ahead for 2025

- **All Africa Judges and Jurists Summit (AAJJS) 2025:** Continue building on the success of the inaugural summit.
- **Continental Study:** Conduct research on judicial independence across Africa.
- **Guidelines and Model Laws on Judicial Independence:** Develop frameworks to strengthen judicial independence.
- **Fiscal Independence of Judiciaries:** Advocate for financial autonomy for judiciaries in Africa.
- **Organise 4th Africa Electoral Justice Network Conference:** Themes being Reflection on Election Dispute Resolution in past Elections while Reflecting on AI and Impact on Electoral Justice.
- **AI, Elections and the Rule of Law:** Develop in collaboration with Technical Partner(s) a judicial Toolkit on AI and Electoral Justice.
- Develop a regional mentorship program to pair NOREC fellows with senior legal professionals.
- Publish a **second edition of the Compendium on Arising Issues in Human Rights and Governance in Africa**, incorporating new research and case studies.
- Host a **NOREC Fellows' Summit** to showcase their contributions and foster collaboration among alumni.



Thank You

We are ready to assist you

For more information about AJJF Programmes and Partnerships, please contact the Secretary General Martin Okumu-Masiga at okumu-masiga@africajurists.org | info@africajurists.org

 +27 716 405 926

 OFFICE 504A, ROSEBANK MALL OFFICES | 50 BATH AVENUE, ROSEBANK 2196 | JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

 www.africajurists.org

