



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW TO MITIGATE HARM: SECURITY AND JUSTICE PROVISION AFTER CONFLICT AND TRANSITION

BIOGRAPHIES

Leadership

Dr. Assis Malaquias oversees curriculum and program development as Academic Dean at the Africa Center. This includes lines of effort in Advancing Military Professionalism; Countering Transnational Organized Crime; Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism; Cyber Domain Awareness, Cybersecurity, and Information/Disinformation; Maritime Safety and Security; National Security Strategy Development; Peace Support Operations and Crisis Response; and Rule of Law and Security Sector Governance.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Malaquias served as Professor and Chair in the Department of Global Studies and Maritime Affairs at the California State University Maritime Academy. Dr. Malaquias' previous positions include: Professor and Chair of Defense Economics and Resource Management at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies; Associate Dean of International and Intercultural Studies and Professor of Government at St. Lawrence University; Extraordinary Associate Professor of Political Studies at the University of Western Cape in South Africa; and a Visiting Professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

Dr. Malaquias holds an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Dalhousie University, Canada.

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work focuses on party politics and democratization, rule of law and security sector governance, and transnational organized crime. She is faculty lead for the rule of law and security sector governance portfolio, as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

Previously, Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to Burundi, CAR, DRC, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda to work with a range of national and local judicial officials, paralegals, and civil society. Fluent in French, Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Kelly has earned

fellowships from Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, West Africa Research Association, Harvard University, and the U.S. Government's Foreign Language and Area Studies program for the Wolof language. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on eighteen months of research in Senegal. She has also published in *African Security*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Comparative Politics*, *The Washington Post*, *Democracy in Africa*, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers.

Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.

Keynote Speakers

Ms. Sharon L. Cromer, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of The Gambia on January 27, 2022. Ambassador Cromer was nominated by President Joseph Biden on June 23, 2021 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 18, 2021.

She served as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director at the U.S. Embassies in Accra, Ghana (2017-2021), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2013-2017), Abuja, Nigeria (2007-2009), and Accra, Ghana (2002-2007). In Washington, she served as the USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator and Acting Assistant Administrator in the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (2009). She also served as the USAID Acting Chief Human Capital Officer and Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Human Capital and Talent Management (2016). Ms. Cromer's other foreign assignments include Indonesia (1998-2002), Senegal (1991-1996), Ivory Coast (1990-1991), and Pakistan (1988-1990).

Ambassador Cromer graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and from Georgetown University Law Center with a Juris Doctor degree. She is a recipient of a Presidential Rank Award, the USAID Administrator's Reengineering Award, a State Department Superior Honor Award, and multiple performance awards for her more than three decades of service.

Lieutenant General Yakuba A. Drammeh (psc) is the Chief of Defence Staff of the Gambia Armed Forces. His distinguished military career began in August 1985. During the period under review, Lt Gen Drammeh held various regimental command positions and staff appointments at all levels (both at home and overseas), including outstanding tours of duty in peacekeeping operations (PKO) under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Some of the appointments held by the General Officer include: Deputy Chief of Defence Staff; Chief of Army Staff, Gambia National Army; Chairman of the National Organizing Committee in the margins of the Meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS held in Banjul; Director of Security and Operations for the Banjul - AU Heads of State and Government Summit; Camp Commandant, Force Headquarters - African Mission in Sudan-Darfur;

Contingent Command -Force Protection AMIS FHQ; Director, Training and Operations, Defence Headquarters-Gambia Armed Forces; Chief, Administration and Personnel at FHQ ECOWAS Mission in Liberia; Director of Administration and Logistics, HQ GNA; Military Observer as Staff Officer Grade 1 Responsible for DDR & Military Information respectively with the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone; Deputy Commandant Gambia Armed Forces Training School; Commanding Officer - 1 Infantry Battalion, Commanding Officer - 2 Infantry Battalion; Commanding Officer Guards Battalion; Company Commander Guards Battalion; Military Assistant to Army Commander-GNA; Regimental Signal Officer-GNA, amongst others. In addition, the General Officer attended various local and overseas command and staff military training/courses in the United States, United Kingdom, Nigeria and Pakistan, amongst others. He is a graduate of the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College.

The General Officer is a proud recipient of several awards and decorations. These include Good Conduct Medal, Long Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, UNAMSIL Medal, United Nations Mission in Liberia Medal, UNAMID Medal, ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) Medal, Passed Staff Course (with merit) and Order of the Republic of The Gambia, among others.

During his tenure with ECOMIL and AMIS peacekeeping operations, the General Officer chaired numerous FHQ disciplinary boards of inquiry, which he handled with consummate professionalism and integrity. His analytical approach, critical and well-balanced assessment of the situations at the time, coupled with timely submission of the Board's findings and recommendations earned him unreserved respect and admiration by his superiors and juniors.

Lt Gen Drammeh is an accomplished diplomat. In April 2010, he was deployed to the diplomatic/foreign service following an initial 25 years of distinguished military career. As a diplomat, he first served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia to the Republic of Turkey from May 2010-April 2012. He was later posted to The Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations and appointed Deputy Permanent Representative. He served with distinction in that capacity from April 2012-May 2015.

Given the multi-faceted, intriguing, and challenging nature of multilateral diplomacy, General Drammeh had the exceptional privilege to have presided over and/or engaged in constructive and purposeful dialogue, negotiation and consensus building on complex and contentious issues ranging from human rights domains, climate change, global terrorism, disarmament, working groups on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and peacekeeping operations, amongst others.

Lt General Drammeh was recalled to home duty in May 2015 following the successful completion of his tour of duty with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations. Accordingly, he was reinstated in the Gambia Armed Forces in June 2015 and reappointed Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (DCDS). He has held the position of DCDS until March 2020 when he was appointed the eighth Chief of Defence Staff of The Gambia Armed Forces.

Subject Matter Experts

Ms. Mireille Kahatwa Amani has been a member of the North Kivu Bar in Goma since 2005. She is currently working as a consultant for a Canadian organization, Comité International d'Aide d'Urgence et de Développement (CIAUD) in Burkina Faso, as coordinator for gender-based

violence, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and child protection in emergency situations. From 2008 to 2020, she worked with the American Bar Association as Project Director on issues of gender-based violence, community access to justice, judicial capacity-building, combating impunity and restoring public confidence in the rule of law. She has been a member of legal groups in several international crime trials, such as the "Minova" trial, the "Tsheka" trial, the "Habarugira" trial, the "Kibibi" trial, She is one of the main subjects in the documentary "The Prosecutor", about access to justice for victims of gender-based violence in the DRC, Serbia and Colombia. She is co-producer of the film "Letter to my son from rape", based on a poem by a survivor of rape as a war crime in eastern DR Congo.

Dr. Joel Amegboh is an Assistant Professor for African Security Studies at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, responsible for overseeing academic programming on National Security Strategy Development and Youth, Peace, and Security and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach. Previously, Dr. Amegboh worked for several United Nations agencies and departments, including the Educational Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information and the Mali Integrated Operational Team, located in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. His research focuses on peacebuilding paradigms in Africa, the role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, human security, the security-development-governance nexus.

Dr. Amegboh holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, an M.A. in Global Development and Peace Studies, and a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. He is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

Mr. Etienne Bakadisansa Lunda is an electrical civil engineer with an electro-energy specialization, Bac+5, from the Polytechnic School of the University of Kinshasa, with a cumulative experience of 19 years, mainly in the energy and security sectors.

In the energy sector, Mr. Bakadisansa has been in turn Design Engineer, Project Engineer for EPCs on projects financed by the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Bank investment, the governments of the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, before working for large multinational electrical equipment as Sales Engineer, Sales Manager, Site Manager, Marketing and Sales Manager and finally Business Development Manager but each time with the role of project security risk manager.

Knowledge of the energy sector in the DRC has led Mr. Bakadisansa to become a National Security Council (CNS) consultant-expert on energy issues in general (and electricity in particular) and their security implications for two years, and then as expert-consultant member of Security Sector Reform (SSR) coordination within the CNS, which coordinates the process of strengthening SSR in the DRC.

Mr. Tim Bisong is the Country Director for Justice Defenders in The Gambia. Tim's first-hand experience of incarceration spurred him to work to reform the criminal justice system. He has worked within the correctional reform and restorative justice sector as a consultant for 10 years. Prior to launching Justice Defenders' work in The Gambia, Tim was project lead for the United

Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and worked for Prison Fellowship. Leading a project which resulted in an impact measurement tool planned for use across 155 countries. Tim has shared the task of developing the Human Rights Manual 2021 of Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. He has a degree in Law and Political Science from the University of Douala and has completed studies in peace management and conflict analysis with the United States Institute of Peace.

Honorable Attorney-At-Law Samuel F. Dakana is the current National Security Sector Reform Coordinator, National Security Council Secretarial, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs in Liberia. Before his appointment to this position in September 2015, he served as Prosecutor with the Ministry of Justice for over one year, served as Deputy Inspector General of Police for Training/Commandant for over three years, served as Deputy Inspector General of Police for Administration for over two years, served as Acting Assistant Director for Administration with the National Security Agency (an Intelligence Institution/ Agency) for over two years.

Additionally, Hon. Atty. Dakana also served as Assistant Director of Police for administration for over two years, Director for Security Investigation with the Ministry of National Security for over three years. Hon. Atty. Dakana before excelling to high presidential appointed positions, served as an administrator, investigator and patrol officer with the Liberia National Police and during these years, he has and continue to serve with professionalism and distinction.

During his tenure at the Liberia National Police, he was a ranking member of several committees that initiated and implemented the Government of Liberia- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Security Sector Reform program and the Government of Liberia-UNMIL Transition Plan. Hon. Atty. Samuel F. Dakana holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the Africa Methodist Episcopal Zion University, Bachelor of Law Degree from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia and Master of Art Degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation from the University of Liberia.

Mr. Nyundu Drammeh is Commissioner at the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia. Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Mr. Drammeh was the National Coordinator of the Child Protection Alliance, the only child rights coalition in The Gambia. Commissioner Drammeh worked with the Department of Social Welfare and served as a national United Nations Volunteer with UNICEF.

Mr. Drammeh is a child rights activist, with more than 20 years of experience in child rights and child protection law and policies in The Gambia. He is a trainer on national and international legal frameworks and standards relating to children, child protection and child rights programming. His interests include women's rights promotion, gender-based violence and human rights in general which led to his role as facilitator in capacity building seminars in these areas. Commissioner Drammeh engages in advocacy and research on child protection and has great commitment to the cause of children.

He loves reading, debate and music and has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Delhi.

Mr. Abdoulie Fatty recently served as UNDP Legal Consultant at the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) in The Gambia. He provided legal analysis and contributed to the drafting of the TRRC's final report (comprising the findings and recommendations) to establish credible transitional justice processes and mechanisms to promote reconciliation and sustainable peace following twenty-two years of brutal dictatorship. Alongside an international consultant, Mr. Fatty was the UNDP local consultant that developed the Rule of Law Roadmap 2020-2025 that seeks to strengthen the rule of law, enhance justice and security service delivery. Abdoulie founded A. Fatty & Co Law Firm in October 2018. He has a diverse practice and regularly appears in the Magistrates' Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He represents clients in both criminal and civil matters. Abdoulie has passion for human rights, constitutional and administrative law, transitional justice, and democratisation. Mr. Fatty has recently been involved in public interest litigation with regards important constitutional matters before the High Court and the Supreme Court.

From 2016 to 2018, Mr. Fatty was junior partner at Dandimayo Chambers where he acted for clients in civil and criminal matters. These include commercial, contractual and property disputes, as well as defendants charged with serious offences such as murder, rape, economic crimes and drug possession and trafficking. Abdoulie was appointed a Magistrate at the Banjul Magistrates' Court in 2015 following his return home from England. He presided over cases ranging from misdemeanour criminal offences to felonies, as well as civil disputes such as simple contractual disputes and contentious corporate and commercial transactions.

Abdoulie was appointed by the Chief Justice to Head the Special Narcotics Court in Banjul in January 2016 and was responsible for all drug cases in the Banjul. He dispensed a large volume of cases by propagating an ingenious approach to justice and respect for the principle of the rule of law by convicting offenders and sentencing them to time served and ordering their immediate release from prison. Many of these convicts had spent many years in prison. Abdoulie says that he derived a great deal of satisfaction from his liberal and human rights based approach to delivering justice. Abdoulie also served as Chairman of the Banjul Industrial Tribunal, presiding over labour disputes in the private sector. He protected the rights of workers by delivering just and equitable justice.

Mr. Fatty has LLB (Hons) and LLM in International Human Rights Law and Practice from York Law School and the Centre for Applied Human Rights, the University of York, United Kingdom. Abdoulie completed his mandatory Bar vocational training at BPP University in Leeds, U.K. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, London. He was the recipient of the Inner Temple Exhibition Award for the Bar course and the Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award for call to the Bar.

Commandant Gregoire Dangavo Gbei is the Director of Legal Affairs, Archives, and Documentation at the Ministry of National Defense and the Reconstruction of the Military in Central African Republic. He holds several other roles for the Ministry, including Focal Point to the International Criminal Court, Gender Focal Point for the Security Sector Reform coordinating body, Human Rights Focal Point to MINUSCA, and Gender Focal Point for the Ministry for the Promotion of Family, Gender, and Child Protection. Commandant Dangavo Gbei is a graduate of the University of Bangui, and the National School of Public Administration and Magistrature (ENAM) in Bangui.

Mr. Sait Matty Jaw is the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Research and Policy Development (CRPD), a legally registered, independent, non-profit, and non-partisan social research, advocacy, learning and capacity building organization committed to promoting inclusive democratic governance in The Gambia. Sait is also a lecturer in the Political Science Department at the University of The Gambia where he has been a faculty member since 2014 focusing on Gambian politics. His research interests cut across democracy, human security, transitional justice, migration, and natural resource governance.

As a consultant, Sait have led large scale research teams to collect both quantitative and qualitative data for various actors and institution including UNDP-The Gambia, World Bank, University of Edinburg, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and CDD West Africa. Since 2018, he has been the National Investigator of Afrobarometer and led a team of ten researchers from CEPRASS to conduct three rounds of Afrobarometer surveys in the Gambia. In this role, he has managed to help not only make Afrobarometer a household name in Gambia but continue to lead efforts to effectively disseminate the findings and increase the user base of the Afrobarometer survey. He has also done project evaluation and supported the process of designing various strategic documents including the National Transitional Justice Strategy for the Gambia, CSO Coalition on Election Strategy among other.

Mr. Jaw has also led, facilitated, and serve as resource person for various capacity building programs for various actors namely parliamentarians, civil society, security personnel among other. In 2018, he was hired by ECOWAS/GIZ to facilitate training for political actors in Mali on the ECOWAS Handbook. He also facilitated training for International IDEA for media and journalists ahead of election.

In the area of Security Reform and Governance, Sait has been part of the process to reform Gambian security since 2017 first serving as member of the technical working group task with the assessment and later in numerous capacities to help advance SSR in the Gambia. He is frequently invited by the Gambia Armed Forces to deliver lectures and training on civil military relations as part of the Chief of Defense Staff training directives for the Army. He has also facilitated series of trainings to build capacities of various civil society actors.

Sait is a blogger and political commentator and his articles have appeared in *Africa Arguments*, *The Guardian*. He frequently appears on local and international media as an expert on The Gambia. Aljazeera, BBC, Guardian, and Washington Post have routinely quoted him among others. Sait is Fellow of PRIF and working on the project, "Local perceptions of regional interventions: AU and ECOWAS in Burkina Faso and The Gambia."

Mr. Ben Kabagambe, Country Director, Central African Republic, joined the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in December 2016 and oversees the implementation of access to justice and judicial accountability programs, including support to ABA ROLI's network of legal aid clinics, attorneys, and psychosocial workers. Kabagambe has extensive experience in the protection of human rights and access to justice. Prior to joining ABA ROLI he worked with Minority Rights Group International (MRG) as a Regional Legal Officer for the Eastern and the Central African region, as well as with Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF) in Rwanda where he supervised access to justice activities, and in Chad as Country Coordinator

working to improve access to justice in collaboration with local civil society organizations. He also worked as a Regional Program Officer for Protection International in a program aiming to protect the rights of Human Rights Defenders in the East and the Horn of Africa. He holds a law degree from the Université Lumière de Bujumbura, Burundi and currently pursuing a master's degree in international Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid with the KALU Institute.

Mr. Emmanuel Kabengele Kalonji is a lawyer, criminologist and security researcher at the School of Criminology of the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is also National Coordinator of the Network for the Reform of the Security and Justice Sector in the DRC, and has produced several analyses on national and international public policies for stabilization and reform of the security sector, including the following articles: "Risques électoraux en Afrique Centrale: cas de la République Démocratique du Congo"; "La Réforme des Services de Renseignements en République Démocratique du Congo: Le Cas de l'Agence Nationale de Renseignements (ANR)"; "Rôle de la société civile dans la réforme du secteur de défense et sécurité".

Colonel Mohamed Bona Shaika Kamara Esq became the Director of Defence Legal, Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces in January 2018. He is responsible to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff for all legal matters, both military and civil within the MoD. He is responsible to prepare Legal instruments such as memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Contract, lease Agreements, and or other legal instruments as required by the Ministry of Defence. He is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone and a member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association.

Colonel Mohamed Bona Shaika Kamar Esq was commissioned in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces as an infantry Officer in 1999. Since then, he has served in various capacities, including a military prosecutor, Commanding Officer, Battalion Second-in-Command, Military Observer in Darfur Sudan. Military Assistant, Company Commander, Battalion Adjutant, Platoon Commander and other appoints.

Prior to his deployment at the ministry of Defence as the Director of Legal, Colonel Mohamed Bona Shaika Kamara Esq. served as Commanding Officer at the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Technical Education College. Colonel Kamara coordinated the establishment of a technical college for training of Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) personnel, in foreign Languages and other related courses. Colonel Kamara served as a military observer with the United Nation Mission in Darfur – Sudan from 2010 to 2011. Additionally, during the 2018 Military Court, Colonel Kamara served as one of the prosecutors, where he was in charge of military lawyers involved in the trial. In August 2022, Colonel Kamara, attended the African Military Law Forum in Gaborone Botswana.

Colonel Kamara is a graduate of the Institute of Advance Management and Technology, Sierra Leone with a Bachelor of Science (BSc Dev Econs), University of Makeni with an (LLB), the Sierra Leone Law School (BL) and currently an LLM student at the University of Makeni. He has been awarded the Defence Meritorious Service Medal and various other awards.

Dr. Simeon Koroma is the founder of Timap for Justice – a community-based organisation in Sierra Leone that provides legal aid and other justice services, including support of communities'

(especially women's) rights to legally own, access and utilise land. Simeon is a leading advocate of meaningful community involvement in agriculture and mining concession agreements. He spearheaded the campaign for the formal recognition of paralegals and the establishment of a Legal Aid Board in Sierra Leone. He holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, with research interests in law and (extra)legal methods, (re)production of 'justice', and (community) disputing processes.

Dr. Luka Biong Deng Kuol is an independent consultant and an adjunct distinguished professor of African security studies with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at National Defense University in Washington. His areas of expertise include Development - Security - Governance Nexus, Public Policy Design, Implementation and Evaluation, National Security Strategy Development and Implementation in Africa, Management of Security Resources in Africa, Post-Conflict Transitions, Peacebuilding and State building, Livelihoods, Vulnerability and Food Security and Humanitarian - Development Nexus.

Dr. Kuol is also a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), a Fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, and an Associate Professor of Economics (on leave) at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He is a member of the United Nations Security Sector Advisory Council, a member of the African Security Sector Network and a founding member of South Sudan Studies Association. He also sits on the editorial board of the *Disasters Journal*, published by the United Kingdom Overseas Development Institute.

He was the Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. In addition, he was the faculty lead of three academic programs: National Security Strategy Development and Implementation in Africa, Managing Security Resources in Africa, and Emerging Security Sector Leaders in Africa. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as the director of the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also a member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a resident fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

He served as a Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as a National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan. He was the founder of the New Sudan Center for Statistics and Evaluation that became the South Sudan Bureau of Statistics.

He has published scholarly articles in a wide array of prestigious international journals and contributed with many peer-reviewed chapters in various books and peer reviewer for more than fifteen renowned peer-reviewed journals. He is the lead author of the National Security Strategy Development in Africa: Toolkit for Drafting and Consultation published by the Africa Center. He is a co-editor of a book entitled "*The Struggle for South Sudan: Challenges of Security and State Formation*", co-editor of a book entitled "*Abyei: Between Two Sudans*" and author of two books entitled "*Confronting Civil War: Vulnerability and Resilience in South Sudan and Sudan*" and "*Why Does Famine Persist in Africa?*"

He received his Bachelor of Science from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the

University of Khartoum, Sudan, master's degree in economics and Master of Business Administration from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

Brigadier General (Professor) Dan Kuwali serves in the Malawi Defence Force as the Commandant of the Malawi Defense College. He was previously Chief of Legal Services and Judge Advocate General. He is an extraordinary Professor of International Law and International Relations at the University of Pretoria and Visiting Professor at Lund University, Sweden where he also earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in International Law. He has been a Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and has served as a Legal Advisor in the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. General Kuwali was also a Fellow and Scholar at the United States Army War College in Pennsylvania.

He is the current Chairperson of the Malawi National International Humanitarian Law Committee. He was a Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Malawi in the negotiations on the Cluster Munition Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty, where he significantly contributed to the drafting of some of the key provisions of these legal instruments. Professor Kuwali has published extensively, including several books and dozens of peer-reviewed articles. His most recent publications include the Oxford Bibliography on The Use of Force for Protection of Human Rights in Africa and The Palgrave Handbook on Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa.

Ms. Annah Moyo-Kupeta is the Executive Director at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr). Ms. Moyo-Kupeta is a human rights lawyer with extensive experience working in the legal, transitional justice, human rights, peace and security, gender, and violence prevention fields. She has developed a number of soft law instruments for various target audiences from policymakers, peer CSO groups, and victim groups. Her expertise in peace and security, transitional justice, and post-conflict transformation has found expression through her presentations and briefings on high-level platforms involving governments, embassies, academia, policymakers, and CSOs at national, regional, continental, and global levels.

Mr. Lury Nkouessom is a distinguished legal professional and humanitarian leader, making a significant impact in the realms of international development and access to justice. Currently serving as a Technical Advisor at Dexis Consulting Group, he brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the table. With a remarkable track record, Attorney Nkouessom has held pivotal roles in various organizations, demonstrating his commitment to justice and positive change. Previously, he excelled as the Team Leader for the Access to Justice Component and Deputy Chief of Party for the USAID Mali Justice Project (MJP) within Dexis Consulting Group. Under his leadership, the MJP made strides in empowering marginalized communities and advancing justice initiatives in Mali.

Before his tenure at the MJP, Mr Nkouessom played a vital role as the Deputy Country Director for Program with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). During this time, he oversaw an extensive portfolio of 8 projects, further solidifying his reputation as a capable and dedicated leader. As the Country Director for ABA ROLI in Mali, Nkouessom actively collaborated with the government on transitional justice matters and worked closely with communities and civil groups to promote

truth-seeking initiatives and reconciliation efforts. Notably, he spearheaded efforts to combat descent-based slavery, offering assistance to victims and advocating for legislative reforms.

Mr. Nkouessom's leadership capabilities extend beyond borders, as evidenced by his work at the Carter Center in Liberia. There, he led the access to justice program, enhancing the dispute resolution skills of traditional leaders and advocating for good governance. His impactful efforts provided much-needed legal services and education to underserved communities through community-based paralegals.

An accomplished scholar, Attorney Nkouessom holds degrees in law, legal translation, and international relations. He is trilingual in English, French, and Spanish.

Brigadier General Bruno Ouayolo is currently the Chief Advisor for Security Sector Reform to the President of the Central African Republic. Named to the position in 2020, BG Ouayolo has coordinated the elaboration of a National Strategy for Security Sector Reform, as well as the revision of key framework documents for the SSR process in CAR, including the National Security Policy. A Gendarme with a career spanning nearly 30 years, BG Ouayolo was the Director of the Gendarmes prior to being named Chief Advisor to the President. He has held several operational roles, including Commander of the 1st Territorial Gendarmerie Unit in Bangui, Commander of the 5th Territorial Gendarmerie Unit in Bozoum, and Territorial Gendarmerie Legion Commander. He is a graduate of the University of Bangui, the Combined Arms School (EMIA) at Saint Cyr, and the International War College of Yaounde.

Mr. Urias Teh Pour currently serves as the Executive Director of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) in Liberia. Previously, he played a pivotal role in post-conflict recovery by collaborating with the Carter Center (TCC) as a Legal Advisor for the Rule of Law Project in Liberia. In this capacity, he supported the comprehensive reform of the justice and security sectors following a 14-year-long civil war. Furthermore, Mr. Pour contributed significantly to advancing human rights as a Human Rights Officer for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

During the tumultuous era of Charles Taylor's regime, Urias Teh Pour emerged as a resilient advocate for youth and students' rights. His advocacy led to his exile, and he actively participated in the Accra Comprehensive Agreement that marked the end of Liberia's devastating civil war. In the aftermath, he collaborated with civil society figures to establish institutions crucial to healing the nation, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Pour spearheaded the creation of the Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA), a vital initiative that facilitated the disarmament of warring factions following the cessation of hostilities in Liberia. A dedicated Human Rights Lawyer, he earned his Bachelor's degrees in Economics (BSc) and Laws (LLB) from the University of Liberia. His pursuit of further knowledge led him to obtain a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa from the esteemed Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria. Notably, Urias Teh Pour extends his expertise to the academic realm as an adjunct Lecturer within the Department of Political Science at the University of Liberia. Through his multifaceted

contributions, he continues to shape and uphold the principles of human rights, justice, and post-conflict recovery in Liberia.

Ms. Mauricette Josephine Monthe Psimhis is a Magistrate and the 1st Attorney General at the Bangui court of Appeals. In June 2023, she was also re-elected for a five-year term as a judge on the High Court of Justice. Ms. Psimhis is also the President of the Union of Magistrates (SYNAMAC). In addition to her extensive law career, Ms. Psimhis is an advocate for women's leadership in the Central African Republic and across the continent. She is currently the Vice President of the Network for Women's Leadership in Central Africa (RELEFCA), Legal Counsel for the International Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMP RCA), and a member of the Board of Directors for the Pan African Observatory for Women's Leadership (OPALEF). Ms. Psimhis served as Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Artisanry from 2015-2016. She is a graduate of the University of Nanterre Paris X and the National School for Magistrature (ENA-M) in Bordeaux, France.

Captain Baboucarr Sanneh currently serves as the Ag. SO1 DLS in the Gambia Armed Forces. He was previously the Ag. Director Legal Services of GAF from 2018-2021. In addition, Captain Sanneh delivers lectures at the GAF Training School on the law of armed conflict, and other military and relevant civil laws to commanders and troops to enhance their understanding of the law to be able to function and uphold the rule of law. He has participated in numerous trainings, including a Training of Trainers Course on International Humanitarian Law (Kotu, The Gambia); AFRICOM's Shared Accord exercise (Gabiro, Rwanda); 169th International Military Course on Law of Armed Conflict (San Remo, Italy). Captain Sanneh holds a Masters Degree in International Commercial and Maritime Law from Swansea University.

Dr. Ahmed A. Sannoh is a Sierra Leonean. He has served in the Office of National Security (ONS) for 22 years in many senior management positions. He is currently Deputy National Security Coordinator, appointed by President Dr. Julius Maada Bio in 2022. He was previously Chief of Staff, a position he held for 12 consecutive years. He has acted as National Security Coordinator on a number of occasions between 2015 and 2019. He has over 15 years of university teaching and research experience at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, University of Liberia, AME Zion University in Liberia, and Njala University as Associate Lecturer in key modules of the Master's programme in Peace and Development Studies.

Academically, Dr. Sannoh holds BA and MA degrees in English and Linguistics from Fourah Bay College (USL) and a PhD in Peace and Development Studies from Njala University. Professionally, he has pursued advanced diplomas in national and international security studies; governance and human security in Africa; managing defence in the wider security context; strategic planning and policy development; defence resource management, etc. at reputable international academic and professional institutions including International Centre for National Security Studies (ICNSS) at Galilee College, Israel; College of Management and Technology at Cranfield University, United Kingdom (UK); Resource Management Institute, Naval Postgraduate School, California, United States of America; Institute for Security Studies' African Centre for Peace and Security Training (ACPST), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the Kofi Annan Peace Keeping and Training Centre, Ghana. He has also benefited from expert and think-tank seminars on key international security issues under the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the United States of America (USA).

Dr. Sannoh has worked at the highest levels of government closely collaborating with heads of various intelligence, police and military organizations including officials from the UK, USA and other security and development partners, in some cases providing leadership for various aspects of governance and security-related reforms. In the early phase of the post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in 2003 when relations between the police and the military in Sierra Leone were strained, he led the multi-stakeholder Joint Survey Team (JST) commissioned by the National Security Council (NSC) of Sierra Leone to look into the status of relationship between the two forces. The JST report recommendations produced under his leadership resulted in a harmonious working relationship between these two national security forces, a status quo that is largely maintained up to date. Dr. Sannoh has played a key role in the development of a number of security sector policy documents, and has, in particular, led the process of reviewing the *Military Aid to the Civil Authority*, which is a high-level policy instrument for military assistance in a democratic dispensation. He is Chairman of the National Security Exercise Writing and Planning Team (NSX-WPT) and has coordinated the successful conduct of eight (8) national security exercises, mainly targeting platinum and gold levels, between 2005 and 2019.

Dr. Sannoh served as member of Sierra Leone's Governing Council of the African Peer Review Mechanism for a long period. He is a member of various respectable international security sector networks and alumni, including the African Security Sector Network (ASSN); Stratford Global Intelligence Network, Texas (USA); International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on International Security Issues of the USA.

Lieutenant Colonel Lamin K Sanyang is the Director of Press and Public Relations and Military Assistant to the Chief of Defence Staff. He began his military career as a Grade 3 Staff Officer at the Directorate of Inspectorate, eventually moving to Public Relations for the Gambia Armed Forces. Lieutenant Colonel Sanyang has also served as a military observer with the United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire, as well as a Grade 2 Staff Officer for Training and Evaluation for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. He was awarded the UN Medal of Honor for Service for both deployments. Lieutenant Colonel Sanyang is a graduate of the National University of Ukraine (BSc) and the Nigeria Defence Academy (MA).

Mr. Abdul Tejan-Cole is a human rights lawyer, activist, and expert in the fields of international criminal justice, human rights, governance, anti-corruption, and environmental law. With a rich and diverse background, his extensive experience spans over 30 years of dedicated work in progressive development of human rights, good governance, and post-conflict reconstruction. His expertise has contributed significantly to the advancement of rule of law and justice provision, particularly in Africa. He holds Bachelor of Laws with Honours, University of Sierra Leone, Master of Laws, University College London and Post-graduate Diploma in International Trade Law, University Institute of European Studies. He lectured law at the University of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Law School.

Abdul Tejan-Cole has held prominent positions and played pivotal roles in various organizations, including former Commissioner of Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commission (2007-2010), focusing on high-level corruption cases and combating corruption in critical sectors, Deputy Director at the International Centre for Transitional Justice's Cape Town Office, contributing to transitional justice efforts, Senior Campaign Director at Waxman Strategies, advocating for

environmental conservation and workers' rights, particularly in Africa's deforestation and industrial agriculture sectors, Executive Director of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, leading initiatives for social justice, good governance, and human rights in the region, Head of Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), a prominent Sierra Leonean NGO dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, Attorney at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, engaging in war crimes prosecution and advancing international justice and Executive Director of Africa Studies Association. He is a recipient of the 2001 Human Rights Watch Annual Award, acknowledging his outstanding dedication to human rights and Yale World Fellow and Columbia University Teaching Fellow, demonstrating recognition of his expertise and contributions to academia.

Ms. Ya Amie Touray is a distinguished legal practitioner specialized in Utilities Regulation with over a decade of experience in the public sector. While she was working at the Multi-Sector Regulator (PURA) she garnered the invaluable experience of implementing National Projects, negotiating donor funded projects, recommending and implementing government policies on Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Energy and Sewerage. She also developed and implemented regulatory instruments in the various sectors including the licenses for recently liberalized Broadcasting, Petroleum Downstream and International Voice Gateway Licenses. She implemented the licensing regime for the Petroleum and Telecommunications Sector. She was an active participant in various government led taskforces such as the International Gateway Liberalization Task Force and the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Switchover Taskforce.

Presently, she holds the position of Justice Sector Coordinator for a USAID-funded project in The Gambia - 'Promoting Rights and Justice (PRJ)'. As a technical lead, Ya Amie coordinates project activities that revolve around strengthening the capacity of The Gambian Justice System. Her role includes spearheading legal reforms to ensure equitable justice delivery. In tandem with her work with PRJ, Ya Amie also assumes the mantle of Secretary General at the Gambia Bar Association. Her impact on The Gambia's transitional justice journey is marked by her active engagement in various committees, most notably the Transitional Justice Working Group. She has been an integral force in reviewing critical legislations such as the Victims Reparation Bill. Additionally, Ya Amie collaborates closely with victim-led organizations to effectively manage and address the expectations of victims. Extending her commitment to the development of a just society, Ya Amie holds the role of Adjunct Lecturer at the University of The Gambia's Faculty of Law, imparting her knowledge for over six years.

Ya Amie holds an LLB (Hons), a BL (Barrister-at-Law), and an LLM in Information Technology and Telecommunications Law. Her dedication to excellence culminated in her recognition as a Mandela Washington Fellow in 2016, an accolade attesting to her exceptional leadership and commitment to positive change. As a fervent advocate for digital rights, data protection, and (D4D), Ya Amie's passion translates into tangible actions. Notably, she volunteers her time as a resource person, empowering and educating young women and girls on Digital Safety and Security.

Mr. Aaron Weah is a Liberian transitional justice activist and researcher. He has worked across sectors; in civil society, government, and international non-governmental organisations for more than fifteen years. As a programme associate for the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), he provided technical assistance to Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation

Commission (TRC). In the same portfolio, he worked with grassroots communities, and together, they explored solutions to some of the vexing questions of post-conflict memorialisation. For two years, he served as a policy analyst at the Liberia Governance Commission (2012-2014). He collaborated with relevant ministries, agencies and commissions and he co-drafted the Strategic Road Map for Peacebuilding, Reconciliation and National Healing. The Strategic Road Map is conceived as an outgrowth of the TRC Final Report, a post-TRC instrument dedicated to implementing restorative justice measures. He also worked as Country Director for the Washington, DC-based Search for Common Ground, supporting Liberia's peacebuilding agenda.

Beyond Liberia, he continues to be engaged in Africa (specifically, in countries such as The Gambia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone), serving in a strategic technical capacity on peace and conflict, human rights, and transitional justice. In 2017, he was among twelfth African scholars recruited by the South African based- Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) to write case studies on colonialism and transitional justice in Africa. These studies were used background papers to inform the African Union Transitional Justice Policy Framework. Between Africa and Latin America, he is a member of the CLASP LAB Leadership Team, a coalition supported by Corporate Accountability (CAL) to hold companies accountable on matters of business and human rights. He has written and published on peacebuilding, memorialisation, truth commission, transitional justice and some of his works have appeared in the Journal of the International Peace Institute (IPI), International Review of the Red Cross and the International Journal of Transitional Justice, (Oxford University Press).

He is a PhD researcher based at the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI), Ulster University, United Kingdom, investigating grassroots memorialisation of political violence perpetrated through massacres.