

## PAYING THE PRICE

### *A Discussion on Criminalization of Land and Environmental Rights Defenders in East Africa*

#### [Webinar](#)

7:00 AM Eastern Time/03:00 PM EAST AFRICA TIME

February 11, 2021

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#### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

##### **Professor Patricia Kameri-Mbote, International Environmental Law Research Center, Kenya**

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote is a Founding Research Director and Africa Program Director for the International Environmental Law Research Center (IELRC). She studied law at the University of Nairobi, the University of Warwick, and the University of Zimbabwe, and earned her doctorate from Stanford University Law School. She is currently a Professor of Law at the University of Nairobi where she has taught for over 30 years and served as Dean. She is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and was conferred the rank of Senior Counsel in 2012. Prof. Kameri-Mbote has contributed to policymaking in the areas of environment, land, agriculture and gender. She is a recipient of the national honor in the order Elder of the Burning Spear in 2015, and an honorary degree in law by the University of Oslo (UiO) for her work cutting across established fields of women's Law, natural resources law, and human rights. In 2019, she was among 21 women honored by Harvard Law School for being powerful voices inspiring change globally. Prof. Kameri-Mbote serves on the boards of the IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and chairs the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities.

##### **Richard Mugisha, Independent Researcher, Uganda**

Richard Mugisha is an independent researcher on food systems. He has nearly two decades of experience working with civil society, refugee, and women's rights organizations in Uganda and the United Kingdom. He is the former Country Manager, Uganda and Economic Governance Program Manager for the Open Society Initiative for East Africa. Before OSIEA, he served as Program Director for the Forum for Women in Democracy, a women's leadership development organization working to promote women's participation in governance at all levels in Uganda. In the United Kingdom, Mugisha worked extensively with refugee resettlement and integration programs. He has published on a wide array of issues including governance, culture, food systems and social justice. Mugisha holds an MA degree in Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University.

## **Bernard Baha, Tanzania Land Alliance**

Bernard Baha is the National Coordinator of the Tanzania Land Alliance and Facilitator for Tanzania's National Engagement Strategy for the Land Governance Platform. He has over a decade of experience in land rights and natural resource governance. He previously worked in research and management at ActionAid and HAKIARDHI/Land Rights Research and Resources Institute, where he was instrumental in establishing the Tanzania Land Alliance. Baha also worked with the Land Policy Initiative, now the African Land Policy Center, in Ethiopia as a Research Fellow on Large Scale Land Based Investments. He has co-authored several reports on land and natural resources governance, with a focus on land-based investments in Tanzania in the context of food production and forest for carbon credits. Baha's current work focuses on the management of a multistakeholders' platform on harmonizing collective efforts to improve land and natural resource governance and management for the benefit of marginalized communities. To that end, he has also facilitated efforts by the International Land Coalition in Tanzania to implement people-centered land governance in the country.

## **Ivan Okuda, Lawyer/Independent Journalist and Report Author, Uganda**

Ivan Okuda is co-founder and Managing Partner at the East African Center for Investigative Reporting, a non-profit media house behind the online publication, [www.voxpopuli.ug](http://www.voxpopuli.ug), and a legal associate at Anguria & Co. Advocates, a Kampala based law firm. He was previously a Special Projects and Investigations Writer with the Nation Media Group's *Daily Monitor*. As a lawyer and independent journalist, Okuda has extensive experience investigating and advising on public interest issues. He has published over 900 articles focusing on politics, business, human rights, rule of law and civil society in Uganda. In 2015, he was part of a team contracted by London-based Insight TWI to produce an investigative documentary on the assassination of Uganda's Muslim clerics. The documentary, *Uganda: Living in fear*, was broadcast on Aljazeera's *Africa Investigates* program. Okuda has undertaken research and analysis for the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda, Transparency International, International Land Coalition, Resources and Rights Initiative, African Institute for Energy Governance, and the Forum for Women in Democracy. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Uganda's Makerere University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre, and a Master's in Journalism and Media Studies from University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Okuda is currently pursuing a Master's in Corporate and Commercial Law from the University of London and is a Fellow with the Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies.

## **Patrick Kipalu, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)**

Patrick Kipalu coordinates and leads RRI's engagement in Africa. He has strong background in natural resources management and human rights in Africa. He has experience supporting civil society organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa, including on human rights, natural resources exploitation (lands, forests, and mines), and climate change. Prior to joining RRI, Patrick worked as Country Manager for Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Before that, he worked for the Africa Program at Bank Information Center (BIC), and for the Equity and Governance Program at World

Resources Institute. Patrick has a Master's in Global Environmental Policy from the American University in Washington DC, and a Bachelor's in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources Management from the University of Kinshasa in DRC.

### **Audace Kubwimana, International Land Coalition (ILC)**

Audace Kubwimana serves as Regional Coordinator and Program Manager at the International Land Coalition of Africa. He previously worked to reduce poverty and hunger in Rwanda, where he held different important positions at Welthungerhilfe, for which he served as the Country Representative and Program Lead. Kubwimana has extensive experience in driving and managing international development programs. His areas of focus at ILC Africa include program planning, management, and monitoring/evaluation. He also supports ILC Africa members in realizing the coalition's 10 commitments toward people-centered land governance across the region. Kubwimana holds a Master's in Development Studies and a BA in Agriculture.

### **Joanita Okedi, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)**

Joanita Okedi serves as Program Officer at OSIEA's Economic Governance program and leads its food security portfolio. A passionate social worker, Okedi has contributed to the sustainable socio-economic transformation of vulnerable communities at a pan-African level. She has almost a decade of experience in multi-sectoral program management. Prior to joining OSIEA, Okedi worked with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Uganda National Security Social Fund. She holds a Master's in Business Administration from Uganda Martyrs University and a Bachelor's in Development Studies from Makerere University. Okedi has also received training on policy evaluation from the Central European University and on Indigenous Peoples' rights from the University of Pretoria.