

In Memory of Joan Namazzi Kagezi

Statement by Ashad Sentongo, Director of African Programs, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, March 31, 2015

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) pays tribute to **Ms. Joan Namazzi Kagezi**, an alumna of the 2013 Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, Global Edition, who was assassinated on 30 March 2015. Ms. Kagezi was Uganda's Senior Principal State Attorney and head of the International Crimes Division under the Ministry of Justice. This division was created in 2008 to try persons responsible for crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, human trafficking, and terrorism. In this way, she was a *key player* in advancing the international agenda for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. She was a selfless advocate for transitional justice through her works with the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS), and dedicated prosecutor in pursuit of justice through the courts of law in Uganda.

At the time of her murder, Ms. Kagezi was handling very critical cases involving terrorism, namely as the lead High Court prosecutor of 13 suspects in the 2010 terror attack at Lugogo Stadium that killed 79 Ugandans. Al-Shabaab militants claimed responsibility for this attack. Other cases in her portfolio included the prosecution of suspects from a wave of murders of Muslim leaders in Kampala and Jinja Districts, and perpetrators arrested for crimes committed under the LRA insurgency in northern Uganda.

AIPR condemns Ms. Kagezi's murder and the use of violence to resolve disagreements or perceptions of injustice. Her untimely death should serve to increase resolve across the genocide and mass atrocity prevention community to collaborate and bring all elements of prevention into action to respond to threats to peace and security across communities and States.

We feel privileged to have worked with her and will always remember her steadfastness in pursuing what she believed was the right thing to do. We extend our condolences to Joan Kagezi's four children, family, friends, and workmates in Uganda and across the world.