



The Platform for African Democrats Condemns the Rendition and Arrest of Dr Kizza Besigye

21 November 2024

The abduction of Dr. Kizza Besigye, a prominent Ugandan liberation figure and opposition leader, from Nairobi and his subsequent detention in Uganda this week is profoundly shocking and is condemned unequivocally.

Dr. Besigye, a well-known and respected human rights advocate, has dedicated his life to advancing justice and freedom. His abduction and subsequent detention is a brazen violation of international law and human rights.

What is particularly concerning is that the rendition of Dr Besigye could only have taken place with the active or passive support and involvement of Kenya's security forces, calling into question that country's commitment to an open society.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Kizza Besigye. We demand that his family and his lawyers be given immediate access to him. We request that the African Union, regional bodies, and the international community make similar calls for Dr Besigye's immediate release. Their failure to do so places them firmly on the side of authoritarians and puts states and interests not people first in international relations.

Africa will never reach its true potential so long as such brazen violations of fundamental human rights occur. The apparent complicity between two neighbouring states indicates a worrying culture of growing authoritarianism which must be opposed.

The Platform for African Democrats (PAD) is a forum for debate and discussion on how to defend advance and protect democratic ideals in Africa.

Signatories:

1. HE Andrés Pastrana, former President: Colombia
2. HE Martín Torrijos, former President: Panama
3. HE Moeketsi Majoro, former Prime Minister: Kingdom of Lesotho
4. HE Viktor Yushchenko, former President: Ukraine
5. Abbasali Haji, MD East Africa Capital, Tanzania
6. Adalberto Costa, President: UNITA, Angola
7. Amgad Fareid Eltayeb, CEO: Fikra for Studies and Development, Sudan
8. Atupele Muluzi, President: United Democratic Front, Malawi
9. Branko Brkic, Former Editor: Daily Maverick, South Africa
10. Choolwe Chibomba, United Party for National Development, Zambia
11. David Coltart, Mayor: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
12. Dianna Games, CEO: Africa@Work, South Africa
13. Edwin Sifuna, Senator: Nairobi County, Kenya
14. Eerik Niles-Kross, Member of Parliament: Estonian Reform Party
15. Erastus Mwencha, former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Kenya
16. Gladys Hlatywayo, Citizens Coalition for Change, Zimbabwe
17. Gloria Uwishema Nsengiyumva, Human Rights Activist, Rwanda
18. Greg Mills, Director: The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
19. Gregory Nemyria, Deputy Chairman: Batkivshchyna, Ukraine
20. Holger Dix, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany
21. Ioannis Kollias, Lawyer, Greece
22. Ivone Soares, RENAMO, Mozambique
23. John Maina, Lawyer, Kenya
24. John Steenhuisen, Minister of Agriculture, South Africa
25. Juan Diego Molina, University of Navarra, Spain
26. Juwon Sanyaolu, Human Rights Activist, Nigeria
27. Kate Almquist Knopf, Former Director: Africa Center for Strategic Studies, US
28. Kateryna Yushchenko, Former First Lady, Ukraine
29. Leopoldo Lopez, Opposition Leader, Venezuela
30. Luis Bernadino, Military University Institute, Portugal
31. Luis Ravina, Director: Navarra Center for International Development, Spain
32. Lutero Simango, Leader: Mozambique Democratic Movement
33. Manveen Rana, The Times, UK
34. Michaela Wrong, Author, UK
35. Miguel Ángel Cortés Martín, People's Party, Spain
36. Nic Cheeseman, Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation, UK
37. Omer Ismail, former Minister: Foreign Affairs, Sudan
38. Omar Shaban, PalThink for Strategic Studies, Palestine
39. Phumlani Majozi, Commentator and Analyst, South Africa
40. Paula Roque, Executive Director: Intelwatch, Portugal

41. Ray Hartley, Research Director: The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
42. Richard Morrow, Analyst: The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
43. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu (Bobi Wine), Leader: National Unity Platform, Uganda
44. Robert Thomson, former Senior Officer: British Army
45. Robin Auld, Musician, South Africa
46. Solly Msimanga, Leader of the Opposition: Gauteng Legislature, South Africa
47. Tanele Maseko, Human Rights Activist, Swaziland
48. Tendai Biti, Human Rights Lawyer, Zimbabwe
49. Vasilis Gavalas, DIKTIO, Greece
50. Viktor Yushchenko, Former President, Ukraine
51. William Leslie Amanzuru, Human Rights Activist, Uganda
52. Zenzele Mfayela, Inkatha Freedom Party, South Africa
53. Zitto Kabwe, former Leader: ACT-Wazalendo, Tanzania