



## **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. Leopoldo Lopez, Opposition Leader, Venezuela
29. Luis Bernadino, Military University Institute, Portugal
30. Luis Ravina, Director: Navarra Center for International Development, Spain
31. Lutero Simango, Leader: Mozambique Democratic Movement
32. Manveen Rana, The Times, UK
33. Michaela Wrong, Author, UK
34. Miguel Ángel Cortés Martín, People's Party, Spain
35. Nic Cheeseman, Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation, UK
36. Omer Ismail, former Minister: Foreign Affairs, Sudan
37. Omar Shaban, PalThink for Strategic Studies, Palestine
38. Phumlani Majozi, Commentator and Analyst, South Africa
39. Paula Roque, Executive Director: Intelwatch, Portugal

40. Ray Hartley, Research Director: The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
41. Richard Morrow, Analyst: The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa
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44. Robin Auld, Musician, South Africa
45. Solly Msimanga, Leader of the Opposition: Gauteng Legislature, South Africa
46. Tanele Maseko, Human Rights Activist, Swaziland
47. Tendai Biti, Human Rights Lawyer, Zimbabwe
48. Vasilis Gavalas, DIKTIO, Greece
49. William Leslie Amanzuru, Human Rights Activist, Uganda
50. Zenzele Mfayela, Inkatha Freedom Party, South Africa
51. Zitto Kabwe, former Leader: ACT-Wazalendo, Tanzania



## **La Plateforme des Démocrates Africains condamne la restitution et l'arrestation de Dr Kizza Besigye**

**21 Novembre 2024**

Merci à tous ceux qui ont accepté la déclaration. Si vous avez manqué le message précédent, le voici. Indiquez avec un pouce levé avant 16h00 si vous souhaitez ajouter votre nom.

La Plateforme des Démocrates Africains condamne l'extradition et l'arrestation de Dr Kizza Besigye ce 21 novembre 2024.

L'enlèvement à Nairobi du Dr Kizza Besigye, figure emblématique de la libération ougandaise et leader de l'opposition, et sa détention ultérieure en Ouganda cette semaine sont profondément choquants et sont condamnés sans équivoque.

Le Dr Besigye, défenseur des droits humains bien connu et respecté, a consacré sa vie à faire progresser la justice et la liberté. Son enlèvement et sa détention ultérieure constituent une violation flagrante du droit international et des droits de l'homme. Ce qui est particulièrement préoccupant, c'est que l'extradition du Dr Besigye n'aurait pu avoir lieu qu'avec le soutien et l'implication actifs ou passifs des forces de sécurité kényanes, remettant en question l'engagement de ce pays en faveur d'une société ouverte.

Nous appelons à la libération immédiate et inconditionnelle du Dr Kizza Besigye. Nous exigeons que sa famille et ses avocats aient immédiatement accès à lui.

Nous demandons à l'Union africaine, aux organismes régionaux et à la communauté internationale de lancer des appels similaires pour la libération immédiate du Dr Besigye. Leur échec à le faire les place fermement du côté des dictateurs et donne la priorité aux États et aux intérêts, et non aux personnes, dans les relations internationales.

L'Afrique n'atteindra jamais son véritable potentiel tant que de telles violations flagrantes des droits humains fondamentaux se produiront. L'apparente complicité entre deux États voisins indique une culture inquiétante d'autoritarisme croissant à laquelle il faut s'opposer.

*La Plateforme des Démocrates Africains (PAD) est un forum de débat et de discussion sur la manière de défendre et de protéger les idéaux démocratiques en Afrique.*

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