



THE INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE “Where Law Meets Reality”



The Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ), a new initiative of the Refugee Law Project (RLP), the African Transitional Justice Research Network (ATJRN), and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVV), successfully conducted an inaugural one-week residential course from 21-27 November 2010, in Kampala, Uganda.

Members of the public, course participants, and presenters during the launch of the IATJ, held at the Imperial Royale hotel, in Kampala, Uganda.

The course involved a series of interactive lectures, workshops, and round table discussions on the theme, “*Addressing Transitional Justice in the context of African Challenges*”. 44 academics, researchers, humanitarian aid workers, and transitional justice practitioners from Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Kenya, Ireland, and the USA attended the course.

Transitional justice experts from the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governance section, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Justice Law and Order Sector-Uganda (JLOS), International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRR), Refugee Law Project (RLP), Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVV), and the African Transitional Justice Research Network (ATJRN), taught at the Institute.

Participants actively debated on issues central to Transitional Justice practices and policies in Africa, including, the whole debate on the African identity – who is an African? and how Transitional Justice relates to those of Africa, the nexus between context and concepts in Africa; and to go beyond “binary” approaches to learning, practicing, and teaching Transitional Justice, the issue of the interface between traditional justice and formal justice mechanisms, the question of whether the

International Criminal Court (ICC), is imposing justice in Africa, on sexual norms – the broader issues of whether there is need to challenge the African realities relating to sexuality, gender, masculinity and sexual minorities, the sequencing of peace and justice, transitional justice responses to issues forced migration, and finally, the question of widening the debate on transitional justice to take account of socio-economic and developmental imperatives – all of which are vital questions for the present day governance deficits.

For further information regarding the IATJ Course, please email Mr. Levis Onegi, the ATJRN Regional Coordinator for the Great Lakes at l.onegoi@refugeelawproject.org

Details of the 2011 course will be announced in February 2011, on the following websites, www.refugeelawproject.org, www.beyondjuba.org, www.csvr.org.za, www.transitionaljustice.org.za, www.slccg.org.