



PRESS STATEMENT

18TH APRIL 2018

TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

FARE THEE WELL MATIBA: YOUR SPIRIT LIVES ON!

We the board and staff of the Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU) wish to pass our deepest sympathies to the family of the late Hon. Stanley Kenneth Njindo Matiba who passed away on Sunday 15th April 2018 after a long illness resulting from state torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment and punishment

Hon. Matiba will long be regarded as an icon for change and democracy in Kenya. In 1990 especially, he along with others - Charles Rubia, the late Jaramogi Odinga, the late Martin Shikuku - to name a few, were catalysts for the demand for multi-partyism in Kenya. We are reminded of the Saba Saba rally in Kamukunji where despite the threats and intimidation from the Government of the day, they and their supporters were determined to make their stand. This however resulted in his arrest and detention without trial. It is while in detention that the late Hon. Matiba suffered deterioration to his health from which he never recovered.

Sadly, many of the issues Matiba and co fought for during the 90s continue to dog Kenya today: Lack of democratic elections and flouting the rule of law and trampling on the rights of Kenyans.

Along with other civil society actors, the Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU) has been championing for state compensation to these and many other actors that have suffered under state sponsored violence, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment. It is only justified that the government of the day honors its pledge to ensure reparations to victims of torture and ill-treatment in Kenya. It is also fair and justified, that the state accord the late Hon. Matiba a state funeral as he was but one of the many symbols of the struggle against torture, ill-treatment, and dictatorship. His selflessness in serving the people of Kiharu

and Kenya at large despite the challenges of the dictatorial regime are values that we should all embody.

Finally, we expect that the State will not hesitate to fully apply the provisions of the Prevention of Torture Act 2017, to actualize several fundamental articles in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 including Article 25 with regards to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or Punishment, Article 28 on respect and protection of human dignity and Article 29 on freedom and security of the person.

Further, the new law brings all state agencies and officials under the ambit of accountability for torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and provides clear penalties for such atrocities.

Aluta Continua!



Peter Kiama

Executive Director