



**TAB 2**

## **Report to Convocation June 28, 2018**

---

### **Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee/ Comité sur l'équité et les affaires autochtones**

**Committee Members**  
Dianne Corbiere, Co-Chair  
Julian Falconer, Co-Chair  
Gina Papageorgiou, Vice-Chair  
Marion Boyd  
Suzanne Clément  
Ross Earnshaw  
Robert Evans  
Avvy Go  
Marian Lippa  
Isfahan Merali  
Andrew Spurgeon  
Sidney Troister  
Tanya Walker

**Purpose of Report: Decision and Information**

**Prepared by Equity Initiatives  
(Marian MacGregor – 416-947-3464)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **For Decision**

Human Rights Monitoring Group Requests for Intervention..... [TAB 2.1](#)

*In Camera Item* ..... [TAB 2.2](#)

### **For Information**

Appointments to the Equity Advisory Group ..... [TAB 2.3](#)

## **COMMITTEE PROCESS**

1. The Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee/Comité sur l'équité et les affaires autochtones ("EIAC" or the "Committee") met on June 14, 2018. Dianne Corbiere, Co-Chair, Julian Falconer, Co-Chair, Ross F. Earnshaw, Robert Evans, Isfahan Merali and Andrew Spurgeon attended. Gina Papageorgiou, Vice-Chair, Robert Burd and Sidney Troister attended by telephone.
2. Kathleen Lickers and Chief Myeengun Henry, Co-Chairs of the Indigenous Affairs Group ("IAG"), Paul Saguil, Chair of the Equity Advisory Group ("EAG"), and Sonia Ouellet, representative of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario ("AJEFO") also attended.
3. Staff members Sheena Weir, Marian MacGregor, Darcy Belisle, Margaret Drent, and Laura Wilson were present.

TAB 2.1

FOR DECISION

**HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP REQUESTS FOR INTERVENTION**

**Motion**

4. That Convocation approve the letters and public statements in the following cases:
  - a. Adil Mohamed Al-Imam – Sudan – letters of intervention and public statement presented at [TAB 2.1.1](#)
  - b. Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor, and Bulent Utku – Turkey – letters of intervention and public statement presented at [TAB 2.1.2](#)

**Rationale**

5. The request for interventions falls within the mandate of the Human Rights Monitoring Group (the “Monitoring Group”) to:
  - a. review information that comes to its attention about human rights violations that target members of the profession and the judiciary, here and abroad, as a result of the discharge of their legitimate professional duties;
  - b. review information that comes to its attention about human rights violations that target human rights defenders in the same event or circumstances as a member of the legal profession or the judiciary as described in a) above;
  - c. determine if the matter is one that requires a response from the Law Society; and
  - d. prepare a response for review and approval by Convocation.

**Key Issues and Considerations**

6. The Monitoring Group considered the following factors when making a decision about the intimidation and harassment of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam:
  - a. there are no concerns about the quality of sources used for this report; and
  - b. the harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam falls within the mandate of the Monitoring Group.
7. The Monitoring Group considered the following factors when making a decision about the conviction of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku:

- a. there are no concerns about the quality of sources used for this report; and
- b. the convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor, and Bulent Utku fall within the mandate of the Monitoring Group.

## KEY BACKGROUND

### ***SUDAN – HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION OF LAWYER ADIL MOHAMED AL-IMAM***

#### **Sources of Information**

8. The background information for this report was retrieved from the following sources:

- a. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada;<sup>1</sup>
- b. Amnesty International;<sup>2</sup>
- c. CNN;<sup>3,4</sup>
- d. Reuters;<sup>5</sup>
- e. The Guardian.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> "Re: Harassment and intimidation by NISS of Sudan lawyer, Adil Mohamed Al-Imam" Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (18 May 2018), online: <[http://www.lrwc.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Adil-Mohamed-Al-Imam.18.May\\_.18.pdf](http://www.lrwc.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Adil-Mohamed-Al-Imam.18.May_.18.pdf)> [LRWC Al-Imam Letter].

<sup>2</sup> Sudan: death sentence for raped teenager is 'intolerable act of cruelty' (10 May 2018) <<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/sudan-death-sentence-raped-teenager-intolerable-act-cruelty>> [Amnesty Hussein Article]

<sup>3</sup> Lawyer for Sudanese teen who killed her rapist facing intimidation, Eliza Mackintosh, CNN, online: <<https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/24/africa/noura-hussein-sudan-appeal-intl/index.html>> [CNN Article Al-Imam].

<sup>4</sup> Bites and a broken bed: New details in case of Sudan teen who killed rapist husband, CNN, Eliza Mackintosh and Nima Elbagir, online: < <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/24/africa/noura-hussein-sudan-appeal-intl/index.html>> [CNN Article Hussein].

<sup>5</sup> Pressure mounts on Sudan to pardon teen bride for killing "rapist" husband online: <<https://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN11F13X-OZATP>> [Reuters Hussein Article].

<sup>6</sup> Sudanese teenager who killed rapist husband appeals death sentence, The Guardian, Peter Beaumont and Zeinab Mohammed, (May 24, 2018) online: < <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/may/24/sudanese-teenager-who-killed-rapist-husband-appeals-death-sentence-forced-marriage-noura-hussein>> [Guardian Article Hussein]

## Background

9. Adil Mohamed Al-Imam is a Sudanese lawyer, who has been targeted by the Sudanese National Intelligence Security Service (NISS).<sup>7</sup> He is the lead lawyer on the legal defense team for Noura Hussein.<sup>8</sup>
10. Noura Hussein is a teenager from Omdurman, Sudan who was sentenced to death for killing her husband as he reportedly attempted to rape her. Hussein states that she was forced to enter a marriage contract against her will at the age of 16.<sup>9</sup> She sought refuge with a relative for three years, but was forced to complete the wedding ceremony in April 2017. Days after the ceremony, she was raped by her new husband while three of his male relatives pinned her down.<sup>10</sup> The next morning, Hussein's husband tried to rape her again, and as she struggled to stop him, she stabbed him fatally.<sup>11</sup> Hussein sought help from her family, who handed her over to police.<sup>12</sup> On May 10, 2018, Noura was sentenced to death. Her sentence was met by national and international outcry.<sup>13</sup>
11. On May 16, 2018, Adil Mohamed Al-Imam planned to hold a press conference to provide updates on Hussein's case.<sup>14</sup> Hours before the press conference was scheduled to begin, the NISS raided Al-Imam's office, and informed him that the press conference was banned.<sup>15</sup> The defence team was forced to cancel the press conference.<sup>16</sup>
12. According to one report, the Sudanese government, in an apparent attempt to further undermine the legal process, appointed lawyers who never interviewed Hussein or consulted with her legal team to file an appeal on her behalf.<sup>17</sup> Their appeal was rejected by the court.<sup>18</sup>
13. As of May 24, 2018, reports indicate that Hussein's legal team had filed an appeal in her case.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> LRWC Al-Imam Letter *supra* note 1; CNN Al-Imam Article *supra* note 3.

<sup>8</sup> LRWC Al-Imam Letter *supra* note 1.

<sup>9</sup> Reuters Hussein Article *supra* note 9; Amnesty Hussein Article *supra* note 2; Guardian Article Hussein *supra* note 6.

<sup>10</sup> Reuters Hussein Article *supra* note 9.

<sup>11</sup> CNN Article Hussein *supra* note 4; Reuters Hussein Article *supra* note 9.

<sup>12</sup> CNN Article Hussein *supra* note 4; Reuters Hussein Article *supra* note 9.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> CNN Article Al-Imam *supra* note 3; LRWC Al-Imam Letter *supra* note 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> CNN Article Hussein *supra* note 4.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Guardian Article Hussein *supra* note 6.

## **TURKEY – CONVICTIONS OF LAWYERS AKIN ATALAY, MUSTAFA KEMAL GUNGOR AND BULENT UTKU**

### **Sources of Information**

14. The background information for this report was retrieved from the following sources:

- a. Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe;<sup>20</sup>
- b. Human Rights Watch;<sup>21</sup>
- c. The New York Times;<sup>22</sup>
- d. The Guardian.<sup>23</sup>

### **Background**

15. According to reports, Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor, and Bulent Utku are lawyers who worked at the Cumhuriyet Foundation and its enterprise Cumhuriyet daily, Turkey's oldest independent newspaper.<sup>24</sup> Akin Atalay is the Chair of the Cumhuriyet board. Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor are members of the Cumhuriyet board.<sup>25</sup>

16. The three lawyers were arrested in 2016 as part of a group of Cumhuriyet journalists and staff who were charged with providing support to terrorist organizations including the Gülen movement, the armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (DHKP-C).<sup>26</sup> Most of those arrested were released pending trial,

---

<sup>20</sup> Re: Convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku, May 7, 2018, online: <[http://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality\\_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN\\_RIGHTS\\_LETTERS/Turkey\\_-\\_Turquie/2018/EN\\_HRL\\_20180507\\_Turkey\\_Convictions-of-lawyers-Ak-n-Atalay-Mustafa-Kemal-Gungor-and-Bulent-Utku.pdf](http://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Turkey_-_Turquie/2018/EN_HRL_20180507_Turkey_Convictions-of-lawyers-Ak-n-Atalay-Mustafa-Kemal-Gungor-and-Bulent-Utku.pdf)>. [CCBE Turkey Letter]

<sup>21</sup> Turkey: Journalists Convicted for Doing Their Jobs, (April 27, 2018), online: <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/27/turkey-journalists-convicted-doing-their-jobs>>. [Human Rights Watch Article Cumhuriyet].

<sup>22</sup> Turkish Court Convicts 13 From Cumhuriyet Newspaper on Terrorism Charges, Carlotta Gall, (April 25, 2018), online: <<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/25/world/europe/turkey-journalists-trial-cumhuriyet.html>>. [New York Times Article Cumhuriyet]

<sup>23</sup> Turkey: anti-Erdoğan journalists defiant after convictions on terror charges <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/26/turkey-anti-erdogan-journalists-defiant-convictions-terror-charges>> [Guardian Cumhuriyet Article]

<sup>24</sup> CCBE Turkey Letter *supra* note 20.

New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 22.

<sup>25</sup> Human Rights Watch Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 21.

<sup>26</sup> New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 22; Human Rights Watch Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 21.

including Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor.<sup>27</sup> Akin Atalay was held in custody throughout his subsequent trial and leading up to April 25, 2018.<sup>28</sup>

17. On April 25, 2018, 13 Cumhuriyet journalists, staff, and board members were convicted of terrorism charges by the Istanbul 27<sup>th</sup> High Assize Court, including Atalay, Gungor and Utku.<sup>29</sup> Atalay was sentenced to seven years and three months imprisonment.<sup>30</sup> He has since been released, but is subject to a travel ban.<sup>31</sup> Gungor was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison, and Utku was sentenced to two years in prison.<sup>32</sup> Utku, Atalay and Gungor, and the other Cumhuriyet employees convicted will remain free as their cases are appealed.<sup>33</sup>
18. Human rights groups have been highly critical of the verdict. Human Rights Watch has stated that there was no evidence in the indictment that pointed to aiding terrorist groups or any type of criminal wrongdoing.<sup>34</sup> Similarly, Amnesty International's Milena Buyum stated that the prosecution "failed to produce a shred of evidence" of any criminal wrongdoing."<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 22; Guardian Cumhuriyet Article *supra* note 23.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> CCBE Turkey Letter *supra* note 20.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 22.

<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note 21.

<sup>35</sup> Guardian Article *supra* note 23.

TAB 2.1.1

## PROPOSED LETTERS OF INTERVENTION AND PUBLIC STATEMENT

### ADIL MOHAMED AL-IMAM

HE Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir  
Office of the President  
People's Palace  
PO Box 281  
Khartoum, Sudan

Your Excellency:

#### **Re: The harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam**

I write on behalf of the Law Society of Ontario\* to voice our grave concern over the harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam. When serious issues of apparent injustice to lawyers and the judiciary come to our attention, we speak out.

Adil Mohamed Al-Imam is a Sudanese lawyer. He is the lead defence lawyer to Noura Hussein, a teenager from Omdurman, Sudan who was sentenced to death for fatally stabbing her husband as he was reportedly attempting to rape her.

Hussein has stated that at 16 she was forced to marry against her will, and that days after the wedding ceremony, her husband raped her while his family members held her down. The following day, while attempting to stop her husband from raping her again, Hussein stabbed him fatally. On May 10, 2018, Hussein was sentenced to death for her husband's killing.

According to reports, on May 16, 2018, Sudanese security forces intimidated Adil Al-Imam shortly before he was set to give a press conference providing updates on Hussein's case. Hours before the press conference was scheduled to begin, Sudan's National Intelligence Security Services (NISS) raided Al-Imam's office, and informed him that the press conference was banned. As a result, the defence team was forced to cancel the press conference.

The Law Society of Ontario is deeply troubled by the harassment and intimidation of Adil Mohamed Al-Imam and urges Your Excellency to comply with Sudan's obligations under international human rights laws, including the United Nations' *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

Article 16 of the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* states:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients

freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Article 17 states:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

Article 18 states:

Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.

Furthermore, Article 23 provides:

Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization.

The Law Society urges the Government of Sudan to:

- a. put an end to all acts of harassment against of Adil Mohamed Al-Imam and lawyers in Sudan;
- b. recognize and take action in relation to the fact that state sponsored acts of harassment and intimidation against Al-Imam have likely negatively impacted appeals to the sentencing of Hussein and permit the proliferation of violations of human rights of both lawyers and their clients;
- c. ensure that all people in Sudan, including lawyers and judges and particularly social justice advocates, are able to exercise freely their freedom of association, peaceful assembly, opinion and expression, including when such expression is critical of government institutions and actions;
- d. ensure that all lawyers and judges in Sudan are adequately safeguarded by the authorities such that they are able to carry out their professional duties and activities free from intimidation, hindrance, harassment, improper interference, the threat of criminalization, or other human rights violations; and

- e. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments.

Yours truly,

Paul B. Schabas  
Treasurer

*\*The Law Society of Ontario is the governing body for more than 50,000 lawyers and 8,000 paralegals in the province of Ontario, Canada. The Treasurer is the head of the Law Society.*

*The mandate of the Law Society is to govern the legal profession in the public interest by upholding the independence, integrity and honour of the legal profession for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law.*

cc: Dominique Rossetti  
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Canada in Sudan  
Embassy of Canada  
29 Africa Road, Block 56  
P.O. Box 10503  
Khartoum 1  
Sudan  
Email: khrtm@international.gc.ca

Mahmoud Fadl Abdelrasoul Mohammed  
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Sudan in Canada  
354 Stewart Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 6K8  
Canada  
Email: sudanembassy-canada@rogers.com

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
Canada  
Email: chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

H.E. Mr. Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations

305 East 47th Street, 4th Floor, New York N.Y. 10017  
United States  
Email: [sudan@sudanmission.org](mailto:sudan@sudanmission.org)

Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

Andrew Anderson, Executive Director, Front Line Defenders

Emma Achili, Head of European Union Office, Front Line Defenders

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Farida Deif, Canada Director, Human Rights Watch

Executive Director, Lawyers for Lawyers

David F. Sutherland, Chair, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Hina Jilani, President, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mónica Pinto, Special Rapporteur of the Human Council on the independence of judges and lawyers, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Roberta Taveri, International Human Rights Policy Adviser, The Law Society of England and Wales

### **Proposed Letter to Lawyers' Associations**

Dear [Name],

**Re: The harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam**

I write to inform you that on the advice of the Human Rights Monitoring Group\*, the Law Society of Ontario sent the attached letter to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, the President of Sudan, expressing our deep concern over reports of the harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam.

We would be very interested in hearing from you in regard to the situation noted in the attached letter, whether your organization has intervened in this matter and whether we have misapprehended any of the facts in this case. Any further information you may have about the case would also be welcome.

Please forward any further correspondence to the attention of Laura Wilson, Associate Counsel, Equity Initiatives, The Law Society of Ontario, 130 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 2N6 or to [lwilson@lso.ca](mailto:lwilson@lso.ca).

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa Donnelly  
Chair, Human Rights Monitoring Group

\* The Law Society of Ontario is the governing body for more than 50,000 lawyers and 8,000 paralegals in the province of Ontario, Canada. The Law Society is committed to preserving the rule of law and to the maintenance of an independent Bar. Due to this commitment, the Law Society established a Human Rights Monitoring Group ("Monitoring Group"). The Monitoring Group has a mandate to review information of human rights violations targeting, as a result of the discharge of their legitimate professional duties, members of the legal profession and the judiciary in Canada and abroad. The Human Rights Monitoring Group reviews such information and determines if a response is required of the Law Society.

Letter to be sent to:

Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

Andrew Anderson, Executive Director, Front Line Defenders

Emma Achili, Head of European Union Office, Front Line Defenders

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Executive Director, Lawyers for Lawyers

David F. Sutherland, Chair, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Hina Jilani, President, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mónica Pinto, Special Rapporteur of the Human Council on the independence of judges and lawyers, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Roberta Taveri, International Human Rights Policy Adviser, The Law Society of England and Wales

## PROPOSED PUBLIC STATEMENT

### **The Law Society of Ontario expresses grave concern about the harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam**

Toronto, ON — The Law Society of Ontario expresses grave concern over the harassment and intimidation of lawyer Adil Mohamed Al-Imam. When serious issues of apparent injustice to lawyers and the judiciary come to our attention, we speak out.

Adil Mohamed Al-Imam is a Sudanese lawyer. He is the lead defence lawyer to Noura Hussein, a teenager from Omdurman, Sudan who was sentenced to death for fatally stabbing her husband as he was reportedly attempting to rape her.

Hussein has stated that at 16 she was forced to marry against her will, and that days after the wedding ceremony, her husband raped her while his family members held her down. The following day, while attempting to stop her husband from raping her again, Hussein stabbed him fatally. On May 10, 2018, Hussein was sentenced to death for her husband's killing.

According to reports, on May 16, 2018, Sudanese security forces intimidated Adil Al-Imam shortly before he was set to give a press conference providing updates on Hussein's case. Hours before the press conference was scheduled to begin, Sudan's National Intelligence Security Services (NISS) raided Al-Imam's office, and informed him that the press conference was banned. As a result, the defence team was forced to cancel the press conference.

The Law Society of Ontario is deeply troubled by the harassment and intimidation of Adil Mohamed Al-Imam and urges Sudan to comply with its obligations under international human rights laws, including the United Nations' *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

Article 16 of the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* states:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Article 17 states:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

Article 18 states:

Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.

Furthermore, Article 23 provides:

Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization.

The Law Society urges the Government of Sudan to:

- a. put an end to all acts of harassment against of Adil Mohamed Al-Imam and lawyers in Sudan;
- b. recognize and take action in relation to the fact that state sponsored acts of harassment and intimidation against Al-Imam have likely negatively impacted appeals to the sentencing of Hussein and permit the proliferation of violations of human rights of both lawyers and their clients;
- c. ensure that all people in Sudan, including lawyers and judges and particularly social justice advocates, are able to exercise freely their freedom of association, peaceful assembly, opinion and expression, including when such expression is critical of government institutions and actions;
- d. ensure that all lawyers and judges in Sudan are adequately safeguarded by the authorities such that they are able to carry out their professional duties and activities free from intimidation, hindrance, harassment, improper interference, the threat of criminalization, or other human rights violations; and
- e. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments.

**TAB 2.1.2**

**PROPOSED LETTERS OF INTERVENTION AND PUBLIC STATEMENT  
AKIN ATALAY, MUSTAFA KEMAL GUNGOR AND BULENT UTKU**

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
President of the Republic of Turkey  
T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Genel Sekreterliği  
06100 Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: +90 312 468 5026  
Email: cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr

Your Excellency:

**Re: Convictions of Lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku**

I write on behalf of the Law Society of Ontario\* to voice our grave concern over the convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku. When serious issues of apparent injustice to lawyers and the judiciary come to our attention, we speak out.

We understand that Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor, and Bulent Utku, are lawyers for the Cumhuriyet Foundation and its enterprise Cumhuriyet daily, an independent newspaper in Turkey. Akin Atalay is the Chair of the Cumhuriyet board. Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor are members of the Cumhuriyet board.

The three lawyers were arrested in 2016 as part of a group of Cumhuriyet journalists and staff who were charged with providing support to terrorist organizations including the Gülen movement, the armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (DHKP-C). Most of those arrested were released pending trial, including Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor. Akin Atalay was held in custody throughout his subsequent trial and leading up to April 25, 2018.

On April 25, 2018, 13 Cumhuriyet journalists, staff and board members were convicted of terrorism charges by the Istanbul 27<sup>th</sup> High Assize Court. Akin Atalay was sentenced to seven years and three months imprisonment. He has since been released, but is subject to a travel ban. Mustafa Kemal Gungor was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison and Bulent Utku was sentenced to two years in prison.

The Law Society of Ontario is concerned that the convictions of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku are motivated by their activities as lawyers. The Law Society urges Your Excellency to comply with Turkey's obligations under international human rights laws, including the United Nations' *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

Article 16 of the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* states:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Article 17 states:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

Article 18 states:

Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.

Furthermore, Article 23 provides:

Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization.

The Law Society urges the Government of Turkey to:

- a. immediately and unconditionally overturn the convictions of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku;
- b. immediately and unconditionally remove the travel ban restricting Akin Atalay, and if applicable, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku's ability to travel;
- c. guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku;
- d. put an end to all acts of harassment against lawyers and judges in Turkey;
- e. ensure that all people in Turkey, including lawyers and judges, are able to exercise freely their freedom of association, peaceful assembly, opinion and expression, including when such expression is critical of government institutions and actions;

- f. ensure that all lawyers and judges in Turkey are adequately safeguarded by the authorities such that they are able to carry out their professional duties and activities free from intimidation, hindrance, harassment, improper interference, the threat of criminalization, or other human rights violations; and
- g. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments.

Yours truly,

Paul B. Schabas  
Treasurer

*\*The Law Society of Ontario is the governing body for more than 50,000 lawyers and 8,000 paralegals in the province of Ontario, Canada. The Treasurer is the head of the Law Society.*

*The mandate of the Law Society is to govern the legal profession in the public interest by upholding the independence, integrity and honour of the legal profession for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law.*

cc:

H.E. Mr. Selcuk Unal  
Ambassador  
197 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 8L9  
Fax: +1 (613) 789-3442  
Email: [embassy.ottawa@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:embassy.ottawa@mfa.gov.tr)

Mehmet Durakoğlu  
President of the Istanbul Bar Association  
İstanbul Barosu İstiklal Caddesi  
Orhan Adli Apaydın Sokak, No: 2, 34430  
Beyoğlu, Istanbul  
Email: [mehmetdurakoglu@istanbulbarosu.org.tr](mailto:mehmetdurakoglu@istanbulbarosu.org.tr)

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
Email: [chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca)

Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu  
Undersecretary  
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations  
821, UN Plaza 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017 USA  
Fax: 00 1-212 949 00 86  
Email: tr-delegation.newyork@mfa.gov.tr

Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

Andrew Anderson, Executive Director, Front Line Defenders

Emma Achili, Head of European Union Office, Front Line Defenders

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Farida Deif, Canada Director, Human Rights Watch

Executive Director, Lawyers for Lawyers

David F. Sutherland, Chair, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Hina Jilani, President, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mónica Pinto, Special Rapporteur of the Human Council on the independence of judges and lawyers, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Roberta Taveri, International Human Rights Policy Adviser, The Law Society of England and Wales

### **Proposed Letter to Lawyers' Associations**

Dear [Name],

**Re: The convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku**

I write to inform you that on the advice of the Human Rights Monitoring Group\*, the Law Society of Ontario sent the attached letter to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, the President of Turkey, expressing our deep concern over reports of the convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku.

We would be very interested in hearing from you in regard to the situation noted in the attached letter, whether your organization has intervened in this matter and whether we have misapprehended any of the facts in this case. Any further information you may have about the case would also be welcome.

Please forward any further correspondence to the attention of Laura Wilson, Associate Counsel, Equity Initiatives, The Law Society of Ontario, 130 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 2N6 or to [lwilson@lso.ca](mailto:lwilson@lso.ca).

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa Donnelly  
Chair, Human Rights Monitoring Group

\* The Law Society of Ontario is the governing body for more than 50,000 lawyers and 8,000 paralegals in the province of Ontario, Canada. The Law Society is committed to preserving the rule of law and to the maintenance of an independent Bar. Due to this commitment, the Law Society established a Human Rights Monitoring Group ("Monitoring Group"). The Monitoring Group has a mandate to review information of human rights violations targeting, as a result of the discharge of their legitimate professional duties, members of the legal profession and the judiciary in Canada and abroad. The Human Rights Monitoring Group reviews such information and determines if a response is required of the Law Society.

Letter to be sent to:

Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

Andrew Anderson, Executive Director, Front Line Defenders

Emma Achili, Head of European Union Office, Front Line Defenders

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Executive Director, Lawyers for Lawyers

David F. Sutherland, Chair, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Hina Jilani, President, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mónica Pinto, Special Rapporteur of the Human Council on the independence of judges and lawyers, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Roberta Taveri, International Human Rights Policy Adviser, The Law Society of England and Wales

## PROPOSED PUBLIC STATEMENT

### **The Law Society of Ontario expresses grave concern about the convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku**

Toronto, ON — The Law Society of Ontario expresses grave concern over the convictions of lawyers Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku. When serious issues of apparent injustice to lawyers and the judiciary come to our attention, we speak out.

We understand that Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor, and Bulent Utku, are lawyers for the Cumhuriyet Foundation and its enterprise Cumhuriyet daily, an independent newspaper in Turkey. Akin Atalay is the Chair of the Cumhuriyet board. Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor are members of the Cumhuriyet board.

The three lawyers were arrested in 2016 as part of a group of Cumhuriyet journalists and staff who were charged with providing support to terrorist organizations including the Gülen movement, the armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Front (DHKP-C).<sup>1</sup> Most of those arrested were released pending trial, including Bulent Utku and Mustafa Kemal Gungor.<sup>2</sup> Akin Atalay was held in custody throughout his subsequent trial and leading up to April 25, 2018.

On April 25, 2018, 13 Cumhuriyet journalists, staff and board members were convicted of terrorism charges by the Istanbul 27<sup>th</sup> High Assize Court. Akin Atalay was sentenced to seven years and three months imprisonment. He has since been released, but is subject to a travel ban.<sup>3</sup> Mustafa Kemal Gungor was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison and Bulent Utku was sentenced to two years in prison.

The Law Society of Ontario is concerned that the convictions of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku are motivated by their activities as lawyers. The Law Society urges Turkey to comply with Turkey's obligations under international human rights laws, including the United Nations' *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

Article 16 of the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* states:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other

---

<sup>1</sup> New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**; Human Rights Watch Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

<sup>2</sup> New York Times Article Cumhuriyet *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**; Guardian Cumhuriyet Article *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Article 17 states:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

Article 18 states:

Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.

Furthermore, Article 23 provides:

Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization.

The Law Society urges the Government of Turkey to:

- a. immediately and unconditionally overturn the convictions of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku;
  - b. immediately and unconditionally remove the travel ban restricting Akin Atalay, and if applicable, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku's ability to travel;
  - c. guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Akin Atalay, Mustafa Kemal Gungor and Bulent Utku;
- a. put an end to all acts of harassment against lawyers and judges in Turkey;
  - b. ensure that all people in Turkey, including lawyers and judges, are able to exercise freely their freedom of association, peaceful assembly, opinion and expression, including when such expression is critical of government institutions and actions;
  - c. ensure that all lawyers and judges in Turkey are adequately safeguarded by the authorities such that they are able to carry out their professional duties and activities free from intimidation, hindrance, harassment, improper interference, the threat of criminalization, or other human rights violations; and

- d. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments.

TAB 2.3

FOR INFORMATION

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

31. In March 2018, the Equity Advisory Group (“EAG”) began the recruitment process for new members in accordance with its Terms of Reference. The advertisement for applications appeared in the Ontario Reports in March and April of 2018. A total of 106 applications were received.
32. The 106 applications received included:
  - a. 63 applications from individual lawyers;
  - b. 5 applications from an individual paralegals;
  - c. 9 applications from law students or paralegal students;
  - d. 15 applications from licensing candidates; and
  - e. 14 applications from legal organizations.
33. There were 12 individual positions and 12 organizational positions available on EAG.
34. A Selection Committee was formed to review the applications and create the shortlist of candidates recommended for membership. The Selection Committee was comprised of two members of EAG and one non-EAG member. The members of the Selection Committee were EAG members Paul Saguil (Chair of EAG), Paul Scotland both of whom are not returning to EAG. Rudy Ticzon was the third member of the Selection Committee, and he is not a member of EAG.
35. During the selection process, the Selection Committee was cognizant of the need to reflect diversity (including, but not limited to race, gender, disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity and regional representation and experience). The Selection Committee considered an applicant’s interest and commitment to equality and diversity principles and experience in working on issues related to equality-seeking communities.
36. On June 14, 2018, the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee approved the following individual applicants for individual membership on EAG:
  - 1) Jeffrey Adams
  - 2) Krishna Badrinarayan
  - 3) Jacqueline Beckles
  - 4) Lisa Borsook (reappointment)
  - 5) Jonathan Davey (reappointment)
  - 6) Nima Hojjati
  - 7) Leonard Kim (reappointment)
  - 8) Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi
  - 9) Beatriz Perez Corona

- 10) Shibil Siddiqi
- 11) Moya Teklu
- 12) Brenda Young (reappointment)

37. The Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee also approved the following organizational applicants for organizational membership on EAG:

- 1) L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO)  
(reappointment)
- 2) Arab Canadian Lawyers Association
- 3) ARCH Disability Law Centre (reappointment)
- 4) Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (reappointment)
- 5) Canadian Association of Somali Lawyers
- 6) Canadian Hispanic Bar Association (reappointment)
- 7) Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (reappointment)
- 8) Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (reappointment)
- 9) Ontario Paralegal Association
- 10) Law Students Society of Ontario (reappointment)
- 11) Roundtable of Diversity Associations (reappointment)
- 12) South Asian Bar Association (reappointment)

38. Background information of the appointed individuals and organizations can be found at [TAB 2.3.1](#).

**TAB 2.3.1**

## **BACKGROUND OF RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS**

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

#### **Jeffrey Adams**

Jeffrey Adams is a mature student at Osgoode Hall Law School, who is entering his second year of study. He is a World Championship and six-time Paralympic athlete who uses sport as a platform to advocate for equity and accessibility. Jeffrey Adams has spent the last ten years as the CEO of Icon Wheelchairs, and he has previously served for three years as the co-chair of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario, reporting directly to the Minister of Citizenship on the implementation of the *Ontarians with a Disability Act* (2001). He is a member of the Order of Ontario, an honour conferred to recognize his community contributions and athletic achievements.

#### **Krishna Badrinarayan**

Krishna Badrinarayan is currently a Guest Lecturer and Speaker at Humber College, Department of Law and Business (2014-present). In his previous role, he was a Court and Tribunal Agent (Paralegal) in private practice and was Acting Partner in the paralegal firm, Saich & Badrinarayan (2006-2014). He has first-hand experience working with individuals with disabilities who require accommodation, and also identifies as a person with severe and prolonged disabilities. Krishna Badrinarayan represented clients before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, the Social Benefits Tribunal of Ontario. He assisted clients with issues in a range of practice areas, including but not limited to, regulatory and professional discipline, Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits matters, Charter Applications, and matters before Small Claims Court.

#### **Jacqueline Beckles**

Jacqueline Beckles is currently Senior Counsel in the International Assistance Group in the Department of Justice, in Ottawa. From 2009-2014, Jacqueline served as a member of the Law Society's Women's Equality Advisory Group (WEAG), where she served as the Chair from 2010-2014. Jacqueline Beckles attended EAG meetings on behalf of the WEAG to discuss matters relating to the Challenges report, the Return to Practice Working Group, and the Articling Task Force Report. She is a member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers and recently participated in the reconstitution of the Ottawa Chapter.

#### **Lisa Borsook (reappointment)**

Lisa Borsook is currently the Executive Partner of WeirFoulds LLP. Since 2007, she has held continuous leadership roles at WeirFoulds, as Managing Partner (2007-2012) and as Executive

Partner (2013-present). During her tenure as Managing Partner, she focused on adjusting compensation policies that hindered the advancement of women. She also advocated to include women on significant and influential firm committees. Lisa Borsook represents WeirdFoulds on the Law Firm Diversity and Inclusion Network. In addition, she was a member of the Steering Committee for the Law Society's Retention of Women in Private Practice Working Group. Lisa Borsook has been involved in a number of charities and boards. She regularly speaks at conferences and leadership panels about changes and advancements in the legal profession, including the changing role of General Counsel and the increased expectation of diversity from client decision makers.

**Jonathan Davey** (reappointment)

Jonathan Davey is Crown Counsel in the Aboriginal Law Division Department of Justice Canada and a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation. In his role as Crown Counsel, he has represented Canada in dozens of Indian Residential School Independent Assessment Process Settlement Hearings and advised Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on numerous matters involving the *Indian Act*. Since joining the DOJ he has worked to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal peoples in government as a member of the Advisory Committee for Aboriginal Peoples and has participated in the DOJ's National Mentoring Program. Jonathan Davey is also a Lieutenant with the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Army Reserve. Jonathan Davey oversaw the Ontario Bar Association's Aboriginal Law Newsletter as Editor-in-Chief from 2010-2011.

**Nima Hojjati**

Nima Hojjati is an articling student at a Bogoroch & Associates LLP in Toronto, and he anticipates being called to the Ontario Bar in June 2018. Over the past two years, Nima Hojjati has been the Law Students' Society of Ontario's (LSSO) representative on EAG. He has remained an active member of the LSSO, and is currently serving as its inaugural Licensing Representative. Previously, Nima Hojjati served at the LSSO's Equity Officer, where he assisted law students' societies in Ontario with the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #28. When he attended law school at Queen's University, he served as the Queen's Law Students' Society President, and in his term, he focused on institutional changes at Queen's Law to promote equity and diversity in the classroom and among the student body. He also served as the Queen's OUTLaw President. Currently, Nima Hojjati is the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Law Students Section.

**Leonard Kim** (reappointment)

Leonard Kim is an Assistant Crown Attorney with the Crown Attorney's Office in Sudbury. He currently acts as the Northern Regional representative on Hate Crime Prosecutions for the Ministry of the Attorney General (Criminal Law Division). Additionally, Leonard Kim is the former chair for the City of Greater Sudbury's Diversity Advisory panel. In this role, he successfully persuaded Sudbury City Council to, for the first time, adopt a written Diversity

Policy to be publicly displayed in municipal government buildings throughout the City. Leonard Kim is a regular guest speaker on racism, youth and diversity issues and has been an active volunteer for a number of diversity-related organizations.

### **Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi**

Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi is a Partner at Pallett Valo LLP. She is a member of the firm's Equality and Diversity Group, and at her previous firm, she was the firm's representative on the Law Firm Diversity and Inclusion Network (LFDIN). Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi serves as a Mentor for the South Asian Women in Law, and is also a member of The Advocates' Society. She is a member of the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto, and served on the Executive from 2007-2010. From 2010-2011, Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi was the President of the organization. In her role as President, she met with the Ontario Provincial government to ensure that there was diversity reflected in board positions. Sudevi Mukherjee-Gothi is currently a member of the Oakville Diwali Gala Committee, and the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

### **Beatriz Perez Corona**

Beatriz Perez Corona is a paralegal licensee, with a Bachelor's of Law degree from UAEM (Autonomous University of Mexico State) in Mexico. Beatriz Perez Corona has experience working in "The Cafecito" at The Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, where she provides assistance with employment-related issues to clients mainly from immigrant communities. She has been active with LGBTIQ2S community groups in Mexico that provided support to community members with issues regarding housing and employment.

### **Shibil Siddiqi**

Shibil Siddiqi is a lawyer at the Human Rights Legal Support Centre in Toronto, and he frequently appears in proceedings before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. Shibil Siddiqi is a member of the Human Rights Legal Support Centre's Steering Committee for its campaign against Islamophobia and racism. He completed his LLM at the University of Toronto, and specialized in the area of international human rights. Previously, Shibil Siddiqi was a Staff Lawyer at Neighbourhood Legal Services for over 10 years, where he provided legal advice, mediation and litigation services to a high volume of low-income clients.

### **Moya Teklu**

Moya Teklu is the acting lead of the Racialized Communities Strategy at Legal Aid Ontario. In this role, she consults with clients, community-based organizations, and service providers about the legal needs of racialized communities and the barriers to accessing legal aid services. Moya Teklu is also a facilitator with the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators, where she develops and delivers training modules aimed at helping adjudicators and regulators recognize implicit bias in decision-making. She previously worked as a Human Rights & Health Equity Specialist at Sinai Health System, where she was responsible for helping to identify and

address barriers to health care services and employment faces by a number of marginalized communities.

### **Brenda Young**

Brenda Young is an Indigenous woman and the Community Justice Director with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Prior to her current position, she was a Policy Analyst/Capacity Development Advisor with the Southern First Nations Secretariat, where her work focused on human rights, governance, the duty to consult & accommodate, justice, the War of 1812 Bicentennial and capacity development. Brenda Young was a 2013 Indigenous Fellow with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She volunteers with the Chippewas of the Thames Police (Justice) Committee, the Anishinabek Nation Tribunal & Commission Adjudicator, the LAO Aboriginal Issues Advisory Committee and N'Amerind Community Justice Circles. Brenda Young is also the current President of the Aboriginal Justice Centre in London.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS**

### **Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (reappointment)**

Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to promote French in the Ontario legal system and to promote access to justice in Ontario in order to ensure fair access in the two official languages. AJEFO and its partners develop and implement many initiatives to increase access to justice for the Franco-Ontarian population.

### **Arab Canadian Lawyers Association**

The Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) is a national association committed to providing professional support for the Arab legal community and advocating on behalf of the Arab community in Canada. ACLA's work is directed by an anti-oppression framework and human rights lens. ACLA was previously an active and dedicated member of EAG from 2006-2015, and is proud to have taken an active role on the Addressing Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees project. The group is a current member of the Roundtable of Diversity Associations, and also sits on the anti-Islamophobia committee of the Ontario government's Anti-Racism Directorate.

### **ARCH Disability Law Centre (reappointment)**

ARCH Disability Law Centre is a specialty community legal aid clinic dedicated to defending and advancing the equality rights of people with disabilities in Ontario. ARCH provides legal services

to help Ontarians with disabilities live with dignity and participate fully in our communities. ARCH works with Ontarians with disabilities and the disability community on law reform and policy initiatives, community development, legal advice and referrals, public legal education and litigation. ARCH has over 60 community partners, including disability, consumer-run, and service delivery organizations.

#### **Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (reappointment)**

The Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) works to remove systemic barriers within the legal profession and to promote the advancement of black lawyers within the profession. They do so through a number of mechanisms, which include establishing support systems for law students and young lawyers, providing positive role models, and cultivating and fostering diversity within the profession with an emphasis on mentoring, networking and outreach. CABL is strongly committed to equality and diversity principles and has a wealth of experience in working within the legal and broader community resolving issues created by inequality.

#### **Canadian Association of Somali Lawyers**

The Canadian Association of Somali Lawyers (CASL) is a national organization comprised of Canadian-Somali legal professionals whose members self-identify as Black, with a strong African heritage, and predominantly of the Islamic faith. CASL's mandate includes promoting equity, justice, and opportunity for Canadian-Somali legal professionals and facilitating access to legal services for the Canadian-Somali community. CASL has made submissions to the Law Society of Ontario in response to the consultation paper released by the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Working Group; to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to call for the elimination of carding and street checks; and to Justice Michael Tulloch and the Ministry of the Attorney General regarding proposed changes to the *Police Services Act*.

#### **Canadian Hispanic Bar Association (reappointment)**

The *Canadian Hispanic Bar Association* (the *CHBA*), formerly the *Hispanic Ontario Bar Association*, is a national professional organization representing lawyers, law students and academics who self-identify as Hispanic, Latin American or Hispanophone Caribbean or of Hispanic, Latin American or Hispanophone Caribbean origin. The CHBA's membership enjoys large racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity as they trace our ethnic-racial origins to pre-colonial America, Africa, Asia and Europe. They are also diverse in terms of our gender and sexual orientation, immigration status and experience, our linguistic background and levels of abilities.

The *CHBA*'s objectives may be summarized as follows:

- (a) To advance the standing of Hispanic lawyers in the community;
- (b) To promote cooperation and professional development of Hispanic lawyers;
- (c) To be involved in significant issues affecting the Hispanic community, within and outside the legal realm;

- (d) To contribute to the growth and wellness of the Hispanic community and to the legal profession, and
- (e) To promote the profession so as to increase the number of Hispanic lawyers.

### **Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association**

Founded in 1998, the CMLA is a Toronto-based non-profit association of Muslim lawyers from all Canadian provinces and territories. The CMLA has approximately 200 members and is funded entirely by the contributions of its members.

The CMLA is focused on four key areas of engagement. First, the CMLA helps build professional relationships among Canadian Muslim lawyers and between Canadian Muslim lawyers and members of other legal organizations. Second, the CMLA educates its members and the broader Canadian Muslim community on law topics of interest. Third, the CMLA provides peer support by providing law students and junior lawyers with mentorship and professional development seminars. Fourth, the CMLA serves as an advocate on select issues of importance to Canadian Muslim lawyers and the broader Canadian Muslim community.

### **Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers** (reappointment)

FACL is a diverse coalition of Asian Canadian legal professionals working to promote equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian Canadian legal professionals and the wider community. FACL is a not-for-profit organization working closely with other Asian Canadian associations and community organizations. It is affiliated with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

### **Law Students Society of Ontario** (reappointment)

The LSSO is an advocacy body representing undergraduate (JD) law students at Ontario law schools. The LSSO's goal is to articulate student needs to the organizations that govern the legal profession, the universities that administer legal education, and government bodies that regulate post-secondary education and financial aid.

### **Ontario Paralegal Association**

The Ontario Paralegal Association (OPA) is the largest professional association of licensed Paralegals in Ontario. The mandate of OPA includes ensuring that the public interest is advanced and served in all activities of the Association, and serving the legal profession and the people of Ontario in pursuit of excellence in the delivery of legal services. The OPA is committed to assisting the public in accessing a more affordable justice system. The OPA has made submissions to the LSO regarding contingency fee regulation, and has participated in the Discrimination and Harassment Counsel Program Review to provide feedback from the paralegal perspective.

**Roundtable of Diversity Associations** (reappointment)

The Roundtable of Diversity Associations (RODA) brings together a diverse group of legal associations with the goal of fostering a dialogue and initiatives relating to the advancement of diversity, equality and inclusion in the legal profession.

RODA's member associations: Arab Canadian Lawyers Association; Association of Chinese Canadian Lawyers of Ontario; Canadian Association of Black Lawyers; Canadian Association of South Asian Lawyers; Canadian Hispanic Bar Association; Canadian Italian Advocates Organization; Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers; Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association; Iranian Canadian Legal Professionals; Korean Canadian Lawyers Association; Macedonian Canadian Lawyers; OBA Equality Committee; Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Caucus; South Asian Bar Association of Toronto; Toronto Lawyers Association; Women's Law Association of Ontario.

**South Asian Bar Association** (reappointment)

The South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA) is the GTA's premier legal organization dedicated to promoting the objectives of South Asian members of the legal profession. Members of SABA include lawyers that self-identify as South Asian or are of South Asian origin, and lawyers that advocate on issues of relevance to the South Asian community. Our membership is dynamic, ever-expanding and includes lawyers from large and small law firms, sole practitioners, government agencies and departments, non-profit organizations, and corporations. Members of the judiciary, academics and law students also form an integral part of SABA.