



**CLA**

**COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

**PRESS STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF TRIAL OBSERVER JAILED BY UGANDA**

The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association, meeting at the 17th Commonwealth Law Conference at Hyderabad, India on 5th-9th February, 2011, passed the following resolution:

CONSIDERING the stated commitment of each member of the Commonwealth to the Latimer House Principles and the Rule of Law;

EXPRESSES its profound concern about well-informed reports of the abuse and arbitrary detention in September 2010 of Kenyan human rights defender Al Amin Kimathi and Kenyan High Court advocate Mbugua Mureithi by the Government of Uganda, while the two were attempting to monitor proceedings relating to Kenyan nationals previously rendered without due process by the Government of Kenya to the Government of Uganda;

NOTES that although Mr. Mureithi was released, Mr. Kimathi remains arbitrarily detained by the Government of Uganda;

CALLS UPON the Government of Uganda to release Mr. Kimathi immediately, and by way of reparation to both human rights defenders, pay them just compensation and issue a public apology for their arbitrary treatment.

RESOLVED at Hyderabad this 9th day of February, 2011

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The **Commonwealth Lawyers' Association** (CLA) – [www.commonwealthlawyers.com](http://www.commonwealthlawyers.com) - is an international organisation which exists to promote and maintain the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession, with the highest standards of ethics and integrity, serves the people of the Commonwealth.

In June 1998, a group of distinguished parliamentarians, judges, lawyers and legal academics drafted guidelines which would provide an operational manual of good practice with regard to the fundamental values of the Commonwealth and the commitments contained in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration and Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme. The guidelines were further refined and endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government in November 2003 as the **Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles on the Accountability of and the Relationship between the Three Branches of Government** (the Principles).