

Seattle University School of Law

Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons

V. Kiplagat Tribunal and Related Documents

The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation
Commission of Kenya

11-2-2010

Slye Statement on Withdrawal of Resignation

Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/tjrc-kiplagat>

Recommended Citation

Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, "Slye Statement on Withdrawal of Resignation" (2010). *V. Kiplagat Tribunal and Related Documents*. 3.
<https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/tjrc-kiplagat/3>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya at Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in V. Kiplagat Tribunal and Related Documents by an authorized administrator of Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons.

For Immediate Release:

2 November 2010

PRESS STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER RONALD C. SLYE OF THE TJRC

On 22 October I announced my intention to resign from the TJRC. I cited two reasons for my decision. First, there was the failure to resolve the credibility issues around the TJRC's Chairman, Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat. Second, there was the minimal financial and other support from the Government of Kenya, most notably the fact that the Government only gave the Commission 15% of its requested budget.

I made clear in my statement of 22 October that after having waited over six months for the creation of a Tribunal to address the issues around the Chairman, the mere creation of a tribunal would do little to address immediately the credibility issues facing the Chairman and the Commission. On 29 October the Chief Justice announced the creation of a Tribunal to address the issues around the Chairman. In that announcement the lifespan of the Tribunal is limited to six months, which is one-half of the time left to the Commission to do its work. While the creation of a Tribunal is a welcome development, the delay in its creation and the understandable time it would take to do its work properly means that the Commission, and the public, would continue to be distracted by the allegations made against the Chairman and less able to focus on the important mandate entrusted to the Commission.

Today the Chairman announced that he is stepping aside from the Commission in order to devote his full attention clearing his name through the Tribunal. In doing so, he has taken an intensely personal step that may allow the Commission to make serious headway on fulfilling its mandate.

The Chairman's stepping aside addresses one of the two reasons I cited for my decision to resign. The other, minimal financial support from the Government of Kenya, stills exists. It is my hope that with the decision of the Chairman to step aside, the Government of Kenya and others will be willing to provide the Commission with the resources it needs to fulfill its mandate.

Since I announced my resignation many Kenyans have encouraged me to reverse my decision. They have impressed upon me how long Kenya has waited for a truth commission, and the important contribution that I and the other international commissioners can and do provide to the process. While I have been sympathetic to those pleas, I could not in good conscience continue with an organization in which I had lost faith in its ability to fulfill its mandate.

The decision of the Chairman to step aside has restored some of my faith in the ability of the Commission to succeed. It is no means certain to me that it will. The lack of financial and other support to which I referred in my earlier statement still exists. I do believe, however, that with the Chairman's

decision to step aside, there is the possibility that the Government of Kenya and others will step up and provide the Commission with much of the support that it needs.

It is for these reasons that I announce that I am withdrawing my intention to resign from the Commission. In so doing I do not mean to imply that the Commission has overcome all of the hurdles facing it. I do believe, however, that with the hard work and dedication of the remaining Commissioners and staff, the Commission has a fighting chance to fulfill the important mandate entrusted to it by the people of Kenya.

I urge the Government of Kenya, the international community, development partners, and civil society to work with the Commission to further the important process of truth, justice and reconciliation. Many of them have already made important contributions to this project, and it is now my belief and hope that the Commission can as well. In the end it is not the Commission that they will be helping, but the people of Kenya who have waited so long to have their rights acknowledged and affirmed. The new Constitution provides a framework for such acknowledgment and affirmation for the future. The TJRC provides the framework for dealing with the past. For it is only by facing squarely the misdeeds of the past that a future of respect for the rights of all Kenyans can be ensured.