FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge Dr. Douglas Singiza is responsible for Dr. Kizza Besigye's situation

Kampala, Uganda - February 17, 2025: The Uganda Law Society (ULS) does not typically comment on active cases conducted by its capable members. However, we are compelled to address the pressing matter of Dr. Kizza Besigye's alleged unlawful detention, despite a recent Supreme Court judgment nullifying the trial of civilians in military courts.

The Supreme Court's decision in Attorney General v. Hon Michael Kabaziguruka, Constitutional Appeal 2 of 2021, unequivocally nullified the provisions in the Uganda People's Defence Forces Act that created offenses under which Dr. Besigye and other civilians were charged. Consequently, there is no trial to transfer to civilian courts, and the Director of Public Prosecutions has no basis to take over the case. Dr. Besigye is therefore entitled to immediate and unconditional release.

Regrettably, High Court Judge Dr. Douglas Karekona Singiza has arbitrarily denied Dr. Besigye's habeas corpus petition an expeditious hearing, contravening the Constitution and the law. This is not an isolated incident, as Judge Singiza **has also denied an expeditious hearing to a similar petition by the ULS on behalf of its member, Adv Eron Kiiza.**

It is axiomatic that habeas corpus applications take precedence over all other business of the court. Judge Singiza's conduct is particularly troubling, **given his history of sanctioning human rights abuses, including the torture of Kakwenza Rukirabashaija, which led to the latter's exile.**

Accordingly, we urge the Judiciary Leadership to take immediate action to address this grave injustice, **including reviewing Judge Singiza's conduct and taking disciplinary action against him for his blatant disregard for the law and human rights.** The international community must also hold Uganda accountable for its human rights obligations and ensure that justice is served.

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