

Q6. Could you tell me a little about your background?

BIOGRAPHY OF JUDGE AMINATTA L. R. NGUM

I, **Aminattha Lois Runeni Ngum**, a Zimbabwean citizen by birth **Annie Lois Runeni Ruredzo** to Zimbabwean citizens on 7th June, 1953 in Harare, Zimbabwe [then Salisbury, Rhodesia]. Additionally, I am a Gambian citizen by marriage to a Gambian citizen since 06 February, 1981 in The Gambia.

Educational Background: I received an LL.M in Public International Law with an International Criminal Law Specialisation from Leiden University The Netherlands in 2005 and my thesis was entitled “Freedom of Expression and the Right to Restrict such Freedom – the Experience of Africa and the Diaspora”. I was the first female Master of the Supreme Court [now High Court in The Gambia], and participated in the First Commonwealth Judicial Management Course at the Royal Institute for Public Administration [RIPA] London, U.K. in 1993. I was called to the Bar of England and Wales as an Utter Barrister as a member of Lincoln’s Inn since 1977; and having passed the Bar Finals at The Inns of Court School of Law, Gray’s Inn Place, London U.K. in 1979. I completed the requisite six months pupillage under Mr. Henry Myers Esq. 9 Stone Buildings, Lincoln’s Inn, London U.K. in March 1980. I studied at the University of Keele, Staffordshire U.K. and graduated with a B.A. Joint Honours in Law and Sociology 1978. I was a member of Amnesty International at Keele.

Relevant International Experience: I have been serving as a Judge on the roster of 25 Judges of the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals [the Mechanism]. The Gambia Government nominated me in September 2011, elected by the UN General Assembly 20 December 2011 and sworn in by the Registrar of the Mechanism on 27 April 2012. I have actively participated in the finalising of the Draft Mechanism Rules of Procedure and Evidence June 2012 and amendments thereto as well as The Code of Professional Conduct for Mechanism Judges. I carry out the functions assigned to me by the President remotely, dealing with residual issues for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda [UNICTR] and the UN International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia [UNICTY], as a single judge as well as in a panel of 5 judges on Appeal respectively. In addition, I served as Legal Officer in the UNICTR from July 1999 to September 2009 representing the Registrar in and out of court and ensuring the smooth running of proceedings from the Pre-Trial through the Trial to the Appeal and Review stages. I commenced in Arusha, Tanzania, serving in the Court Management Section as Deputy Chief sometimes Officer-in Charge for 2 years 3 months; then was reassigned as Head of the Appeals Support Unit in The Hague, the Netherlands for 2 years; reassigned to Arusha in the Defence Counsel and Detention Management Section as Deputy Chief and Head of Section and later Officer-in Charge for 2 years; finally returned to the Court Management Section for 3 years 3 months.

Relevant National Experience: I served as Judge of The Gambia Court of Appeal hearing and determining Civil and Criminal Appeals from the High Court of The Gambia 2010 to 2011. During this period, the Chief Justice appointed me to serve on the Supreme Court for the November 2010 session. Additionally, I served the Judiciary of The Gambia in various capacities First Judicial Secretary 1998 to 1999; first female Master of the Supreme Court 1990 to 1994 and first female Magistrate Class I, Senior and Principal Magistrate 1980 to 1990 respectively. Additionally, I served as a Private Legal Practitioner in The Gambia 1994 to 1998 and 2009 to 2010; Senior Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry into Land Administration; Part-Time Law Lecturer at The Gambia Technical Training Institute. In addition, I served as Assistant Editor for the 1994 Gambia Law Reports for the National Council for Law Reporting. I was an Ad Hoc Member of The Gambia Law Reform Commission Subcommittee Criminal Code: Criminal Procedure Code and the Law of Evidence now the Evidence Act 1994. I was a Member of the National Specialised Committee on Women in Development – Legal Status and Welfare Committee of the Gambia’s Women’s Bureau. I was a Founder Member of SIB as well as The Gambia Women Finance Association. I am a Life Member of the Commonwealth Magistrates’ and Judges’ Association; International Association of Women Judges and other Associations and NGOs.