

Talking for Peace – A Karl Kahane Lecture Series

The Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue in co-operation with the Karl Kahane Foundation
kindly invites to the lecture of

BETTY KAARI MURUNGI

Director of Urgent Action Fund Africa

RISING UP IN RESPONSE: AFRICAN WOMEN TAKING ACTION

Welcome address:

Patricia Kahane

President of the Karl Kahane Foundation, Member of the Board of the Bruno Kreisky Forum

Moderator:

Lilly Sucharipa

Wednesday | October 15, 2008 | 19.00 hours

Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue
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Betty Kaari Murungi, Director, Urgent Action Fund Africa

Betty Kaari Murungi is a feminist lawyer with expertise in international human rights law. Since 1998, she has been a consultant and legal adviser to the women's rights program at Rights and Democracy on gender-related crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Besides being director of UAF, Betty Kaari Murungi serves on a number of NGO Boards (The Kenya Human Rights Commission/KHRC, Women's Initiative for Gender Justice/WIGJ, The Hague, The Netherlands, Kituo Cha Katiba - The East African Centre for Constitutional Development, Kampala, Uganda) and is member of the Kenya Bar, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the International Bar Association (IBA), the East Africa Law Society (EALS), the Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA). In December 2003 Betty Kaari Murungi received the national honour of the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS) for her work in human rights. Betty Kaari Murungi's work mainly focuses on international conflict resolution, particularly in regard to justice for women in post-conflict justice mechanisms such as the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Established in Kenya in August 2001 and based in Nairobi, the Urgent Action Fund Africa aims at advancing the human rights of women and girls globally with a primary focus in areas of armed conflict or escalating violence. The overall goal of the organisation is to provide rapid response grants and relevant information to women human rights organisations and activists enabling them to act in response to strategic openings or situations of crisis. This will be achieved through two strategic programs. UAF-Africa provides small grants of up to US\$ 5,000 to support strategic interventions with a significant impact. The Collaborative Initiatives Program compliments the grant making program. It emerged out of the realisation that besides the need for financial resources, women need to share knowledge and special skills. The program contributes to building a strong African women's movement. In the past three years UAF - Africa awarded 134 grants to different women's rights and women led peace organisations in 27 African countries. These grants assisted women and girls in promoting and defending their rights in conflict/crisis situations. Further the organisation promotes the exchange between women's rights and human rights organisations.

Moderation:

Lilly Sucharipa, President, Austrian National Committee for UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)