

Crisis in Cameroon: A Conversation with Barrister

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Felix Agbor Nkongho

Law Society of Ontario | Société de l'Ontario

Agenda

October 25, 2018

Presentations: 6:00- 7:15 p.m.

Donald Lamont Learning Centre and as a live webcast

6:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks – Teresa Donnelly, Bencher at the Law Society of Ontario

Opening Remarks – Melissa Tessler, Member, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

6:10 p.m. Discussion

Felix Agbor Nkongho, human rights lawyer and founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa

Gavin Magrath, Director at Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and Chair of Lawyers' Rights Watch (Legal Research) Canada

7:55 p.m. Audience Q & A

7:10 p.m. Concluding Remarks – Melissa Tessler, Member, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Reception: 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Convocation Hall

NOTE: Photographs and video taken at this event will be used in Law Society and partner organization print and online publications.

Speaker Biographies



Felix Agbor Nkongho

Felix Agbor Nkongho is an Anglophone Cameroonian human rights lawyer who is the immediate past president of the Fako Lawyers Association, vice president of the African Bar Association in charge of Central Africa, and the founder and President of the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa.

Felix Agbor Nkongho is a leader in the civil society movement seeking to remedy the historic inequality, discrimination and marginalization of Anglophones in Cameroon. He has been actively involved in organising non-violent civil disobedience and protests calling for the protection of the culture and rights of Anglophone Cameroonians.

The Cameroonian government arrested Felix Agbor Nkongho in January 2017 along with other Anglophone activists and leaders in Cameroon. He was detained and faced several charges in the military court. In August 2017, those charges were dropped and he was released.

Felix holds an LLB and LLMs in both International and Comparative Law and International Human Rights Law. He has studied and holds degrees from the University of Yaoundé, the Nigerian Law School (Abuja), Vrije Universiteit (Brussels) and Notre Dame University (USA).



Gavin Magrath

Gavin's practice focuses on Canadian litigation liability arising out of international transportation and logistics activities. He has represented forwarders, carriers, ship owners, and cargo interests in litigation before the Superior and Federal Courts, as well as through ADR and at various administrative tribunals. He assists clients with a variety of civil and commercial litigation matters, including conflicts referrals, commercial and contract disputes, employment litigation, and privacy and e-commerce issues. He also maintains a significant pro bono practice in International Human Rights Law research and advocacy, chiefly through Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada.



Since 2009 Gavin has served as counsel and a volunteer Director of the National Board of Directors of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders' Association (CIFFA); he oversaw the updating of the CIFFA Standard Trading Conditions in 2003, 2010, and 2016, and frequently lectures for the Association's Certificate education programs and member webinars. He is a member of the Canadian Maritime Lawyers' Association and sits on its board as the Constituent Member representative for CIFFA. He was appointed to the Advisory Body Legal Matters for FIATA at the World Congress in Dublin, 2016.

Gavin's pro bono and public interest practice includes research and litigation support for international human rights and crown liability cases, as well as acting as counsel or providing direct pro bono legal services to non-profit and charitable organizations. He serves as a Director of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, an ECOSOC registered charitable organization focusing on the persecution by States of human rights defenders, and Chair of its sister organization Lawyer's Rights Watch (Legal Research) Canada. In addition to authoring research, letters, and white papers, Gavin made representations to the 27th, 30th, and 33rd sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva as an accredited representative for LRWC.