



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS (FIDA) AFRICA

FEDERACION INTERNACIONALE DE ABOGADAS

5th Sept., 2024

FIDA AFRICA STATEMENT AND CONDEMNATION OF THE GRUESOME MURDER OF REBECCA CHEPTEGEI: A CALL FOR JUSTICE

We, the members of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Africa, stand in unified outrage and sorrow over the recent heinous murder of **Rebecca Cheptegei** a talented female athlete from Uganda, by her Kenyan partner.

This tragic incident is not just a crime; it represents a disturbing continuation of the epidemic of femicide and gender-based violence that plagues our continent and stains our collective conscience.

The brutal killing of **Rebecca Cheptegei** highlights the urgent and dire need to confront the systemic issues that allow such acts of violence to persist against women and girls. As legal professionals who are committed to upholding justice and protecting the rights of all individuals especially women and children, we abhor to be counted in the number of silent and passive witnesses over the suffering of women who continuously face violence in various forms.

Femicide is not an isolated event; it is a reflection of pervasive societal norms that devalue women and render them vulnerable to violence. We recognize that the killing of **Rebecca Cheptegei** is symptomatic of a larger crisis that spans borders and cultures, revealing deep-rooted misogyny and the urgent need for comprehensive legal and cultural reforms across Africa.

We call upon all relevant authorities, both in Uganda and Kenya, to take immediate and decisive action in the pursuit of justice for **Rebecca Cheptegei** and her grieving family.

This includes:

1. Thorough Investigation:

We demand a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding her murder, ensuring that all evidence is collected and analyzed appropriately.

2. Legal Accountability:

Those responsible for this crime must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Justice must not only be served but must be seen to be appropriately served.

+234 8051456568
+234 8033020984
+256 700459688

fidaafrica@gmail.com
joyezeigbo@yahoo.co.uk
Inyirinkindi@gmail.com

FIDA House: Block 1, Flat 1, Ankpa Close
Ogun Street Area 2, Garki, Abuja



3. Preventive Measures:

Governments must enact and enforce stringent laws that protect women from violence and ensure that victims of domestic abuse receive immediate support and resources.

4. Public Awareness and Education:

We urge both government and civil society organizations to promote awareness campaigns that challenge gender norms and empower women, ensuring that future generations understand the detrimental impact of violence against women.

5. Support for Victims:

We call for the establishment of effective support systems for victims of gender-based violence, including safe shelters, legal aid, and psychological support.

We acknowledge the pain and loss experienced by the family and friends of **Rebecca Cheptegei**, and we stand in strong solidarity with them during this unimaginably difficult time.

Let this tragedy ignite a renewed commitment among all stakeholders - government, legal entities, civil society, and individuals to eliminate femicide and uphold the dignity and rights of women across Africa.

We will not rest until justice is served, and we will continue to advocate for a safer and more equitable society for all women.

For: FIDA Africa

Carolina Rios Villota
FIDA International President
+57 310 821 5312 (Mobile)

Joy C. Ejim
Regional Vice President, Africa

FIDA Africa Represented:

- FIDA Nigeria
- FIDA Uganda
- FIDA Cameroun
- FIDA Ghana
- FIDA Kenya
- Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. (EWLA)
- National Alliance of Women Lawyers, South Sudan
- Women Lawyers Association of Cote D'Ivoire
- South African Women Lawyers Association. (SAWLA/FIDA S.A.)
- Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA)