

## Background and Introduction

International courts have been industrious over the past couple of decades. International courts such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Criminal Court (ICC) have become the hot spot for settling jurisdiction of many sorts across borders. Regional human rights courts in Europe, Latin America, and Africa have sought to protect the rights of individuals against government intrusion. As individuals and states increasingly turn to the international judicial system, the risk of “tribunal fatigue” emerges (Alford 2000 p. 160). This has led to “backlash” against these legal bodies and state exit, resulting in growing scholarly attention (Madsen et al. 2018; Voeten 2019). This research explains the role, agenda, and framework of international courts as unitary entities, but an understanding of international judges with separate individual behaviors and voices has been overlooked.

## Methods and Procedures

On the bench, I investigated how judges that have sat on each court since their inception speak as individuals through separate concurring and dissenting opinions. This involved collecting, evaluating, summarizing, and qualitatively coding separate judicial opinions. I systematically collected and documented each judge's off-the-bench separate judicial behavior. After this, I read and analyzed this speech, qualitatively coding and summarizing behaviors. This research culminated in the writings of an Individual Profile of each Human Rights Judge.

# Human Rights Judges as Individuals

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## Methods

The profiles I created for each of the judges was organized into four sections:

<b>Background</b>	Understand background of Judges via online searches and related professional association pages.
<b>Academic and Policy Publications</b>	Publications for each of the Judges was reviewed. I became acquainted with them and summarized the writings of the judges involved.
<b>Media Coverage</b>	Using Dr. Creamer's Zotero Library database, skimmed news items to assess a specific Judge's ability to be noticed in the media both on and off the bench.
<b>Public Engagement</b>	Performed web and social media searches on each Judge to assess their public participation.

## Judges

\*Judge Kimelabalou Aba  
\*Lady Justice Imani Daud About  
\*Justice Rafea Ben Achour  
\*Justice Sophia A. B. Akuffo  
\*Lady Justice Stella Isibhakhomen Anukam  
\*Justice Solomy Balungi Bossa

## Conclusion and Next Steps

- From analysing and completing profiles on different judges from the African Court of Human and Peoples Rights I acquired a greater grasp of how individual and career experiences shape how individuals handle the law.
- This research is a part of a larger book project conducted by Professor Cosette D. Creamer that will go on to interpret other international courts and judicial bodies.

## References

Alford, R. P. (2000). The Proliferation of International Courts and Tribunals: International Adjudication in Ascendance. *Proceedings of the ASIL Annual Meeting*, 94, 160–165.  
Madsen, M. R., Cebulak, P., & Wiebusch, M. (2018). Backlash against international courts: explaining the forms and patterns of resistance to international courts. *International Journal of Law in Context*, 14(2), 197–220.  
Voeten, E. (2019). Populism and Backlashes against International Courts. *Perspectives of Politics*, 1–16.

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