



Item: AS.A8

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Requesting recommendation to approve the conferral of an Honorary Doctorate on Madam Zainab Hawa Bangura.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

University Policy 2.3 (Honorary Doctorates) specifies that those nominated for Honorary Doctorates be recommended to the FAU Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President. One candidate is being recommended at this time.

Madam Bangura is an experienced diplomat and public servant. In 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Madam Bangura as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary-General. In addition to serving on Sierra Leone's Peace Building Commission and meeting with diverse stakeholders, including rebel groups, regarding sexual violence and corruption, Madam Bangura has also led the civilian component of the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. For more than 20 years, she has been involved with governance and conflict resolution in Africa. Her experience includes serving as Minister of Health and Sanitation for the Government of Sierra Leone, as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Additionally, she is a fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London, possessing diplomas in insurance management from the City University London and Nottingham University, as well as a B.A. from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

If approved, this Honorary Doctorate will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

Supporting Documentation: Nomination materials

Presented by: Dr. Gary W. Perry

Phone: 561-297-3062

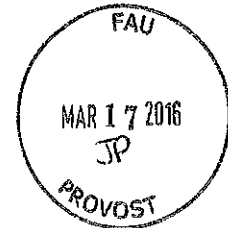
MEMORANDUM

To: President John Kelly
Provost Gary Perry

From: Heather Coltman *Heather Coltman*
Dean and Professor

Date: March 16, 2016

Re: Nomination for Honorary Doctorate Degree—Zainab Hawa Bangura



It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Madam Zainab Hawa Bangura for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. Madam Bangura has outstanding achievements in peace-making and diplomacy, as well as high distinction in public service. I have attached a biography, related media documents and a letter of support from Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts with this memo.

Madam Bangura has outstanding achievements in advocating for women's rights, governance and political reform, conflict resolution, and reconciliation in Africa. In 2014, the Journal of Foreign Policy featured her in a special issue on the leading global thinkers of 2014. She ranked as one of thirteen Africans and fifty-one women on its list of 131 political, intellectual and cultural leaders. In December 2015, New African Magazine included her on its list of the 100 most influential Africans, noting her "undeniable" influence in policy, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

Madam Bangura is a graduate of Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone, and holds diplomas from City University Business School of London and Nottingham University.

Madam Bangura was named the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012.

Prior to this appointment, Madam Bangura was the Minister of Health and Sanitation, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Chief Adviser and Spokesperson of the President for the government of Sierra Leone. She also managed the largest civilian component of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

Madam Bangura is deeply engaged in multilateral and bilateral negotiations and discussions worldwide on behalf of victims of sexual violence in conflict. Her work explores and works to prevent and mitigate

sexual violence in a diverse set of conflict regions, including Sudan, Iraq, Congo, Darfur and other nations. Her many distinguished achievements in this work have earned her significant recognition. Her most recent award was presented to her last month at Georgetown University – the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award for Advancing Women, peace and Security from the Georgetown Institute for Woman, peace and Security.

I agree with Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts that Madam Zainab Hawa Bangura has sustained achievement of lasting significance, and I strongly recommend her for this honor. I have attached a biography, related media documents and a letter of support from Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts with this memo. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.



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To: Heather Coltman
Dean and Professor

From: Josephine Beoku-Betts
Professor

Date: 11th March, 2016

Re: Nomination for Honorary Doctorate Degree—Zainab Hawa Bangura

I write to recommend the nomination of Madam Zainab Hawa Bangura for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. Madam Bangura has outstanding achievements in advocating for women's rights, governance and political reform, conflict resolution, and reconciliation in Africa. In 2014, the Journal Foreign Policy featured her in a special issue on the leading global thinkers of 2014 (<http://globalthinkers.foreignpolicy.com>). She ranked as one of thirteen Africans and fifty-one women on its list of 131 political, intellectual and cultural leaders. In December 2015, New African Magazine included her on its list of the 100 most influential Africans, noting her "undeniable" influence in policy, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

Zainab Hawa Bangura is a graduate of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree, specializing in History and Political Science in 1983 and is a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London (1991).

Madam Bangura is currently the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. She serves as the United Nation's spokesperson and political advocate on conflict-related sexual violence. She is the Chair of the Network on UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Prior to joining the United Nations, she was a former Minister of Health and Sanitation and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Sierra Leone. In these capacities, she was instrumental in developing national programs on affordable healthcare, advocating for the elimination of female genital mutilation, managing Sierra Leone's Peace Building Commission, and contributing to multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community.

She also worked with the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations in Liberia (UNMIL) where she was responsible for the management of the largest civilian component of the mission, including capacity building of government institutions and community reconciliation.

Zainab Bangura is a highly respected women's rights and human rights campaigner as well as a democracy activist. She is the Chair and Co-founder of the Movement for Progress Party of Sierra Leone, as well as Coordinator and Co-Founder of the Campaign for Good Governance in Sierra Leone.

Her outstanding contributions as a women's and human rights advocate, especially in her capacity as UN spokesperson and political advocate on conflict related sexual violence is internationally recognized. She is among the top nominees selected for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize. She has also received numerous awards, such as The African International Award of Merit for Leadership, The Human Rights Award from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, The Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award from the A. Philip Randolph Institute, The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship, the African American Institute's Distinguished Alumna Award, The Democracy Award given by the National Endowment for Democracy and most recently in February 2016, the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award for Advancing Women in Peace and Security (http://news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200528310.shtml).

In her acceptance speech for the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award at George Town University, she states: "For me, the political quest for gender justice is deeply personal". "I also know what it means to be targeted for violence as a woman who spoke against my nation's 12 year civil war." "When I see the heart-wrenching images of mass migration in the media, I remember all too vividly how it feels to be the first to flee your home and country by boat with nothing but clothes on your back. This was also my story, and my reality" (<http://www.ncronline.org/news/global/bangura-receives-award-work-sexual-violence-during-conflict>)

Zainab Hawa Bangura has sustained achievement of lasting impact, and I strongly recommend her for this honor. I have attached related media documents to support this request for Zainab Bangura's nomination for an honorary doctorate from Florida Atlantic University. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Josephine Beoku-Betts
Professor, Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

P.S.

http://www.un.org/sg/management/senstaff_details.asp?smgID=174 (United Nations Media Services-2013)

<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/> (Office of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict Media Services-2016)

<https://globalfutures.georgetown.edu/events/human-security-in-the-face-of-violent-extremism-2016-02-22-16-00-00-utc> (Georgetown University Global Futures Initiative- 2016)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p017zs5g> (BBC World Service: Hard Talk Podcast, Friday, 10th May, 2013 (15.06 Minutes).

Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict



On 22 June 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of **Zainab Hawa Bangura** of Sierra Leone as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary-General. Ms. Bangura replaces Margot Wallström, to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for her dedicated service and able leadership in achieving milestones within a challenging mandate.

Prior to this, Ms. Bangura was the Minister of Health and Sanitation for the Government of Sierra Leone, and brings to the position over 20 years of policy, diplomatic and practical experience in the field of governance, conflict resolution and reconciliation in Africa. She was previously the second female Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, including Chief Adviser and Spokesperson of the President on bilateral and international issues. Ms. Bangura has been instrumental in developing national programmes on affordable health, advocating for the elimination of genital mutilation, managing the country's Peace Building Commission and contributing to the multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community. She is experienced in meeting with interlocutors in diverse situations, including rebel groups, and familiar in dealing with State and non-State actors relevant to issues of sexual violence while fighting corruption and impunity.

Ms. Bangura has on-the-ground experience with peacekeeping operations from within the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where she was responsible for the management of the largest civilian component of the Mission, including promoting capacity-building of government institutions and community reconciliation. She is an experienced results-driven civil society, human and women's rights campaigner and democracy activist, notably as Executive Director of the National Accountability Groups, Chair and Co-founder of the Movement for Progress Party of Sierra Leone, as well as Coordinator and Co-founder of the Campaign for Good Governance.

Ms. Bangura is a former fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London, possessing Diplomas in Insurance Management from the City University Business School of London and Nottingham University. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Born in 1959, Ms. Bangura is married with two children.

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Bangura receives award for work in sexual violence during conflict



by [Tom Roberts](#) | *Mar. 8, 2016*

WASHINGTON -- It was a grim litany of evil that Zainab Hawa Bangura enumerated recently in a chilling exposition of sexual violence in national and regional conflicts in which rape becomes, simultaneously, weapon and crime of war.

Bangura, special representative to the U.N. Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, spoke Feb. 22 at Georgetown University during a program in which she received the Hillary Rodham Clinton Award for Advancing Women, Peace and Security from the Georgetown Institute for Woman, Peace & Security. The talk was part of a semester-long focus on global security by the university's Global Futures Initiative and the program was done in partnership with Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs.

The institute's "Global Trailblazer Award" was presented to Alissa Rubin, Paris bureau chief for *The New York Times*, who has covered numerous conflicts, including the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, with an emphasis on the stories of women.

Describing sexual violence in war as "history's greatest silence" and "the world's least-condemned crime," Bangura said the abuse has been sidelined in the past as an inevitable "byproduct of war" or as "simply 'boys being boys.'" But rape in war, she said, "is as old as war itself" and, in the modern era, increasingly a matter of war tactics and strategy.

"In fact, no other human rights violation has so routinely been dismissed as inevitable. Many people still believe that wartime rape happens only occasionally – as the random act of a few renegade soldiers" while the reality, she said, "transverses all of history and geography."



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One of her responsibilities, "bearing witness to truly unbearable crimes," has taken her to corners of the globe where the stories quickly become unbearable. "In the contemporary theater of conflict, women and girls find themselves under assault every day and with every step they take. Whether at border crossing, checkpoints, during house searches, in detention centers, and in the very camps or settlements where they seek refuge. Women are first affected and worst affected by protracted conflict and terrorism," she said.

Measurable, significant steps toward greater human rights in recent decades are threatened, she said, by a confluence of crises, including more than 30 armed conflicts, greater civilian displacement than at any time since World War II, "and arguably the worst wave of

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terrorism on record.”

Syria provides the most dramatic illustration. Before the war, she said, enrollment in school was “almost universal. Now we are witnessing a generation of children of receiving no education at all.”

Girls are confined to their homes or married off at a young age in hopes of shielding them from harm. “The war has unleashed a wave of sexual violence, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced impregnation, and trauma, both individual and collective, that will take generations to heal.”

In South Sudan, where conflicts are settled by “customary or chief’s courts, which often prescribe marriage to the perpetrator as a remedy for rape,” authorities consider rape not a crime but an alternative to planned marriage.

In Darfur, she said, sexual violence is “ethnically targeted” and used “as a vehicle of prosecution and forced displacement.” More than half of the sexual violence incidents in Darfur occur during the course of essential everyday activities such as gathering food and firewood.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, “entire villages have been traumatized by mass rape,” the purpose of which is “mass humiliation,” and to send a message to men of the village that they are powerless to protect the women. “More than a third of all conflict-related sexual violence victims in the DRC are internally displaced persons or refugees,” said Bangura. “And more than half of all cases involve children.”

Rape in the Ivory Coast “is still legally classified as a lesser offense than indecent assault.” In the recent past, she said, families of those killed or physically harmed in post-electoral uprisings there were compensated. But no compensation was given to the more than 150 women who were victims of sexual violence during the incident.

“In all of these settings, rape continues to also be committed by the national army and the police – the very people meant to provide protection. No single continent culture, region or religion has a monopoly on this scourge,” she said.

The most recent manifestation of the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war comes with Islamic State. Bangura said the group “has incorporated sexual violence into the grim logic of punishment and reward, by which it controls behavior and consolidates its power.” In a more insidious strategy, she argues that extremists in Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, Mali and elsewhere are fighting wars “over the bodies of women and girls. Extremists view women’s bodies as vessels for producing a generation of children that can be raised in their own image,

according to their radical ideology.”

If the Islamic State’s methods seem medieval, their communication strategy “is distinctly modern.” According to Bangura, the group has attracted more than 30,000 men and women for more than 100 countries “as fighters or brides” using “sophisticated social media messaging.” She described social communication as the Islamic State’s “oxygen – and we must find ways to suffocate them.”

Countering the use of sexual violence in war requires legal frameworks holding perpetrators accountable to be “swiftly and consistently enforced.” There often remains, however, a great distance between international norms and legal standards regarding sexual violence and national laws that minimize such crimes.

Bangura knows from personal experience the uphill battle she and others face. “For me, the political quest for gender justice is deeply personal.” She said she, “knows firsthand what it means to be deprived and culturally devalued because I was born a girl in a time and place in rural Sierra Leone when girls were denied education and opportunity.”

“I also know what it means to be targeted for violence as a woman who spoke against my nation’s 12-year civil war,” she said. “When I see the heart-wrenching images of mass migration in the media, I remember all too vividly how it feels to be the first to flee your home and country by boats. With nothing but the clothes on your back. This was also my story, and my reality.”

Bangura was appointed special representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of undersecretary general in 2012 by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The Georgetown event included a discussion and questions taken from the audience by Bangura and Rubin during a discussion moderated by Melanne Verveer, head of the institute who previously served as inaugural U.S. Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues.

Clinton, honorary founding chair of the institute, made a brief appearance by video, and the event concluded with closing remarks by actor and human rights activist Ashley Judd.

[Tom Roberts is *NCR* editor-at-large. His email address is troberts@ncronline.org.]

[South Sudan](#) [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

[Georgetown Institute for Women](#) [Peace and Security](#)

[Zainab Hawa Bangura](#) [Alissa Rubin](#)

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