



# Statement of the Justice Leadership Group in relation to the steps taken against the chief justice situation in Malawi

The Justice Leadership Group is deeply concerned about the decision of the government of Malawi to effectively force Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda into retirement prior to the end of his term, following a court decision ordering a rerun of the presidential elections that took place last year.

We urgently call upon the government to respect the constitution of Malawi and the independence of the judiciary, in particular in light of the Court Order that was issued on 14 June 2020 for judicial review of the Government's decision. We also call upon the government to refrain from threats to the judiciary and to ensure that the safety of all judicial officers is assured.

We also express our support for the Statement by the members of the Southern African Chief Justices Forum of 15 June, the Africa Civil Society Statement on Threats to Judicial Independence in Malawi of 15 June, and the Public Statement of the Malawi Law Society Concerning the Purported Leave Pending Retirement of the Hon. The Chief Justice of 13 June.

*16 June 2020*

## *About the Justice Leadership Group*

Having served justice and their citizens for a long period, the members of the Justice Leadership Group have come together to support others who have accepted the task and the challenge of serving justice in their societies. They share first-hand experience with leading justice change at the highest political level and a strong commitment to delivering justice. For more, see <http://justiceleaders.org/>