



For immediate release
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Academic Freedom and the Political Crisis in Zimbabwe

Three Scholars will discuss that Country's ongoing Political Crisis



What: Tyanai Masiya, a visiting scholar at Trinity's Center for Urban and Global Studies, will be joined by a second Rescue Scholar from Zimbabwe and an American University professor in discussing the topic, "Academic Freedom and the Political Crisis in Zimbabwe."

When: Thursday, March 5 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: The Washington Room in Mather Hall on the Trinity campus.

Background: The three scholars will talk about the continuing political crisis in Zimbabwe, particularly focusing on its effect on higher education and the country's once thriving university system. They will discuss their lives as academics in the South African nation, where the despotic reign of President Robert Mugabe has resulted in human rights abuses and economic mismanagement. The panelists also will offer their suggestions for a political resolution to Zimbabwe's political impasse.

Masiya, who is teaching two courses at Trinity this semester, is supported by the Scott M. Johnson Memorial Fund and the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York. The Scott M. Johnson Memorial Fund is endowed by Tom Johnson '62, Hon.'05, P'97, former chairman of Trinity's Board of Trustees. The Common Hour event is made possible, in part, by a contribution to the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) from The Hite Foundation Chair for Communications. The SRF is a program run by the IIE that gives safe harbor to academics whose work puts them at risk in their home countries.

The second Rescue Scholar is a professor of political science at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson in New York. He has extensive teaching and research experience in African

politics, international studies and human rights. Because of concerns about his personal safety, he would prefer that his name not be used.

The third panelist is George Ayittey, an economist in residence at American University in Washington D.C. He established the Free Africa Foundation to promote development and democracy on the African continent, and is known for his expertise in economic development and democratization. His books include *Africa Unchained*; *Africa in Chaos*; *The Blueprint for Ghana's Economic Recovery*; and *Africa Betrayed*, which won the 1992 H.L. Mencken Award for Best Book. Ayittey has consulted for The World Bank; the International Monetary Fund; the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee; and the U.S. Information Agency.

Trinity's Rescue Scholar, Masiya, is a lecturer in politics and governance at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe, and the chairman of the Center for Peace Research and Development, a human rights organization based in that country. He has written papers on democracy and elections in Southern Africa, urban governance, and smart sanctions as an instrument of international policy.

Masiya has been a consultant to the Kellogg Foundation, the European Union and the American Friends Service Committee. He is a member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa and the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa. Masiya received his B.S. and his master's of public administration from the University of Zimbabwe.

A light lunch will be provided to pre-registered participants only. To reserve a place, please email: common-hour@trincoll.edu.

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