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TRIBUTE: CELEBRATING HASSAN GUYO

*All the world's a stage, And all the men and women
merely players: They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,....*

These lines by literary great William Shakespeare in his play 'As You Like It' perhaps best exemplifies the life and times of all mortals; men and women alike, the rich and paupers without exception. It is a sad reminder that ours is a temporary existence only punctuated by our daily toils which, more often than not, serve to obscure the brevity that is life.

For 39 years Mr. Hassan Guyo was a player on the world stage. He made many entrances and played many parts. He touched each of us in a different way, a personal way but always a special way. He dedicated his life to the service of mankind especially women and children as his work serving as the Director for Strategies for Northern Development (SND) clearly demonstrates. He loathed impunity and had a soft spot for the rule of law.

On all assignments that IMLU partnered with Guyo he exhibited enviable zeal and dedication that was the hallmark of his life. This was especially notable as his work as a human rights monitor was not made any easier working as he did from Moyale, a region best known as marginalized in almost all spheres of life.

And yet on the evening of 7th August 2013, this determination to serve humanity was utterly halted

in the most brutal of ways. He was shot dead, according to eye witnesses, by an army officer during a peaceful demonstration by the locals.

Mr. Guyo met his untimely demise in the process of doing what he liked most: standing up against impunity. In defense of the defenseless, the lowly and the weak Guyo paid the ultimate price. And it is his courage that encourages those of us who, like him, believe in the power of our contribution to make the world a better place for ourselves and the posterity.

In the words of a popular ballad of days gone, old soldiers never die they just fade away. Guyo was a gallant soldier in the struggle that is impunity, an exemplification of selfless service to humanity. We celebrate not his death but his heroic example that the world will find hard to forget.

Hassan Guyo, you entered the stage, you ably played your part and sadly exited. We will forever be inspired by your work in our quest to continue from where you left. Alutta Continua!

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