

June 27, 2005

His Excellency Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae
President of The Republic of Botswana
Office of the President
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Gaborone
BOTSWANA
Email: op.registry@gov.bw

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you on behalf of the 15,000 U.S. and international professors and students of political science. As the largest scholarly body representing the study of politics, a growing number of our members specialize in international relations and comparative politics, including a focus on Africa. We have a strong hope for the promise of a flourishing scholarship of politics on the African continent, and the contributions that it can make to building democracy. It was particularly noteworthy to us that President Bush saw your conversations in Washington, D.C. as “highlighting the value that the United States places on their support for democracy in Africa.”

The Republic of Botswana’s reputation for leadership among African democratic states made the recent deportation of Australian-born political science professor Kenneth Good as an unwanted immigrant after nearly twenty years as a resident and lecturer at the University of Botswana all the more surprising. In their role as educators, sometimes critics, individuals such as Professor Good depend upon the protection of international agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 13 and 19(1), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19), and The Human Rights Defenders Declaration (Articles 6a, 6b and 6c). The latter is particularly pertinent in declaring that “everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, as provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Both of our countries are signatories to the above covenants. Protecting the rights of scholars such as Professor Good to freely criticize is one of the hallmarks that the world looks to from democratically-motivated governments. Professor Good

appears to have been singled out for practicing what we would regard as basic principles of academic freedom that one would expect to find in a university setting. It is, then, with both sadness and chagrin that I see his case as being so out-of-step with your Republic's reputation.

I, along with my other political science colleagues, fervently hope you and your government will rectify what appears to be a patent injustice, will restore Professor Good to his position, and thereby reclaim the international progressive reputation of the Republic of Botswana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Levi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Margaret Levi, President

The American Political Science Association

cc: Mr. R.O. Sekgaroroane
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