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Beatrice Mtetwa

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Beatrice Tele Mtetwa is a Zimbabwean human rights lawyer. She is known for representing several journalists. In 2014 she was honoured among 10 extraordinary women from 10 countries presented with the US Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award.

Beatrice Mtetwa



Other names
Occupation

Tele

- Lawyer

Known for
Children

Being a human right's lawyer
Tandy, Mxolisa

Background

Beatrice Mtetwa was born in Swaziland in the rural community. Mtetwa is the eldest daughter of a father who had six wives and more than 50 children. Beatrice Mtetwa has a daughter Tandy and son Mxolisa.^[1] with former husband and mathematician, Dr. David Mtetwa, a professor at the University of Zimbabwe

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whom she married in 1989.^[2] Mtetwa moved to Zimbabwe in 1983.

Education

She graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree (LLB) from the University of Botswana and Swaziland in 1981.^[1]

Career

Mtetwa worked as a prosecutor in Swaziland and in [Zimbabwe](#) from 1981 to 1989. She went into private practice in [Harare](#) in February 1989. Mtetwa also sits on various commercial boards, including the Zimbabwe Independent and Standard newspapers, the Mail and Guardian Media Group, and Pioneer Africa Corporation (a diversified transport company operating in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Uganda).^[1]

Famous Cases

[Elias Mudzuri](#), who was mayor of Harare at the time, was released after two nights in jail when Mtetwa obtained a High Court order instructing [police](#) to produce him in court and make clear the charges against him. Mudzuri had been arrested together with several other city Councillors during a meeting with residents of [Mabvuku](#). No charges were filed but police said Mudzuri had violated the [Public Order and Security Act](#) by not seeking advance permission to hold the meeting. He was released by High Court judge Benjamin Paradza who said he appeared to have no case to answer and he refused a police request to have Mudzuri kept in detention while investigations continued.^[3]

Arrest And Trial

On March 17, 2013, Mtetwa was arrested for allegedly attempting to block the police from searching the house of a senior MDC-T official in Westgate and private offices of then Prime Minister [Morgan Tsvangirai](#) in [Harare](#). Police had allegedly received information the previous day that MDC-T officials Tabani Mpfu, Warship Dumba, Felix Matsinde and Mehluli Tshuma were unlawfully compiling criminal dockets in respect of prominent government officials. Mtetwa's arrest and detention for eight days was condemned locally, regionally and internationally and landed High Court judge Justice Charles Hungwe in trouble for ordering her unconditional release a day after she was arrested.^[4]

She was accused of shouting at the officers and demanding to see an arrest warrant. High Court Judge Joseph Musakwa freed her on bail of \$500 bail.^[5]

Awards

In 2005, she won the International Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists. She also won Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2008. The European Bar

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Human Rights Institute awarded her the Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize in 2009.^[6] Mtetwa also won the 2010 International Human Rights award of the American Bar Association. In 2011, she was awarded the Inamori Ethics Prize by Case Western Reserve University in the United States.^[1]

Personal Life

Mtetwa was in a committed relationship with late university Professor, [Sam Moyo](#).

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References

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