



***"You know this has to be done, somebody has to do it, and why shouldn't it be you?"***

***Beatrice Mtetwa,  
Human Rights lawyer in Zimbabwe***

***Beatrice Mtetwa and the Rule of Law*** documentary film features one of the bravest lawyers in Africa -- Beatrice Mtetwa in Zimbabwe. In spite of beatings by police and being arrested and jailed in March of 2013, Beatrice has courageously defended in court those jailed by the Mugabe government—peace activists, journalists, opposition candidates, farmers that had their land confiscated, ordinary citizens that had the courage to speak up. Through interviews with Mtetwa and some of her defendants, the film tells the story of what happens when rulers place themselves above the law and why defense of the rule of law is a crucial step in the building of a civil society. Although Beatrice Mtetwa's arena is Zimbabwe, her message and bravery are universal.

As Zimbabwe prepares for a presidential election in July of 2013, the filmmakers hope that the film will spark dialogue and change in the country and throughout Africa, while also bringing the story of this inspiring woman to the attention of the rest of the world.

Beatrice Mtetwa is the recipient of several international awards including: the Inamori Prize for Ethics, the International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Human Rights Award from the American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Beatrice Mtetwa is the only African besides Nelson Mandela to receive the Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize from France.

#### FUNDERS

***Beatrice Mtetwa and the Rule of Law***, is supported by grants from the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Bertha BRIT DOC Foundation, the International Bar Association, the Guardian's Scott Trust Foundation, and many small donations.

#### PRINCIPALS

Lorie Conway, a Boston based filmmaker, is the producer and director of the film. In January and June, 2012, she filmed in Zimbabwe with Beatrice Mtetwa as well as in Swaziland where Beatrice grew up the eldest daughter of more than 50 children; her father had six wives. While in Zimbabwe, Conway worked with Hopewell Chin'Ono, a Zimbabwean filmmaker who is co-producer of the film. They met through the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard where they were both fellows.

#### DISTRIBUTION & OUTREACH

We are seeking broadcasts and organizing screenings around the world, kicking off in Seattle co-hosted by the World Justice Project and the Univ. of Washington Law School, the screening will be followed by a concert with Thomas Mapfumo, whose music is featured in the film. Screenings are also being hosted by the US Institute of Peace and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights in Washington, DC, with Beatrice Mtetwa participating, the International Bar Association in London, the New Zealand Bar Association in Auckland, and at the Hague when the film will screen during the World Justice Project Forum.

A half-hour version of the film, supported by the International Bar Association, will be distributed in sub Saharan Africa schools and communities by foundations and NGO's. The film is also available to law schools, universities, conferences, and other institutions. [www.ruleoflawfilmproject.com](http://www.ruleoflawfilmproject.com)

The trailer for ***Beatrice Mtetwa and the Rule of Law*** can be viewed here: <http://vimeo.com/58496261>  
For more information, please contact Lorie Conway [bostonfilmvideo@gmail.com](mailto:bostonfilmvideo@gmail.com)