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Laurier's Nelson Mandela Lecture Series examines post-conflict peacebuilding

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University's Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa continues the Nelson Mandela Lecture Series with a lecture titled, "Historical Truth, Justice and Reconciliation: Re-imagining Human Rights in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding."

The lecture will take place at Laurier's Brantford campus Monday, Feb. 13 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 002 of the Research and Academic Centre West (RCW).

Bonny Ibhawoh will deliver the lecture. He is a professor of Global Human Rights and Peace Studies and associate dean at McMaster University. Ibhawoh was previously the director of the Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster and has taught at universities in Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

"The challenge of post-conflict peacebuilding is to precisely face those deep rooted causes of the original conflict that may once again become the seed of a new conflict," said Akbar Saeed, associate professor of Business Technology Management and director of the Tshepo Institute. "This needs to be done in a way that reconciles historical truths, social justice and human rights for all. Dr. Ibhawoh's important work provides an avenue to move forward towards constructing a lasting peace."

Ibhawoh was previously a human rights fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, a research fellow at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and an associate member of the Centre for African Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Ibhawoh is the author of several books and journal articles on human rights and peace studies, including *Imperialism and Human Rights* (SUNY Press) and *Imperial Justice: Africans in Empire's Court* (Oxford University Press). His forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press explores the intersections between human rights and peacebuilding. He serves as a consultant to several governmental and non-governmental human rights organizations, and writes a blog on "Human Rights, Social Justice and Peace."

The mission of the Tshepo Institute is to promote global awareness and excellence in knowledge development on African issues with the aim of inspiring positive transformation. It serves as a hub for knowledge mobilization and student/faculty enrichment that can inform transformative policies and emphasize causes for hope.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Akbar Saeed at the Tshepo Institute: asaeed@wlu.ca.