

Media Advisory

13 February 2024

To: Members of the Media

## **MEDIA BRIEFING OUTCOME: CASTER SEMENYA VS SWITZERLAND**

On the 9th of February 2024 at the Olive and Plates, Embassy Towers, Sandton, Johannesburg, Caster Semenya along with the Commission for Gender Equality, ProBono.org, Norton Rose Fullbright and other civil society organisations held a media briefing to address the continual violation of Caster Semenya's human rights and dignity by World Athletics.

On the 15th of May 2024, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) will hear the case referred by the Swiss government against the July 2023 judgment of the ECHR that World Athletics is bound by international law and may not discriminate against anyone without compelling reasons following the decision by World Athletics to prevent Caster Semenya from participating in international competitions. The referral to the Grand Chamber was made after the Chamber judgment found a violation of the prohibition of discrimination taken together with the right to respect for private life as well as a violation of the right to an effective remedy in the case of Semenya v. Switzerland.

The media heard directly from Caster Semenya on the personal effect of this case and the reasons, both personal and on behalf of others, for her continuance of fight. Her attorneys, Patrick Bracher and Greg Nott, along with the Chairperson of the Commission of Gender Equality, Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, and the National Director for Probono.org, Advocate Mohamed Shafie Ameerma, detailed the fight to date and elaborated on the preparatory work that lies ahead before the 15th of May 2024. As elaborated, in order to ensure that the rights of Caster Semenya and other athletes affected by the regulations implemented by the World Athletics body are protected, foreign expertise in the procedures of the ECHR along with Sports Law are required. While the entire South African legal team has provided their services at no charge, the foreign expertise (even at their discounted rates) and other costs associated with this fight, come at a considerable cost.

During the media briefing, Caster Semenya issued a clarion call to entities and individuals to support her fight against World Athletics and the Swiss government. This is not just her fight against injustices and human right violations but a fight for the protection of the rights of all sportspersons against institutions who seek to disregard their human rights and everybody's fight for the interest of justice.

For those who are able and willing to financially contribute the banking details for contributions are:

Ahmed Gani Trust Account

Standard Bank

Account Number: 200297740

Branch: Killarney

Branch Code: 007 205

Swift Code: SBZAJJ

Reference: Caster

Contact Persons:

Ms Becky Molete: 078 2992400

Mr. Louis None: 071 812 8713

**Ends.**