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## Office of the Ombudsman

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**Ref. No. Omb/Conf/2/47**

**16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013**

The President  
The International Ombudsman Institute  
Veina, Venne, Viena  
Austria

Dear Sir,

### **INCIDENT ON THE OMBUDSMAN**

I wish to inform you that the Hon Ombudsman was attacked by armed on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 at around 14:10 hours in the afternoon. She was attacked by 5 robbers armed with 3 shotguns, one rifle and machetes while she was at home chatting with her two sons after lunch.

They entered into the sitting room using the kitchen door which was open. They were holding the maid with guns pointed at her head and back. They told them to lie down on the floor while pointing guns at them. Then the Ombudsman was force-marched with a gun pointed at her back and a machete on her neck by one of them to her bedroom to give them money. She gave them Malawi Kwacha 45,000.00 (equivalent US\$100), 400 Rands, some small denominations of pounds, US dollars, Pulas, Zambian

kwacha and Tanzanian shillings. The robber then shouted at her "this is not enough, Madam Ombudsman we have come for USA Dollars otherwise I will shoot and kill you" she pleaded with him that she does not keep US Dollars. Their "boss" came into her room collected the money and asked her where the US Dollars were. He then kicked her hard on her right hip, pointed a gun at her saying he will shoot me. Then they ransacked her room looking for the US dollars. After that the "boss" brought my maid into my room, wanted to rape her, he went into the next room" He brought the maid back within a minute after discovering that the room was her son's bedroom. So they ransacked it too. Then they brought both the sons into the Ombudsman's room and told them not to make any noise or get up or else they will all be dead. They closed the bedroom door and left them alone. They heard the sound of a small car. After some time they realised the robbers were gone. They got out off the bedroom and discovered that they robbers had stolen 2 DSTV decoders, 1 LG TV, 1 Sony Vaio Laptop, a play station 3, 2 hard drives, 3 car keys, 6 cell phones and a bag of cement. They were thus left immobile and incommunicado.

The culprits have not been apprehended to date. The Hon Ombudsman is entitled to 24hour security at her residence but a day guard is not provided. The police have been saying they have transport problems. We are pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

May I also inform you that the case on which she was arrested and myself has not been discharged by Government. The Director of Public Prosecutions is still with the file.

I submit this report for your information and any support you may render on the Malawi Ombudsman Office.

Yours Faithfully,



**E.E. Lodzeni**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**