



CFK Africa
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NEWS RELEASE

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CFK AFRICA REFLECTS ON THE LIFE OF SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – CFK Africa, an international nonprofit with a mission to improve public health and economic prosperity in informal settlements, convened a meeting to reflect on the impact of Advisory Board member and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Wednesday afternoon. CFK Africa co-founder Rye Barcott delivered the opening remarks.

“One of the opportunities when someone passes and there is some time and space between their passing and the funeral is to have a deeper reflection on the significance of their life,” Barcott said. “That certainly was the case for me with Secretary Albright. I was very shocked at her passing.”

Secretary Albright’s involvement with CFK Africa grew over time. Her first visit to Kibera occurred following post-election violence in 2008. She joined CFK Africa’s Global Advisory Board in 2011.

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“She looked for ways to engage with individuals that don’t have a lot of opportunity in life but have a lot of talent,” Barcott said. “I think she saw that CFK was a platform for engaging with individuals that were in difficult circumstances and to reach them directly.”

Secretary Albright chaired the National Democratic Institute, an institution where her work aligned closely with CFK’s philosophy of participatory development. A practice of establishing and maintaining genuine relationships with people was central to her work.

CFK Africa Executive Director Hilary Omala remarked Secretary Albright was one of many secretaries of state and ambassadors who made promises to engage African nations and leadership on a global stage.

“But we are probably in very similar states today,” Omala said. “Something that we need to think about and see what is missing and what needs to be done moving forward.”

About CFK Africa:

Founded in 2001 as Carolina for Kibera, CFK Africa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Nairobi, Kenya with a mission to improve public health and economic prosperity in informal settlements. Named a Global Health Hero by TIME Magazine and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2005, CFK Africa enacts change through primary health services, economic development initiatives, girls empowerment programs and COVID-19 vaccine distribution across eight counties in Kenya. CFK works with local residents to develop and implement sustainable programs through its philosophy of participatory development. For more information, visit www.cfkafrica.org, or contact Communications Manager, Hannah Bain, at media@cfkafrica.org.