**Press statement on the demise of Reverend Patrick Semphere, Chairperson of the Malawi Human Rights Commission**

It is with great sadness and sorrow that the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission) learnt about the passing of Reverend Patrick Semphere, Chairperson of the Malawi Human Rights Commission, on Thursday 21st January, 2021.

Reverend Patrick Semphere served as Chairperson of the Malawi Human Rights Commission since March last year and has contributed to the work of the Malawi Human Rights Commission.

The Commission, through Commissioner Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga, Commissioner Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Republic of Malawi, expresses its deep condolences to the bereaved family, the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Government and the people of Malawi.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

**Commissioner Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga, Commissioner Rapporteur for the Republic of Malawi**

 **26 January 2021**