

# From the Rift Valley to the High Court: exploring military conduct in the Kenya Emergency

For decades the British Army had been considered expert in the art of counter-insurgency warfare, in large part due to the traditions of "minimum force" and "hearts and minds". Yet in June 2013, 5,228 elderly Kenyans were awarded £20 million for the torture they suffered during the insurgency in Kenya in the 1950s, after a lengthy battle in the High Court in London. An important aspect of the court case was the role of the British Army, and the question of how far soldiers participated in the repressive, brutal campaign to crush the Mau Mau rebellion. In this lecture, Dr Huw Bennett, one of the expert advisers to the court, will explain the character of the British Army's role in this controversial conflict.



**Dr. Huw Bennett, Aberystwyth University**

Author of *Fighting the Mau Mau: The British Army and Counter-Insurgency in the Kenya Emergency* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

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New York University

53 Washington Square South, RM 404

4:30–6:00

Free and open to the public

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