
“Basketball Diplomacy in Africa: An Oral History from SEED Project to the Basketball Africa League (BAL)”

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Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

The general question that I ask everyone at the beginning is, for the record, could you please state your name, a general context in terms of how long you've been in the basketball business and how you first arrived to the basketball world?

Kim Bohuny

My name is Kim Bohuny and I am the senior vice president of International Basketball Operations [for the National Basketball Association]. I joined the NBA in the fall of 1990, so closing in on almost 30 years. Pretty much my whole adult life after college has been involved with basketball, but also focusing on the international side. Immediately after college I took an internship at Turner Broadcasting and worked on a project called the Goodwill Games in 1986, and worked there until 1990.

I was working as the head of research and athlete profiles for the Goodwill Games, and during that time I spent quite a bit of time going back and forth between the Soviet Union. And because basketball had always been one of my favorite sports, I would go and visit the Central Army Sports Club games, which had many members of the 1998 Olympic team on that particular club, and their coach was Alexander Gomelsky, who was also the Soviet national coach.

And where this comes into how I ended up at the NBA, through going to the games and working with their federation on the Goodwill Games I got to know all the top players from the Soviet national team, and the coaching staff. And the Atlanta Hawks at that time were very interested in being at the forefront of bringing over eastern European players. Because Ted Turner [owner of the Atlanta Hawks from 1977 to 2004] had such a strong relationship with the Soviet government at that time and with Mikhail Gorbachev and so personally they... I don't know if you've seen the movie *The Other Dream Team*?

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

Yes.

Kim Bohuny

Okay. Well, you know the story that summarizes a lot of what we were doing. In my role the Hawks had asked me to be involved in taking the Hawks over to the Soviet Union for a three game tour, and David Stern and his wife were on that tour. And I'd gotten to know him and he saw that I knew the Hawks players and the Soviet national team. He and I discussed during that trip me joining the NBA as he was going to take the league global. So that's how I ended up in the NBA.

Before your questions come on Africa, I think a good base for you is when the NBA brought me to New York, my focus always was to develop basketball operations internationally. We did it slowly at first with coaching clinics around the world, things like that, but now my group is 80 plus people through both New York and our regional offices.

We have six areas of focus and I think it will be helpful for you to understand that because it leads into why our group is so focused and involved in what we're doing in Africa and have been for some time. First, we oversee all interactions with the international players in the league, helping them in a variety of areas throughout their careers—because of the strong relationships we build, we also work closely with retired international players—focusing on support and guidance with international players in the league.

Secondly is grassroots development around the world. Jr. NBA, basketball schools, coaching, and player clinics, things like that for younger boys and girls. Then on the elite development side, the third pillar, is Basketball Without Borders and the NBA Academies. The fourth pillar is we work very closely with FIBA, continental FIBA bodies, federations and leagues because starting with David Stern and through Adam Silver we have had an open door policy with anyone that comes and asks questions and wants to learn from us.

A lot of us [NBA staff] sit on FIBA boards, including our deputy commissioner [Mark Tatum] who sits on the executive and Central Board [of FIBA]. I'm on the FIBA Americas board. Mark Tatum and I represent the NBA on the USA Basketball board, and we have people that sit on boards for legal, for financial or for the women's calendar. We're very active with FIBA and we have a great relationship with them.

And then the fifth pillar is USA Basketball, which I mentioned. And then the sixth, we work very closely with the [U.S.] State Department. We also do a lot of projects with the [U.S.] Defense Department, and focus with State on programming both within the United States and outside through our embassies and consulates.

So when we talk about all the things my group does, you'll see all the different areas are represented in what we're doing in Africa.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

You've cast a very wide net. And most people, when they think about the NBA and globalization and its internationalization the first thing they always think about is China, but Africa is certainly

an area that you've been developing for a while. Could you talk a little bit about how and when you first began work developing basketball, and specifically NBA-style basketball, in Africa?

Kim Bohuny

Sure. So what happened was in, I believe it was 1993, Richard Lapchick—a very dear friend of the NBA's—he had led the sports boycott of South Africa. And when Nelson Mandela was coming out of prison he reached out to Sam Ramsamy, who was in the process of being appointed—he had been living in exile—as the head of the new South African Olympic Committee. Sam was the person that carried the flag in the 1992 Olympics when South Africa came back, in Barcelona. Sam was a swimmer and lived in exile for over 20 years and was helping [the boycott movement].

He had conversations with other countries for them to boycott playing any sports competitions with South Africa during apartheid. So Sam was working with Richard in our country and when Nelson Mandela had spoken with Sam they discussed Richard's work and he [Mandela] said, "The first organization I want from America to come to my country is the NBA. I want to show my children that Americans of African descent can rise to very prominent positions in the most powerful country in the world."

He [Mandela] asked us to come over, so we went over to Africa, but we also decided—CARE was our partner at that point on different projects in Africa—so we did a tour. We were in Kenya, Zambia and then went on to South Africa. David Stern was on the trip and his wife, Charlie Grantham from the union, and then we had...I think it was Wes Unseld, Lenny Wilkens, Bob McAdoo and then Dikembe Mutombo and John Crotty.¹

We had a list of coaches and players, and we did clinics throughout the continent, some with CARE in Kenya and especially Zambia, and then moved on to South Africa to meet with Nelson Mandela and his government and Sam Ramsamy. Once we did that, we made a commitment that we would continually go back and help develop basketball in South Africa, but also we used those trips to do other things on the continent.

1. The NBA delegation that travelled to Africa in August 1993 included: NBA Commissioner David Stern, Executive Vice President of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Charles Grantham, human rights activist and author Richard Lapchick, former NBA player and coach Wes Unseld, NBA coach Alvin Gentry, former NBA players Alex English, Bob McAdoo, Michael Bantom, and then Denver Nuggets center Dikembe Mutombo. *Source: NBA International via email, April 27, 2020. The Baltimore Sun published an account of the trip, see Michael Hill, "NBA courts future hoopsters in S. Africa 3-nation tour takes stars to townships," Baltimore Sun, August 28, 1993. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1993-08-28-1993240002-story.html>*

So from there, we were doing different grassroots projects in the 1990s, and then we started Basketball Without Borders in 2001 for the league. We started in Europe and it came out of bringing children together that were involved in the Yugoslav Wars. We realized we had a really special thing going here, bringing all these players from around the continent for a very elite camp, and we decided that we were going to then expand—I believe it was Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik had spoken to me about this [and said]—“Let’s start moving the camp to other continents.” So, we decided Africa naturally would be the next continent we would go to.

We had meetings in South Africa with some of the federations and there had never been a real continental camp, and they even challenged us that we couldn’t do it. But we did it and in 2003 we had our first Basketball Without Borders Africa for 106 participants from 21 countries.

And we realized it was such a success. The players became so much better over that four-day period. Internet wasn’t as prevalent and a lot of the countries that the players were going back to, a lot of their people didn’t even have access to televisions. So what we did was we put together manuals—it seems so archaic now—but we gave them just basic basketball books and had it translated in French and Portuguese. I can’t remember if we did it in Arabic or not. And we basically just made copies, and the kids took them back to their federations to try to help grow the game in their particular country.

But the camp was such an immediate success that obviously we’ve done it every year since. And from that began to develop great relationships with FIBA Africa and the different federations, but also helped some of the top players to have a chance to go to prep school and college in the United States, and then they were coming back and helping their particular countries. Through that I think that having that camp every year, developing those relationships and also working with all the administrators, coaches and players that had come from Africa in our league, everyone came together to help, and it all started with and Amadou Fall [President of the Basketball Africa League] and Masai Ujiri [General Manager of the Toronto Raptors].

That really, I think, helped pave the way to open the NBA office in 2010. Amadou Fall took the job as managing director and that really helped us on a year-round basis expand all our programming and start to develop our business there. And is this what you want, in this kind of detail?

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

Yes, yes. I want it all. But yeah, no, this is fantastic, especially as we’ve been trying to piece together how it all began.

Kim Bohuny

Okay. So through that, when Amadou and his team were getting assembled he had started SEED Academy. We were working with projects with U.S. embassies, consulates, and across the African continent. There were some sponsors that had interest in certain countries to do particular programs, like our Power Forward program in Nigeria, things like that. But we didn't have consistent grassroots programming, but we were growing, developing relationships.

We also started to discuss, "Okay, what else besides Basketball Without Borders can we do in the continent?" And then we came up with the concept; we didn't think the continent was quite ready for preseason game because there weren't a lot of facilities. It was [difficult to] travel [within the continent]. We wanted to do something to see how receptive the continent was and also to have a track record for when we do eventually have that preseason game in Africa to show our NBA teams.

We came up with the idea over dinner one night in London with Amadou, [John] Manyo-Plange, myself and Brooks Meek, and I think Becky Bonner, who's now with the [Orlando] Magic. We came up with the idea, "let's do a charity game concept with NBA Africa vs NBA Global." Then we went through a list of the positions that a lot of the African players played in the league [we were] a little short in the backcourt, so that's where we said, "Well, let's also include players that are one generation removed from Africa," and that really opened the opportunity up to a lot more NBA players.

We had the first game in 2015 in Johannesburg, and then 2017 and 2018. It was huge success and I think it also really opened the eyes of so many of our coaches and players from America, and Europe and other parts of the world that participated in this to the possibilities on the continent.

As we were growing basketball, Basketball Without Borders continued to grow. We had the games, and then the concept of the academies, we were in the process of building that. We started in, I think it was 2017, that we opened academies in Africa, Australia, China, India. So we opened the academy in Saly, a little bit outside Dakar [Senegal]. The academy was being built, and we started recruiting players. Now Roland Houston, Joe Touomou, and the team are doing a great job, doing a great job there.

Then right around that time we were really revving up Jr. NBA and the concept of the Jr. NBA World Championship. So it then gave us the grassroots, we had Jr. NBA every year, expanding with different federations on the grassroots level, and also still continuing our program with the

French government [Agence Française de Développement, AFD] to expand some of the different programming that we're doing on a grassroots level with some country-specific programs. Jr. NBA, BWB, and now the academy. That blueprint was in place after our Africa game in 2018.

We had a dinner right before we all left [the game in 2018] and it was Adam Silver, Mark Tatum, Patrick Baumann who unfortunately has passed, but was the head of FIBA World [FIBA Secretary General], Alphonse Bile, Hamane Niang, the two leaders of FIBA Africa, myself, Amadou Fall and Masai Ujiri. We talked through the blueprint and everything we were doing together. Everyone was so energized on what we just saw at the game—I think that was where the Global [team] won on a last second shot, but it was close game, great crowd—that we came up with the concept of the Basketball Africa League. We didn't have a name then, but we knew this is where we wanted to go and FIBA and the NBA just completely knew this is the logical next step. That's how we ended up where we are today.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

How has your understanding of the game of basketball in different parts of Africa changed from, say, when you first began working with the continent back in the first part of the 1990s through today?

Kim Bohuny

Well, I think that obviously there's always been the problem of lack of facilities, lack of equipment, the inability for their coaches to travel and learn so they can bring back expertise to the players, and the inability for many players to travel to tournaments to get better. Unless you were in a [National Team] tournament with FIBA Africa, it was really difficult. Those have been the age-old problems that still continue to be in some cases around the continent, but I think what we learned is...I mean, the potential there, it's huge. Because we see when these players are exposed to elite camps, both men and women, and good coaching as well as sports performance concepts; like even knowing how to stretch, knowing to let your body rest, knowing how to build up your body and what is the right way to do it to play basketball, they just didn't have these things or the knowledge of and they are so eager to learn.

What we've learned is there's tremendous opportunity, but we've got to do better with bricks and mortar helping build those facilities and getting them the equipment. And the internet has helped tremendously obviously, because now everyone is on their phones and on the laptops, they're one click away from all kinds of opportunities to learn from the greatest coaches and players in the world so that certainly has helped.

The other thing we learned is—and we’re trying to work with FIBA on this—and we’re doing it at the academy, is getting to work with the talented players at a much younger age. In basketball, 13 or 14 is more of the ideal age to get young players in formalized program because a lot of times a lot of these [African] players started at 16. They may have started playing basketball where we’ve brought them over to Basketball Without Borders, but the game isn’t instinctive when you start later, it’s harder. And a lot of the players that we helped were more relying on their athletic ability as rebounders or shot blockers, but weren’t as advanced offensively and it limited their careers in college in the States, or if they went to play professionally in other parts of the world.

So, we’re really focused now on trying to get to a younger generation of athletes and finding them through Jr. NBA or other youth programming that FIBA Africa runs.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

And so you’ve experienced this intersection of basketball and diplomacy it sounds like constantly throughout your work with the league, but especially those people-to-people cultural or knowledge exchanges that naturally occur. I’m sure for many people participating in any of the NBA programs, whether they’re 12 years old or 16 years old or attending an NBA Africa game, for many that might be one of the first times they’ve come into direct contact with an American entity. And so they learn about the United States in part through the NBA. How do you view this intersection as it relates to Africa, and how does it influence your vision for the future of the game or the possibilities of sport?

Kim Bohuny

I think any interaction in a positive forum between peoples from different countries is what our world needs now more than ever. Because you’re coming together with something you both mutually like or love. When I think back on all my years doing this, you’re sitting in the room and if you’re with someone from Mali or Ivory Coast, Senegal, Nigeria, I’m not necessarily thinking that’s where they’re from. We want to grow the game in Africa and what is the best way to do it to help young children in their countries be exposed to the game, or players that are talented. Let’s look for opportunities to help them, and then hopefully with those players go back and help their respective countries even more.

I think that’s one of the great things with sport, is—and you see it everywhere—that people-to-people exchanges are so important because it breaks down barriers. Like I said, I can only speak from the sports side, but you’re coming together and it doesn’t matter where you’re from. You all love the game of basketball and you want to invest in the game for the right reasons. And you’re right, through all of those different exchanges I’ve developed friendships, learned a lot

about their countries and got a chance to meet their families. And the same when they come, they learn about the United States, what we do at the NBA, and when they come to America we have wonderful dinners and lunches, and different opportunities to share together.

So even though it may be a smaller number, in these particular exchanges, I've seen what the sport can do in bringing people together. I mean, if you look at when I started in the 1990's at the league, there were certainly less than 20 international players and most of them had gone through college to go to the league, people like Detlef Schrempf, Rik Smits, Hakeem Olajuwon or Dikembe Mutombo, they came the route through college and so had already been Americanized by the time they went to the league. And very few of our teams even thought about scouting internationally or they focused completely on Europe.

Now you look at 2020, every single one of our teams not only has a European scout, they have scouts from all over the world. And with the upcoming Basketball Africa League, a lot of the teams that I've spoken with, they're all reaching out and saying, "We want to find and develop a scout on the African continent."

Most of our teams also have scouts in Asia and Latin America, but no one even thinks anymore [about nationality], they just want the best player, the best coach, best front office person to make their team win. It took a while, but now no one thinks about, "Is he American?" Or "If we bring over an international player, will he really help?" Or "Is he soft and can he handle it?" It's so wonderful that no one thinks about it anymore. It's just if this particular person can help my team win, that's what we're going to do. Our league is so global now and I'm really proud of that.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

How does basketball play a role in creating identities? It sounds like, from what you just said, it plays a role in creating a more global basketball identity rather than a regional or national one, right?

Kim Bohuny

Absolutely. Absolutely.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

What do you think is the relationship to that global basketball identity and the fact that the NBA is very much an identity of its own fed by culture, movies, music, fashion, sneakers, all these various different cultural things that play into the NBA?

Kim Bohuny

Well, there's two ways I would answer that. I think as Americans and as an American that's traveled extensively around the world, people may have different viewpoints on our country, especially politically, obviously, good or bad. But the one thing that is always consistent, always consistent, is people around the world love [certain things about] America; they love Hollywood, they love our music and they love our sports—that's just the way it is.

For the NBA being global, people were watching the NBA even before it became global. Now if you're from Slovenia you are probably more apt to become, you're an NBA fan because you're coming from a country that loves basketball, but probably more of a Dallas Maverick fan, and learning about Dallas, and Texas and history of the Mavericks because Luka Doncic is a huge star.

And also, on the American side, how many Americans really knew about this tiny country in Europe? But now everyone knows Slovenia. I think of Goran Dragic, there's so many great players that actually came in our league from Slovenia: Beno Udrih, Rasho Nesterovic. But Luka, because of who he is as just a top star at such a young age in our league, every American will know about Slovenia now and I think that it's great.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

In your experience, what ways does basketball in Africa afford possibly greater opportunities for women and girls, and how does basketball help work towards SDG 5, gender equality?

Kim Bohuny

What I would say is the NBA, starting with David Stern and Russ Granik, and certainly with Adam Silver and Mark Tatum, have always been strong proponents of opportunities for young women and women within the NBA world through our teams and front office. There are many women in very strong and prominent roles. And then with the creation of the WNBA...And the strong backing of the league office and our teams to get that league off the ground and running. I'm very proud, very proud of what the NBA has done and continues to do for women across the world and how they consistently promote women in sports. Every event we do... I would quickly say Basketball Without Borders or basketball schools, Jr. NBA, but there are many women involved in each of those programs. I can't break down the numbers, but we very much promote that and I think it's so important in Africa because Africa still has a ways to go, being honest, and I think women's empowerment and also giving young girls the opportunity not only to play sports but to have an education.

So what we try to do is, one, not only bring over role models for them to see, WNBA former players and coaches. And also young women from the continent that have played in the W, so someone that they can aspire and look up to. But we talk about issues like the importance of education and things, what sport can do in helping the overall development. But not only do we talk about it, we have some of the strongest, most powerful men in the NBA talk about the importance of it and talk to our young male campers that women are always to be respected and given equal opportunity. And they talk about domestic abuse and things like that. I'm proud. I'm very, very proud of that.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

Everyone's very excited about Basketball Africa League, and certainly everyone understands it is a business venture. But it's also a business venture that is going to be bringing a lot of different people together and forcing them to communicate, represent and learn a little bit more about each other. So through that latter lens, through the basketball diplomacy lens, what's so exciting or special, or what are you really looking forward to from the BAL?

Kim Bohuny

Well, I really believe that the BAL will be a game changer for what we do on the continent. I believe Basketball Without Borders was the first major step, and then the opening of the office. And all the things that followed built that pyramid from Jr. NBA, to basketball schools, to Basketball Without Borders, to academies, to the charity games to now, the BAL. The pyramid is now built, the blueprint is set.

Just seeing from the announcement of the concept of the league which was so widely covered because no one's done this before. And yes, they have their own leagues that are being run by African federations under the umbrella of the continental African sports bodies, and now you have a prominent American league going and starting a league outside their continent for the first time for the NBA certainly, but doing it in a continent that has had very little exposure.

So I think the domino effect is going to be great for the growth of the game, and hopefully a growing list of business partners that want to invest in their continent with us. But with that being said, what we hoped is... We're seeing new arenas being built around the continent. There's two that I'm aware of in South Africa, a brand new one in Senegal, another in Rwanda, and at least three or four other countries that are in the BAL, now their government is looking to have state-of-the-art facilities to be a part of this league.

So something like that in the infrastructure. It will, I think, affect the level... the leagues itself because the teams are going to want to win their [professional country] league because then they

can participate in the BAL. And even from FIBA Africa, the qualifying tournament, I believe if I understood or I remember correctly, every country has the right to send their champion in the qualifying tournament to get to BAL and there were maybe 20 teams that did in the past and [this year, 2019] they had 40-something teams trying to qualify for the BAL.

So it's already helping the leagues, the investment in the leagues and investment in the individual clubs to be part of this. And that's just what we've seen. Unfortunately, the league is on hold [due to the novel coronavirus pandemic], but just speaking from my particular area [there will be an] investment we're going to make in referee development, in coaching development, in talent identification, in player development.

But also, for an African player—and this is really important—for an African player now he won't think his career has ended if he didn't get a chance to go to America to play college or to go on to a professional career in Europe or Asia. Now there's something that these young players and coaches, they can aspire to play and work in a league within their continent. I'm really excited because it's the right investment in the game, and then the infrastructure, and to the business side I can't speak as much, but I would anticipate they'll be equal success from that side also.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

And obviously it's probably still much too early in the game, but are there any discussions about having a women's Basketball Africa League?

Kim Bohuny

I think it's a little early to have those discussions. I think we've got, obviously, young girls participating in Jr. NBA and in Basketball Without Borders, and we have academy programming for elite players who are trying to help women have the opportunity to go to college. They're all steps, but I think let's get through a few seasons here, let's see how the investment...from companies within Africa, let's figure out what went right, what went wrong, how we can improve. And I think hopefully down the road that will be the case, but I think it's a little too early yet.

Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

And one last closing big picture question. To what extent do you consider yourself a sports diplomat?

Kim Bohuny

I've always felt that it's been a part of my job description. I think it's important because I know very much that when you walk in a room they know you're the American, they know it. And there's a responsibility that comes with that and they also know that our country is the most powerful country in the world in basketball and it's our responsibility to represent, or it's my responsibility, to represent the NBA, WNBA, G League, and USA Basketball in the right way and as leaders give back to the game. But also to do it in the right way.

With the right way I mean developing relationships, spending the time to get to know all the people that work in basketball around the world, learning from them as much as maybe they're learning from us. It's something I've spent a lot of time on, developing those relationships, and I think it's been important in the growth of what we've done.

END

Annex I First NBA-FIBA Basketball Without Borders Africa Camp 2003

| Countries Represented | NBA Players Who Served as Coaches | Additional NBA Personnel On Site |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Algeria | Dikembe Mutombo | Don Casey |
| Angola | Mamadou N'diaye | Lance Blanks |
| Botswana | Ruben Bountje Bountje | Masai Ujiri |
| Burkina Faso | DeSagana Diop | Dennis Lindsey |
| Cameroon | Olumide Oyedji | Melvin Hunt |
| Chad | Michael Curry | Tony Ronzone |
| Cote d'Ivoire | | Chico Averbuck |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | | Zarko Dursic |
| Egypt | | Donnie Nelson |
| Lesotho | | Jarin Akana |
| Malawi | | Rob Babcock |
| Mali | | Fabrizio Besnati |
| Morocco | | Mark Crow |
| Mozambique | | Alex English |
| Nigeria | | Karl Hicks |
| Senegal | | Jim Sann |
| South Africa | | Rich Sheubrooks |
| Swaziland | | Sam Vincent |
| Tunisia | | Amadou Gallo Fall |
| Zambia | | |
| Zimbabwe | | |

Source: NBA International, April 2020

Annex II First NBA-FIBA Basketball Without Borders Africa Campers 2003

| Name | Country |
|------------------------|---------|
| Hafsi Ahmed Zoheir | Algeria |
| Ibrahim Walid Mouzaoui | Algeria |
| Mohamed Saadallah | Algeria |
| Walid Hamma | Algeria |
| Domingos Bonifacio | Angola |

| Name (Continued) | Country |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Emanuel Maciel de Silva Neto | Angola |
| Jose Sebastiao Dos Santos | Angola |
| Jose Sebastio Los Santos | Angola |
| Michel Chico Dos Santos | Angola |
| Paulo Joao Muquixe | Angola |
| Sanu Zola Joao Maria | Angola |
| Wilson Bartolomeu Francisco Manuel | Angola |
| Ratanang Tsayang | Botswana |
| Bamboado Emmanuel Désiré Thiamobiga | Burkina Faso |
| Guesbeogo Franck Edgar Traore | Burkina Faso |
| Izdine Adama Wendpegre Ouedraogo | Burkina Faso |
| Moussa Ouattara | Burkina Faso |
| Thomas Compaore | Burkina Faso |
| Yves Mekongo | Cameroon |
| Achille Aurelien Nkamhoua Pokam | Cameroon |
| Fombor Yannick Kingue | Cameroon |
| Julien Nsyh Ateba | Cameroon |
| Luc Richard Mbah a Moute | Cameroon |
| Nguindjel Bayiha Ba | Cameroon |
| Stephane Bakinde | Cameroon |
| Yves Leunde Fondjo | Cameroon |
| Allahramadji Bealoum | Chad |
| Charles Ndoloum | Chad |
| David Kay Keyba Baroum | Chad |
| Mohamed Berte | Cote d'Ivoire |
| Vassy Darex Aimé Léandre Banny | Cote d'Ivoire |
| Gege Kizubanata | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Male Pitelo Malala | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Patrick Mukuba | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Tshaba Kabasele | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Tshibalabala Ahombi | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Haytham Ahmed Abdel Hamid Sehrty | Egypt |
| Mohamed Housny Rabie El-Garhi | Egypt |
| Mohamoud Shawki Adel Aziz | Egypt |

| Name (Continued) | Country |
|--|----------------|
| Mostafa Mohamed Essam Ali Mabrouk Shaa | Egypt |
| Lereko Taole | Lesotho |
| Masoabi Pitsa | Lesotho |
| Oscar Sekhoane Moshabesha | Lesotho |
| Tankiso Clement Bogatsu | Lesotho |
| Thabang Glass | Lesotho |
| Victor Makhubalo Churchill Jere | Malawi |
| Dembele Adama | Mali |
| Abdrahamane Traore | Mali |
| Mory Diane | Mali |
| Paul Hiroma Dakouo | Mali |
| Younoussa Souleymane Maiga | Mali |
| Hicham El Alaoui | Morocco |
| Marouane El Mouttalibi | Morocco |
| Yassine Moqtad | Morocco |
| Younes Idrissi | Morocco |
| Alexandre Danilo Tique Alexandre | Mozambique |
| Elton Hector Tomas Mazive | Mozambique |
| Ivan Amélia Feraime Macome | Mozambique |
| Sérgio Lucas Chicava | Mozambique |
| Airenakho Benson Egemonye | Nigeria |
| Aminu Jimoh | Nigeria |
| Chukwuma Charles Okwandu | Nigeria |
| Femi Oloruntoba Emmanuel | Nigeria |
| Jamilu Mohammed | Nigeria |
| John Thompson | Nigeria |
| Leo Newton | Nigeria |
| Leonard Oshoke Samugana | Nigeria |
| Louis Edem | Nigeria |
| Michael Ohiero | Nigeria |
| Nsor Ikyartor | Nigeria |
| Obi Kenechukuwu | Nigeria |
| Samuel Nnamidi Magani | Nigeria |
| Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Fall | Senegal |

| Name (Continued) | Country |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Edgard Diatta | Senegal |
| Henri Gercou Sarr | Senegal |
| Ibou Fall | Senegal |
| Jibril Kote | Senegal |
| Mouhammad Faye | Senegal |
| Moustapha Ndiaye | Senegal |
| Moustapha Ndoye | Senegal |
| Papa Saliou Diaw | Senegal |
| Samba Gueye | Senegal |
| Andile Cyril Notha Shabalala | South Africa |
| Bradley Pieterse | South Africa |
| Dumisane Mgomezulu | South Africa |
| Eric Molefi Mofokeng | South Africa |
| Godfrey Koti | South Africa |
| Kennelworth Nonyane | South Africa |
| Lawrence Maoto | South Africa |
| Lesego Andrew Goba | South Africa |
| Michael Mosikili | South Africa |
| Nhlanhla Dlamini | South Africa |
| Thabo Moselane | South Africa |
| Thabo Tabane | South Africa |
| Thami Kukulela | South Africa |
| Tshepo Evans | South Africa |
| Tumelo Nonyana | South Africa |
| Vuyi Mzwoxolo Prince Sokapase | South Africa |
| Sikhumbuzo Shiba | Swaziland |
| Sipho Manzini | Swaziland |
| Lassaad Aziz Hammami | Tunisia |
| Mohamed Amine Maghrebi | Tunisia |
| Mohamed Hadidane | Tunisia |
| Mourad El Mabrouk | Tunisia |
| Arthur Zulu | Zambia |
| Takunda Chidimu | Zimbabwe |

Source: NBA International, April 2020

Interview with Kim Bohuny, April 2020

Senior Vice President, NBA International Basketball Operations

Conducted by Dr Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff

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