

She's the fall guy*

Khan on Ayers-Caesar fiasco:

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Senior Counsel Israel Khan yesterday called on Chief Justice Ivor Archie to step down in wake of the fiasco involving ex-judge Marcia Ayers-Caesar.

In a telephone interview, Khan said former chief magistrate Ayers-Caesar cannot simply resign as a High Court judge and return to her old post. The position of Chief Magistrate, he said, is now considered vacant and all the cases originally before her must now be restarted.

Khan also issued a statement on the matter in which he said Ayers-Caesar's term had officially come to an end and, as such, she can no longer legally function in that position.

"The former chief magistrate has no legal authority to restart those cases," Khan said.

Ayers-Caesar resigned from her two-week-old elevation to a High Court judge on Thursday. In her statement, she acknowledged the concerns raised with respect to the various matters which were not completed before her as Chief Magistrate by the time of her appointment as a judge "and recognise the effect that the failure to complete these matters will invariably have on the stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including accused persons, victims of crime and members of the legal profession".