

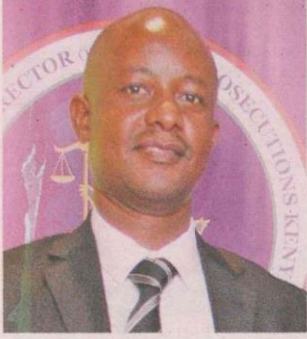
IPOA Media Mentions Report

Tuesday 30.07.2024

IPOA MENTIONS

ICJ Executive Director Oliver Waindi challenges IPOA to collect evidence of police excesses shared on social media platforms, to advance investigations.

HUMAN RIGHTS



ICJ Chairman Protas Saende. [Wilberforce Okwiri, Standard]

IPOA M.

ICJ urges State to take action on police killings

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has expressed concern over deaths and arrests following the anti-government protests. The human rights lobby group wants the government to take responsibility over the deaths of about 50 protestors who were brutalised by police officers quelling the demonstrations that have so far left more than 360 persons injured.

Led by Protas Saende, they said the era when authoritarian regimes reigned terror on its citizens is long gone. "We have been woken up from our slumber by our young people who have said enough is enough," said Saende. He spoke on Monday in Nairobi during a three-day conference dubbed 'Pushing Back Against Authoritarian Regimes.'

According to Saende, many regimes are notorious for breaching both constitutional and international laws, including the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The purpose of the conference was to discuss strategies to challenge unconstitutional actions through the courts and to ensure that the rule of law is upheld.

Purity Mwaria, Council Member of ICJ, asserted: "Government is for the people, by the people. Those in power must answer to citizens without resorting to intimidation tactics."

Of particular concern was the government's reported intimidation of media outlets and protesters, actions that she argued run counter to democratic principles.

Mwaria demanded for thorough investigations into fatalities, particularly cases where police were allegedly captured on camera using live ammunition against protesters.

Oliver Waindi, Executive Director of Uraia Trust, reiterated that the Kenya Kwanza government must hold accountable including officers who shot recklessly during the protests. She challenged the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) and security organs to collect evidence of police excesses shared on social media platforms.

[Harrison Ngola]

POLICE KILLINGS

A family in Bomet is seeking justice for their 19-year-old son who was shot and killed by police last week on Tuesday.

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DAILY NATION TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

National News

Tragic He was caught in a battle between police officers and locals during a raid at a police station

Cry for justice for teen shot by police

pk

A bullet fired by a police officer struck Mutai, ripping off his jaw and knocking out four of his teeth as he tried to take cover

BY VITALIS KIMUTAI

When 19-year-old Victor Kipngeno Mutai set out from their family home in Masese village in Bomet County last Tuesday to buy sugar, little did his parents know that this errand would be the last time they would see him alive.

Less than ten minutes later, Mutai's lifeless body was found about 100 meters away, a victim of a tragic shooting. He was caught in a battle between police officers and locals during a raid at a nearby police station.

A bullet fired by a police officer struck Mutai, ripping off his jaw and knocking out four of his teeth as he tried to take cover. The incident that took place around 7:30 pm also left two other people injured—one on the hand and another on the back.

"When he left home, I had roasted maize for him, which he ate on his way to the shopping centre as I cooked supper. I did not realise it would be his last meal," Mutai's mother Catherine Sang said.

The woman had been ill and

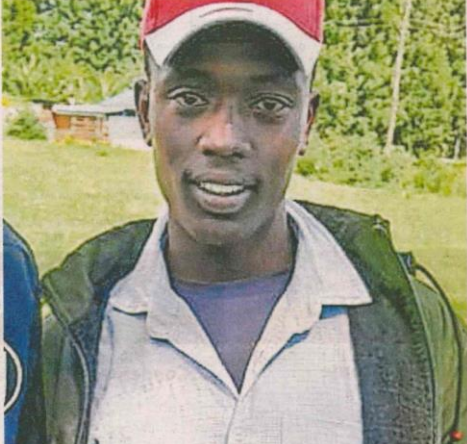
relied on her son to do domestic chores as her other children were away. Mutai was preparing to join Sot Technical Institute in Merigi, Bomet East Constituency, to study plumbing, but his life was tragically cut short. Upon learning of her son's death, Ms Sang rushed to the scene where she fell beside Mutai's body in sorrowful heap before being pulled away by relatives.

"The policeman should have killed me instead of my son. I am old and sickly, with little time left compared to my son who had so much life ahead of him," she said, struggling to contain her grief.

Mutai's father Livingstone Sang said he was well-known in the community as disciplined, non-violent, and a teetotaler.

"It is heartbreaking that an innocent soul has been lost through the action of a trigger-happy policeman. We are appealing to the government and human rights organisations to pursue this matter and ensure justice is served," Mr Sang said.

He revealed that a police van that had been parked a distance



Victor Kipngeno Mutai, 19, who was shot dead by police in Bomet. PHOTO: POOL

19 years

Victor Kipngeno Mutai's age when his life was brutally cut short by a police bullet following a confrontation with locals on Tuesday last week.

two motorcycles that were said to have been confiscated," Mr Sang said. Villagers recovered more than seven spent cartridges from the scene, which were handed over to Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) detectives.

The Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) has taken up the matter, visiting the family to collect statements and witnessing the post-mortem exam conducted last Friday.

Mutai's elder brother Gilbert said the family would not rest until justice is done for a sibling he described as an innocent victim of circumstances.

Mutai's lost three upper teeth and one lower tooth and had a large elliptical wound on the left side of his neck, according to Dr

Godfrey Cheruiyot who conducted the post-mortem exam.

Bomet Central police boss Musa Imamami confirmed the incident and stated that investigations are ongoing, with a report expected to be released later.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the confrontation between the police and residents which led to stone-throwing and live bullets being fired began in a local bar.

The police were allegedly collecting bribes from bar patrons, which reportedly ranged between Sh200 and Sh500 per person, with those taken to the police station paying more.

Ms Beatrice Kirui, a trader, described said those who refused to pay were processed for court appearances in Bomet.

On the night of the incident, officers from Siliwet Police Station arrived at the bar earlier than usual, leading to a confrontation with patrons who demanded identification from the officers.

"The officers dressed in civilian attire locked the door and a quarrel ensued. The patrons eventually fled as the officers started firing indiscriminately," said Mr Erick Bii, a resident.

Mr Stanley Kirui, another resident, told the Nation he narrowly escaped death.

"A bullet grazed my left rib but luckily missed internal organs. I am thankful it didn't hit me directly," Kirui said.

Lovers escapade turns tragic as police shoot, kill young man

BY SHABAN MAKOKHA

In the stillness of the night on June 27, Boaz Katiechi and his friend Daniel Kochwa waited until everyone in their Shinyulu village was asleep before they sneaked out of their parents' homes for a mission in the neighbouring Khwiseri, Kakamega County.

Katiechi, 28, and Kochwa, 21, fuelled their motorcycle and rode in silence to Warembo Pub where they were to pick up their lovers, who worked as barmaids. They had earlier called the girls and confirmed that the date was still on. They had agreed to meet immediately after the girls ended their shift around 11pm.

But a few hours before the agreed time, some drunken men armed with crude weapons stormed the bar where the women worked and caused havoc, forcing the owner of the pub to call the police.

The law enforcers responded swiftly and ejected the troublemakers. The officers then proceeded to keep vigil outside the bar just in case the unruly drunkards returned.

When the pub eventually closed, the girls retired to their rented house a few metres away from the bar, to freshen up and leave with their dates who were

waiting outside. Katiechi and Kochwa had arrived earlier and were waiting eagerly on their motorcycle parked outside the women's house.

Unfortunately, one of the police officers spotted the two men sitting on a motorcycle and suddenly opened fire, killing one on the spot as the other one escaped with gunshot wounds.

Katiechi, the survivor, fled, leaving behind his friend. "I heard a gunshot and in a split second saw my friend Kochwa fall off the motorcycle. Out of fear and panic I zoomed off under a hail of bullets," said Katiechi, who is being treated at the Butere sub-county hospital. There are six bullets lodged in his body.

"It is so bad that the police opened fire without bothering to know who we were. It really pains me that Atulo (Kochwa) died when he had come to pick me," said Montana Adhiambo, one of the girls.

Her friend, Jane Angelina, wondered why the officers shot at their boyfriends without provocation.

"Why did the officers decide to shoot at the innocent men outside our house yet they dispersed the unruly men who were terrorising patrons at the pub without firing a single shot?" she asked.

Albert Atulo, Kochwa's father, could not come to terms with the death of his son whom he described

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Date last month when police officers shot at two young men in Khwiseri who were waiting for their dates. One of the young men died on the spot while the other is nursing gunshot wounds in hospital

Oversight Authority.

Ms Brenda Kusa, the director of Samrin Integrated Educational Support Programme, accused the police officers of being trigger-happy. She asked the new Inspector-General of Police to take all police officers for refresher courses on using their firearms.

"As Kenyans, we are highly concerned with the

level of ignorance by our security officers when it comes to the use of firearms," said Ms Kusa, noting that the families that lost their loved ones at the hands of police during the anti-government protests were yet to heal as officers continued to kill innocent Kenyans. "We will not rest. We must ensure justice for the family of the boy who was shot dead and the other one who is nursing injuries from gunshots," she added.

According to Ms Kusa, one of the girls was dating a police officer. "The officer had called the girl but a male voice received his call. He had questioned the girl before he rushed to her house to investigate and ended up shooting the young man," said Ms Kusa.

A police report from the Directorate of Criminal Investigation office in Khwiseri, however, indicates that the police officers responded to an attempted house burglary. According to the report, three police officers Stephen Kibet, Wellington Meta and Bernard Asiambo responded to the report from Montana Adhiambo of a house burglary.

Khwiseri sub-county police commander James Momanyi said officers from the DCI have launched investigations. "Let us leave the investigating agencies to unearth and clarify the cause of the shooting," he said.

Body of missing University student found in Ngumo, several others still missing.

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DAILY NATION TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2022

National News

Query Young woman who went missing from college at the beginning of the month is yet to be found

Concern as youth found dead, others still missing

One young woman who was abducted in Nairobi was dumped in Uganda and threatened to never return to Kenya

BY NYABOGA KIAGE AND STEVE OKETCH

Frankline Ondwari, a man who went missing on July 17 during the anti-government protests in Nairobi County, was found dead in a toilet, a day after the *Nation* published a story highlighting his family's predicament.

The body of the University of Nairobi student, which will be buried tomorrow, was found hanging inside an abandoned toilet in Ngumo Estate.

On the day he went missing, Mr Ondwari communicated to his family members telling them that he had been arrested and was at Central Police Station in Nairobi.

Ms Dyline Sabina, the mother of the deceased, in an earlier interview with the *Nation*, said that when she was informed that her son had been arrested, she called

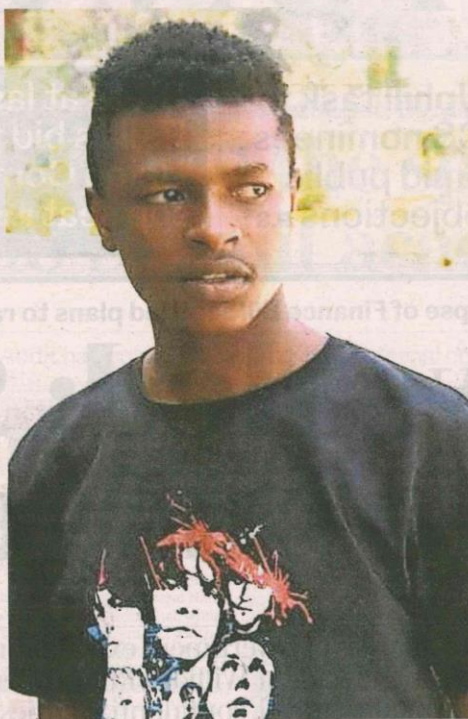
him but the phone was answered by someone who identified himself as an officer.

She said that the person informed her that "mahabusu hawaruhusiwi kuwa na simu" (inmates are not allowed to use phones).

A post-mortem examination on his body, an exercise for which the family picked an independent pathologist, revealed that he died of strangulation.

The *Nation* is in possession of photos that were taken from where his body was found. In the pictures, his body is seen in a standing position inside the disused, blocked toilet.

Ms Sabina had said that when she called her son's phone and an officer picked up, one of his friends reached out to the family and informed them that the police demanded Sh3,000 to free Ondwari. She said the amount was sent to his M-Pesa number.



Frankline Ondwari, who disappeared on July 17, was found dead in Ngumo Estate. PHOTO | POOL

Ms Edith Nyangarira, Ondwari's sister, said she spoke to her brother on the day he went missing.

"We spoke and he informed me that he had already secured his freedom and would call me once he arrives home," she said.

Mr Emmanuel Inyiega, a close

friend of Ondwari, said that upon his release, Ondwari went to a friend's shop along Kirinyaga Road and left his phone charging. "I went to the police station and was informed that he had been released. Even when he went silent, I went back to the same sta-

The people who abducted her [Shelmith] were wearing masks and armed. It is due to the sensitivity of this matter that the family does not want to talk about it publicly

Source



tion but he was not there," said Mr Inyiega.

For two weeks, the family of the deceased kept searching for him in various places, including police stations, mortuaries within the city and various hospitals in vain.

The matter was reported at Kasarani Police Station and recorded under Occurrence Book (OB) number 127/20/7/24.

Ondwari was last with his mother in their home in Keumbu, Kisii County, in December 2023 during the festive season.

He has been described as a calm man who loved making friends.

For the family of Ms Purity Njeri, who also went missing, they are still wondering whether indeed she has been found or not.

Ms Njeri's mother, Ruth Nduta, who resides in Gatanga sub-county Murang'a County, yesterday told the *Nation* that a senior officer had informed them that she had been found.

"We were told that she had been found and she was doing well but since then it's now five

days and we have not seen her Ms Nduta said.

Ms Njeri went missing on July 1 when her mother visited Thika Technical Institute where she was studying. Hours later, the mother called her but she had up her phone never to be heard from again.

Her father Stephen Gitau told the *Nation* that on the day she went missing, protests were reported in different parts of the country and it remains unclear whether she was affected.

Meanwhile, Ms Shelmith Nyawira Njiru, a woman who went missing on July 17, was found in Uganda in an incident that the family says it is not comfortable to reveal much about.

However, a family source said that on the fateful evening Ms Nyawira was preparing head to work when she was approached by two men who abducted her.

The family revealed that the last place her phone signal was detected was in Malaba, Bus County, where money was withdrawn from her phone.

"The people who abducted her were wearing masks and armed. It is due to the sensitivity of the matter that the family does not want to talk about it publicly said our source.

The source said that once Uganda, the two men threw her out of the car that they were and warned her to never return to Kenya.

Ms Nyawira sought refuge in Catholic church near the place she was abandoned and was linked to a police station in Uganda.

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SECURITY

PM, NPSC

Change of guard at Administration Police Service

Gilbert Masengeli officially took over as the head of Administration Police Service yesterday following the deployment of Noor Gabow to Haiti, where he is heading Kenyan peace-keeping mission.

Before the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) took over the reins, James Kamau had been in charge in an acting capacity. And yesterday Kamau who is the Commandant, National Police Service College Embakasi A Campus, handed over to Masengeli in an elaborate ceremony at Jogoo House.

Masengeli's appointment by President William Ruto followed a competitive selection process overseen by the National Police Service Commission, where he emerged as the top candidate among three others namely Margaret Karanja, James Mukuha Kamau, and Dr Masoud Mwinyi.

During the handover ceremony, Masengeli pledged to enhance cooperation within the National Police Service and to uphold the rule of law

as per the Constitution.

He emphasised the importance of teamwork and a multi-agency approach to ensure public safety.

"Since security is our priority and the safety of everyone is our responsibility, the Commander-in-Chief and mwananchi should not only feel safe but be safe at all costs. We have no other choice," stated Masengeli.

"Our strength is teamwork, and a multi-agency approach. We work with other security agencies to ensure we excel and provide the peace that is mandated by the Constitution," he added.

Masengeli becomes the first officer to head the Service having rose through the ranks. Traditionally, his predecessors have been plucked from elsewhere.

His immediate predecessor Gabow was picked from Kenya Police Service.

"He is our first DIG grown and brought up in the Service, and that's why most of the time we hear people referring to the new DIG as home-



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police incharge of Administration Police (AP) Gilbert Masengeli (right) is handed the AP flag by the acting DIG James Kamau when he took charge of the AP service yesterday. [Collins Kweyu, Standard]

grown. He has risen from constable to the level of a DIG," said Kamau, the outgoing acting DIG.

Masengeli, a commando with experience in Israel and the US, was the acting Commandant of the National

Police Service College Embakasi A Campus.

He has served as an Administration Police officer for 35 years in various roles.

[Emmanuel Kipchumba]

END

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/realtime/2024-07-29-omtatah-writes-to-nps-demands-urgent-probe-into-police-excesses-during-anti-state-protests/>