



Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MANDERA KILLINGS

26th November, 2014.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) is deeply concerned by the increasing incidents of insecurity in the country. We are deeply saddened and condole with the families of the twenty-eight (28) persons who were killed by suspected terrorists in a Nairobi bound bus from Mandera on 22nd November 2014. We also extend our condolences to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET), and the National Police Service, for the loss of their members.

It is unacceptable that persons whose human rights are extensively protected by a Bill of Rights passed by the people of Kenya can be subjected to insurmountable violations. Moreover, the Bill of Rights is clear that its provisions protect every person and are binding on all state organs and all persons alike. We join others who have strongly condemned this act as a gross violation and total disregard for the victims' right to life as contained in Article 26 of the Constitution of Kenya. We implore the Government of Kenya to take immediate action and carry out adequate investigations with a view to prosecute the suspects of this heinous crime.

Incidents such as these serve to bring to the fore our vulnerabilities in matters security. Nothing short of a public owning up of failure to discharge responsibility by the security agencies is acceptable. There appears absent on the part of the leadership of the security in this country an awareness of their obligation to guarantee security and degree of accountability.

State accountability requires that the State take responsibility for the bereaved families by meeting the costs related to the funerals and further make adequate compensation for the lost lives.

We consider that Security being a national issue the Government should as a priority convene a National Dialogue on Security that will provide a platform for citizens to make their contribution to measures that can be taken to ensure security as a right to all Kenyans.


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