



Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

1st Floor, CVS Plaza, Lenana Rd, P.O. Box 74359 - 00200, Nairobi - Kenya.

Tel: 254-20-2717908/2717928/2717256/2712664. Fax: 254-20-2716160

Email: haki@knchr.org

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Press Release

STATEMENT ON THE ESCALATING INSECURITY IN MOYALE

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) is deeply concerned by the latest wave of insecurity engulfing Moyale and the larger Marsabit County that has greatly impacted negatively on the protection and enjoyment of human rights. In the past two weeks, this ongoing orgy of violence has resulted in the loss of over 10 lives, massive displacement, widespread destruction of property and immense loss of livelihoods. The Commission underscores the plight of women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities who continue to bear the greatest brunt of the effects of the cyclic conflict. There is also a growing humanitarian crisis resulting from the displacement with scores of residents reported to have fled to neighbouring Ethiopia.

Preliminary investigations by KNCHR indicate that the latest violence is fuelled by the power contestation between various communities related to the outcome of the March 4 General Election in the County. The conflict is further compounded by competition for resources and the perennial ethnic/clan rivalries pitting various communities in Marsabit.

It is unfortunate that this violence abounds despite assurances by the government of its preparedness to protect Kenyans against internal and external aggression. As a public watchdog, KNCHR is greatly disturbed by the inexcusable failure by the government to prevent and contain the unending cycle of violence.

We wish to remind the National government of its constitutional obligation to provide security and protection to all its citizens. The KNCHR is of the considered view that Government's early warning systems have continued to be ineffective in detecting conflicts and informing timely and appropriate interventions.

Recommendations:

We call upon the government to immediately restore security and order in Moyale and other affected areas and take all appropriate measures to prevent further resurgence of

violence. We call for firm and decisive action against the perpetrators irrespective of their standing in the society.

We call upon the National government to institute an independent Inquiry similar to the one established with regard to the Tana River conflict last year to investigate the issues and factors underlying the Moyale/Marsabit conflict and generate recommendations towards a lasting solution to the conflict.

We further implore the government to immediately provide timely humanitarian assistance to the displaced victims of the violence and guarantee their protection pending resolution of the conflict.

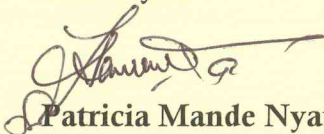
The National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC) and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) must be more proactive in forestalling this bloodletting through the early warning and conflict prevention and mitigation systems at their disposal.

Politicians and their agents must desist from any conduct and utterances that may stoke tensions and conflict amongst communities. We urge all local leaders in the county to take leadership in fostering peace and cohesion amongst their communities. They must urgently address the issue of sharing power and resources in a manner that accommodates the interests of all communities in the region.

We urge the residents of Moyale and indeed all Kenyans to resolve whatever grievances they may have through peaceful and legal means including traditional dispute resolution mechanisms which are now recognized in the constitution and desist from taking the law into their hands.

The KNCHR shall continue to discharge its constitutional duty of monitoring the protection of the rights of all Kenyans. We have deployed our officers to the affected areas and are doing everything within our mandate and means in conjunction with relevant authorities, partners and stakeholders to ensure justice for victims and the restoration of peace and stability.

Thank you



Patricia Mande Nyaundi

COMMISSION SECRETARY/ CEO