



STATEMENT BY POLICE REFORMS WORKING GROUP ON THE MAVOKO 3 JUDGEMENT

July 22, 2022.

Twenty-one (21) organizations working under the umbrella of The Police Reforms Working Group welcome the conviction of three police officers and a police informer for the murder of lawyer Willie Kimani, client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri in 2016.

Speaking after the judgement in the High Court today, The Police Reforms Working Group demanded that the Government of Kenya provide monetary compensation for damages caused to victims, medical and psychological care, and rehabilitation for any form of physical or mental damage, as well as legal and social rehabilitation. The 21 organizations called on the Government of Kenya to ratify, without any reservations, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to investigate and prosecute all cases of Enforced Disappearances and Extrajudicial Killings in the country

The group called on the Attorney General and Parliament to effectively implement the National Coroner's Service Act 2017 and appoint a Coroner General to oversee its implementation; to criminalize enforced disappearances; and to ensure that all police killings are swiftly and impartially investigated to ensure that any use of lethal force by police officers is lawful. Finally, the Group called on the Judiciary to expedite the hearing and conclusion of all matters related to extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances

The Mavoko case demonstrates that there is a glaring absence of justice in the case of enforced disappearances. Without the identification of bodies, no cases can be brought to bring justice to bear for those persons who have been arrested by police, but never booked and whose bodies still have not been found.

The High Court judgement finding four police officers (Fredrick Leliman, Stephen Cheburet, Sylvia Wanjiku and Leonard Mwangi) and police informer Peter Ngugi guilty of murder closes the 6-year-old case of the Mavoko 3.

Six years ago, human rights lawyer Willie Kimani, client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri were abducted on their way from Mavoko Law Courts where they had attended court. One week after their disappearance, the bodies of the three were found dumped in river Athi in Ol Donyo Sabuk.

This heinous act sent chills across the country and was widely condemned in the wake of allegations of cases of increased extra judicial killings and enforced disappearance by our police service. Sadly, this case is just one of the many cases of

police killings and enforced disappearance reported in Kenya with families frequently not getting justice or experiencing seriously delayed justice. That is why today we are saying *Justice Now* for all victims of police killings and EDs.

Despite calls for an end to enforced disappearances and police killings, the cases continue to rise. Police killings are assumed by the Police Service to be a lawful use of force, without any investigation to ensure that. Missing Voices documented 145 cases of police killings in 2019; 158 cases of police killings and 10 cases of enforced disappearances in 2020; and 187 cases of police killings and 32 cases of enforced disappearances in 2021.

IPOA has recorded that they received reports of 123 cases of deaths by police action, 46 deaths in police custody and 28 cases of enforced disappearance in 2021 alone.

The brutal murder of Willie Kimani, client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri struck a chord for many Kenyans that this kind of violence could happen to them too. We must stop this pattern of serious crime.

ENDS