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PRESS RELEASE:

PRWG COMMENDS IPOA AND ODPP FOR COMPLETING INVESTIGATIONS OF 15 POLICE OFFICERS AND 6 COUNTY ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ATTACHED TO NAMBALE SUBCOUNTY.

The Police Reforms Working Group (PRWG-K) commends the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) for successfully completing investigations and preferring charges to the 15 police officers and 6 county enforcement officers involved in an incident in Nambale Sub County.

The incident took place on March 30, 2020 in Nambale town, Busia County. Police officers allegedly discharged tear gas in a private home and allegedly assaulted Benard Orenga his wife, children and neighbours. Receiving the reports, PRWG member, the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) documented the case and sued for justice in the High Court of Bungoma.

The news of the intended prosecution of the officers in question is an affirmation to the reform agenda. Members of the Police Reform Working Group shall continue to pursue human rights violations in our constitutional court as per the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and International Human Rights law's pronouncements on fundamental Human rights.

During the management of the pandemic, millions of Kenyans were exposed to excessive use of force and police brutality during the curfew. Members of the PRWG- K exist to prevent and respond to torture, inhumane and degrading treatment.

We urge IPOA to ensure that every death or serious injury of a person as a result of police action or inaction during the curfew is adequately and impartially investigated and the officers responsible are prosecuted. IPOA must also continue investigating officers that either frustrate or fail to co-operate with its investigations.

Their diligence is crucial for the affected persons and is in the public interest. The decision to prosecute in this case is a step in the right direction and will inspire others who are affected by police brutality. The Officers will have their day in court and it remains the authority of the Judiciary to determine their innocence or guilt

Lastly, we call on the Judiciary to take concrete and decisive action to ensure that its administrative processes will no longer be a barrier to timely completion of such cases. We call for the efficient and timely dispensation of this and many other cases resulting from police misconduct and reiterate that Justice Delayed is indeed Justice Denied.

This statement is signed by members of the Police Reforms Working Group-Kenya, an alliance of national and grassroots organisations committed to professional and rule of law policing. They include the Kariombagi Paralegal Network, Women Empowerment Link, Social Welfare Development Program, Independent Medical Legal Unit, Katiba Institute, Kenya Human Rights Commission, Defenders Coalition, Amnesty International Kenya, International Centre for Transitional Justice, The Kenyan Section of International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya), Usalama Reforms Forum, Transparency International Kenya, Shield For Justice, Wangu Kanja Foundation, Peace Brigades International, Kenya's for Peace, Truth and Justice, Constitution, Reform Education Consortium and HAKI Africa.