

Press Release

Nairobi - 29 May 2018

URGENT ALERT ON DISAPPEARANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER MILDRED ATTY OWISO

Mildred Atty Owiso, a Human Rights Defender who uses social media to fight for social justice has been reported missing since early this morning after sending a distress WhatsApp message to her lawyer and friends from telephone #0720834601.

At 0801hrs Mildred sent this message to her lawyer; *“Just been pulled by some plainclothed men. They say they want to question me and been asked to switch off my phone. Please make sure you go to Central I am sure the rest will be there. Hope I make it on time. Urge the rest to meet you in Central . Gotta go now. Please inform ***** this and ask her to update on bb”*

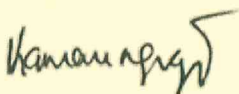
At 0804 hrs, Mildred sent this message to a friend *“Pulled by, told to switch off phone . Please guys h ”*

Since then her phones have been switched off. Mildred is one of the key organizers of the countrywide peaceful protests against spiraling grand corruption planned for 31st May 2018. In the last few days several organizers of the protests have reported threats to their lives through phone calls and surveillance.

Today, Mildred was scheduled to accompany her lawyer Mr. Elvis Abenga to the Central Police Station, Nairobi to notify the police about the protests in line with the law. The organizers have complained that the Officer in Charge of the Station (OCS) has twice declined to receive and stamp the notification for the protests. The lawyer reported the matter to the Central Police Station vide OB Number 54/29/05/18 at 1130hrs. The police at the station have denied knowledge of Mildred's whereabouts.

We call on the Inspector General of Police to urgently trace and ensure the safety of Mildred Owiso. We recall a similar incident in 2016 where Lawyer Willy Kimani, his client Josphat Mwenda and his driver Joseph Muiruri were abducted and brutally killed by the police.

Signed



Kamau Ngugi
Executive Director -National Coalition Human Rights Defenders Kenya (NCHRD-K).