



DEFENDERS  
COALITION

# THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT THE BLINK OF 2022 ELECTIONS

REPORT COMPILED BY DEFENDERS COALITION  
SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS  
BETWEEN AUGUST 2021- JULY 2022

SAFETY . SECURITY . WELLBEING

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Disclaimer: The figures referenced are at the time of publishing this report.

*“I’m hopeful that despite all the noise, all the lies, we’re going to remember who we are, who we’re called to be. Out of this political darkness, I see a great awakening. If you vote, things will get better, it will be a start.”*

*-Barack Obama, Former U.S. President*

## ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HRD	Human Right Defender
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IMLU	Independent Medical Legal Unit
IPOA	Independent Policing Oversight Authority
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission of Human Rights
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
WHRD	Woman Human Right Defender

# Word From The Executive Director

Kenya is slated to hold its General Elections on Tuesday the 9th day of August 2022 for the 3rd time under the constitution of Kenya 2010. It's important that the lessons learnt in previous general elections as documented in the Defenders Coalitions monitoring reports and other related reports by election stakeholders are fully incorporated in furtherance of a democracy in Kenya.

The legal framework on the Bill of Rights and specifically political rights as provided for under Article 38 our constitution and key legislation that govern election processes all enacted in a quest to attain electoral reforms that ensure a free, fair and credible election that reflects the highest aspirations of the Kenyan people.

It's against this backdrop that Defenders Coalition, a key stakeholder in elections has capacity built and strengthened grassroot HRDs with advanced skills on Election Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting on human rights violations pre, during and post election period.

In order to ensure that the election process reflects the true wishes of Kenyans in the upcoming 2022 general election, Defenders Coalition deployed HRD monitors to monitor and document the electoral process and working environment of the HRDs.

We can proudly highlight the following key milestones made during the last one year of monitoring:

1. Revamped a phone based application monitoring tool (Mtetezi) used by monitors to document human rights violations that enhanced quick, timely rapid response to any such violations.
2. Defenders Coalition has trained over 300 HRDs and over 20 Organizations on Digital Security and Physical Security, and monitoring, documentation and reporting.
3. Defenders Coalition successfully mobilized critical partners to jointly engage in advocacy over pressing human rights issues in Kenya.

4. The presence of Defenders Coalition as the spokesperson for HRDs served to denounce and resist harmful actions on the environment of HRDs, and uses advocacy as a key tool for enhancing accountability for electoral related human rights violations.
5. Defenders Coalition innovatively responded to humanitarian and resilience needs of HRDs and CSO organizations.
6. Defenders Coalition through collaboration pathways with partner organizations have ramped up multiple coordinated interventions and strategies to expand freedom of information and transparency. The information is designed to identify malpractices and raise the quality of political contests so that they meet human right standards and principles.

3. <https://sjsyndicate.org/2020/04/21/voa-journalist-detained-after-reporting-death-of-a-rape-victim-in-somalias-south-west-state/>

# Acknowledgement

This is a report of the Status of Human Rights Defenders ahead of the August 9th General Elections by the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders. The report was written by xxxxxx and we thank them for their professionalism and patience.

We appreciate input provided by the staff of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders- Kenya. We thank the board of trustees and donor partners for all their support. Last but not least, we are grateful to human rights defenders in Kenya who took part in the monitoring, documentation and reporting of the violations witnessed within the areas of deployment and the key informants who provided information to us.

We believe that this report offers useful recommendations that ensure compliance with the rule of law by all actors involved in the election cycle, identifies human rights gaps/potential situations that can result to violence, human rights abuses and provide early warning and preventive measures to be put in place to harness respect for human rights and peaceful elections, participation and the human rights situation of vulnerable groups in the electoral process.

# Introduction & Background

The Defenders Coalition is a national membership organization established in 2007 and registered under Kenyan law as a trust. The Defenders Coalition works primarily to champion the safety, security and wellbeing of human rights defenders (HRDs). Among other pathways, the Defenders Coalition does this through strengthening capacities of HRDs to work more effectively, besides advocating for favorable legal, policy and institutional environments to reduce their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and/or harm.

Defenders Coalition envisions a just society founded on human rights by championing for the safety, security and well-being of Human Rights Defenders. The Defenders Coalition believes that every individual is entitled to the rights and personal liberties, security and social justice, and that HRDs play a frontline role of advancing the realization of these rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

Critical to these rights is the right to a free, fair and credible elections and strengthening democratic practices. Defenders Coalition has over the time supported HRDs as a contribution to the realization of a democratic country. This has been through enhancing the capacities of HRDs to be effective during the election cycle with a key focus on the safety and security of HRDs as well as in monitoring, documentation and reporting.

HRDs, both at the national and county levels continue to operate in an environment characterized by threats, arbitrary arrests, judicial persecutions, reprisals and killings. There have been several attempts by state organs to constrain the civic and democratic space through punitive and prohibitive governance frameworks targeting the Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), media organizations, Constitutional Commissions among others.

Guided by the analysis of the prevailing operational context, Defenders Coalition continues to put measures to ensure the safety, security and wellbeing of HRDs. These measures take both preventive and responsive approaches.



Since 2007 Defenders Coalition has deployed monitors in all election cycles to monitor and document violations, analyze trends and develop strategies for information sharing and multiple coordinated interventions to mitigate risks through collaboration pathways with state and non-state actors.

Defenders Coalition has been monitoring the preparedness and processes of the upcoming 2022 general elections and focuses more on human rights violations in order to identify gaps in which they can influence the respect for human rights in the election process, shed light on the general overview of the legal, economic and socio-political environment before the elections period; and identifying areas where change can be influenced including through advocacy.

In preparation for election monitoring, Defenders Coalition trained an initial group of seventy five (75) human rights monitors on monitoring, reporting and documentation that equipped them with the necessary skills on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, the submission of evidence based reports and localized intervention at community level from August 2021 until December 2021. Among data collected are the political, civil, social, cultural and economic factors that impacted on their working environment, human rights violations and electoral malpractices observed. In addition, they proposed corrective action to be taken and to ensure greater participation of various groups in the election process. The reports also provided recommendations to various actors involved in the electoral process.

In April 2022, Defenders Coalition identified, trained and deployed 105 HRD monitors from among the diverse HRDs membership and networks that included women, men, persons with disabilities and gender minorities across counties in Kenya. The monitors continue to monitor human rights violations and report through a phone based application monitoring tool called Mtetezi, that was developed to give consideration to the key human rights principles and standards. Defenders Coalition relies on the information shared by monitors and utilizes the findings of the monitoring exercise to guide on further actions particularly on investigations, rapid response missions, issuance of advisories and reports with key findings and recommendations. The exercise was not only meant to influence protection measures by the Defenders Coalition.

This report therefore, is a compendium of individual reports from across the 47 counties of Kenya with a summary of the situation of human rights and HRDs between the period of August 2021 to July 2022.

## Operating Environment

Chapter seven and Article 38 of the Constitution provides that every five years, the citizens of Kenya shall be given an opportunity to practice their political rights by being part of a free, fair, peaceful and credible elections. Chapter 4 of the constitution (2010) assures every citizen that their fundamental rights and freedoms are respected.

Unfortunately, and despite the adoption of progressive political, social and cultural reforms through the Constitution of Kenya 2010, majority Kenyans are not only unable to realize their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights but are regular victims of violations of human rights. The escalation of human rights violations takes place before, during and after general elections.

The General elections in 2007, 2013, 2017 and repeat elections in 2017 were marred with significant human rights issues. Many are linked to long-standing grievances and government failure to address them. These include corruption, ethnicity, land injustices, nepotism and looting of public resources by those entrusted to manage them. Worse still, election periods are marked by vicious contests for political power. It is no secret that those who achieve political power benefit from impunity when they engage in abuses including impunity for political manipulation of violence, criminal theft of public resources, and the corrupt misuse of public resources-indulgences which occur at the expense of groups who are out of power.

It is evident that the election period in Kenya is highly volatile and early warning assessments point to a violently contested election in 2022. A political lull that was occasioned by the March 2018 rapprochement when President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga publicly reached a truce in an event that became popularly known as “the handshake” has shaken the foundations that held together the Jubilee Coalition that formed the government as new factions emerge within the governing party. Currently, the ruling party has two outfits “Kieleweke” and “Tangatanga”, whose differences that are being played out in public are creating tensions in the country.

Human rights defenders (HRDs) actively monitor these developments keenly to inform peacebuilding efforts, supportive policy and early and timely interventions by relevant state bodies during the elections period. Human rights defenders, who passionately work to protect and promote human rights for all, seek justice and other remedies for victims and demand accountability for perpetrators of violation within and without the elections period are caught in this quagmire. Conscious of the fact that during election period attacks on human rights defenders and human rights organizations are always on the rise, Defenders Coalition intervenes to enhance HRDs safety, security, and wellbeing.



## Findings And Key Concerns

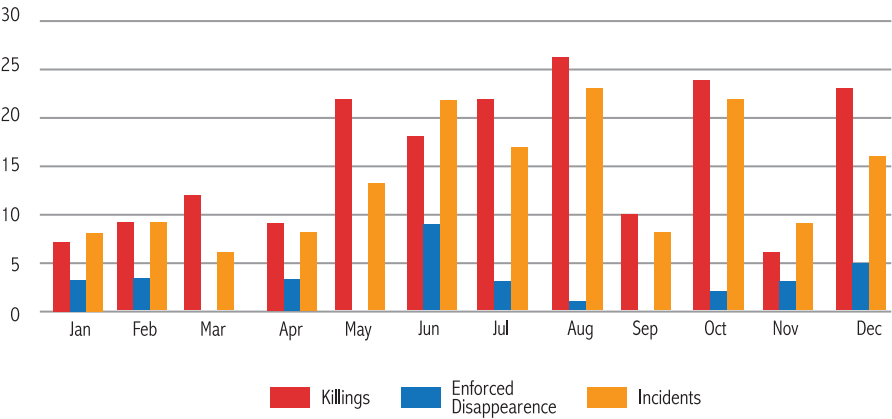
General Elections in Kenya have been characterized as being highly competitive, contentious and polarizing. Violence meted by both civilians and law enforcement agencies has been witnessed during past elections in Kenya. 2007 elections for example goes down in history as the most violent post poll periods in this country. AsKenya prepares for the general elections, the following is a synopsis of the issues of concern that Defenders Coalition through their role in monitoring human rights violations have documented as trends and calls for accountability and redress by the relevant agencies.

### A. Threats to the right to Life or politically motivated killings and disappearances

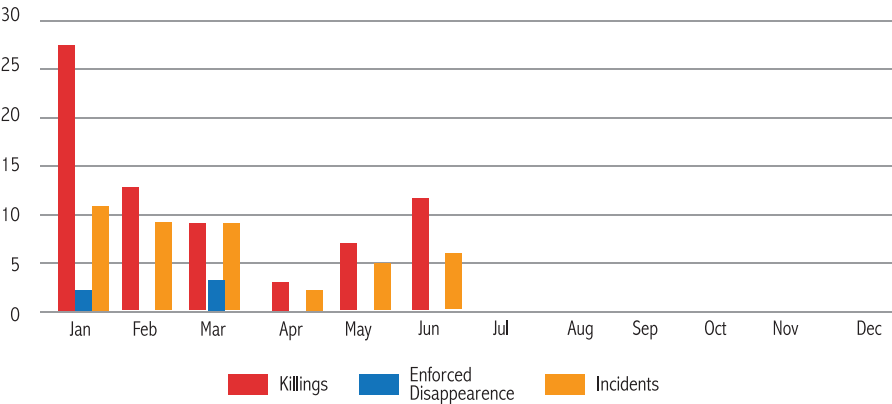
There were serious cases of human rights violations regarding right to life. A total of 80 Killings were reported across the country. 17 cases of enforced disappearance were reported in the same period. In the reports, it was alleged

that security forces, specifically officers of the National Police Service had a hand in the unlawful killings or forceful disappearance of persons. The security actors alleged that the persons killed were associated with criminal activities. Missing voices reports indicate that between 2021 and 2022, 294 people have been killed by the police or disappeared. Out of the number, 259 were as a result of police killings and 35 disappeared in police custody. Nairobi county accounts for the most deaths by police and enforced disappearances.(<https://missingvoices.or.ke/statistics/>)

2021



2022



Notably during the period, Kairu (not real name), 22 and his brother Mwangi (not real name), 19 were arrested on August 1 past 10.00 PM at Kianjokoma Town in Embu County by police officers from Manyatta Police Station who were enforcing the 10PM-4 AM curfew. Their bodies were later discovered at Embu Level Five Hospital Morgue. Their parents insist police murdered their sons. Local police chief in charge of Embu East said the duo were injured after they jumped off a moving police car and were pronounced dead on arrival at Embu Level Five hospital.

Chris (not real name) was arrested on the night of September 17 by officers from Tala Police Station but later found dead in a police cell in Tala, Machakos County. Post-mortem examination showed that he had massive physical injuries and a fractured skull.

A man from Bungoma County was beaten to death, allegedly by the Nyumba Kumi policing group headed by the assistant chief, after refusing to surrender his wife to police officers as a bribe. Before his death, the deceased used to sell traditional brew in Misikhu village.

Waweru (not real name) from Solai area in Nakuru went missing in August and was later found dead. It is alleged that Waweru was arrested by police from Solai Police Station. The friend was found in police custody. Waweru's motorbike was found in the same police station.

An transgender activist was found dead in Nairobi along general Mathenge Road on September 30. The cause of death is still unknown.

In September, 16 bodies were recovered from River Tana and taken to Garissa Referral Hospital Mortuary. 11 of the bodies showed signs of torture, with the majority of them having their feet and hands tied.

Four elderly women aged 57,60,62 and 85 years old were torched to ashes on October 17,2021 at Omokona village in Marani ward ,Kitutu chache North. The four women were alleged of bewitching a 17 year old boy leaving him dumb and unable to speak.

In April 17th 2022, a SOGIE person was sexually harrassed and brutally murdered in her house in Karatina, Nyeri county by a group of men.

(<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/29/inadequate-kenyan-police-response-brutal-killing-non-binary-lesbian>)

On May 4th, 2022; a 50-year-old intersex woman was raped and killed in Cherangany constituency, Trans Nzoia County. Her body was found dumped on the side of the road in Kachiboratownship On June 15th 2022, In Kiamaina, Nakuru North sub-county; a young girl was found burnt beyond recognition under a heap of bedding in a house that had been razed down by a huge fire by the Confirm gang.

On June 21st, 2022: a woman was sexually assaulted, strangled and her body set ablaze in the presence of her children by Confirm gang.

(<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/trans-nzoia/50-year-old-intersex-woman-raped-and-killed-in-trans-nzoia-3805548>).

On June 3rd, 2022, four people were killed and seven others nursed bullet injuries in Masimba, Kajiado county by GSU officers while protesting against wildlife invasion in the area that had also killed a teacher.

(<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-06-03-matiangi-apologises-over-masimba-police-shooting-that-killed-4/>)

On June 24th, 2022: Confirm gang in Mawanga, Nakuru county sexually assaulted a 23-year-old girl on the morning of Friday June 24th, 2022, and burned her remains.

(<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/nakuru/who-is-killing-women-in-mawanga-nakuru--3862672>)

On July 13, 2022, two bodies ( a man and a woman) were found dumped 400 metres apart in Barut, Nakuru Town West sub-county. The woman was found naked, beheaded and unidentified while the man was strangled to death.

(<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001450196/woman-beheaded-man-strangled-in-nakuru>)

## Woman beheaded, man strangled in Nakuru

By Kennedy Gachui | Jul 13th 2022



Bodies of the victims were taken to Nakuru Municipal Mortuary. (Kennedy Gachui, Standard)

Two bodies were on Wednesday morning found dumped 400 metres apart in Barut, Nakuru Town West Sub-County.

The first victim, a woman, had been beheaded while the second one, a man, had been strangled, police said.

The woman's body was naked, and had been dumped at the Barut sand mines.

## **B. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**

During the monitoring period, domestic violence including sexual violence within marriage, early and forced marriage, FGM/C, forced wife “inheritance,” damage to property, defilement, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, harassment, incest, intimidation, physical abuse, stalking, verbal abuse were documented.

Incidents totalling 42 were documented during the period with early marriages, female genital mutilation, spousal violence and rape being the most prevalent forms of violations. Wajir, Siaya, Marsabit, Tana River, Baringo, West Pokot and Tharaka Nithi reported the highest numbers throughout the period.

The reports also indicate a rising number of women and girls exposed or experiencing gender based violence in counties affected by perennial conflict (banditry and cattle rustling) like West Pokot, Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu, and Marsabit counties.

In August 2021, A girl from Hola, Tanariver county was forcefully married to an elderly man. The girl was a grade five pupil at Laza primary school aged 14. She was married to a man in Tana Delta, Tanariver county.

In October 2021, three primary school girls from Dayate, Chewani ward in Tana River county were forced into early marriage by their parents. After investigating with the assistance of the local chief and two other GBV responders, they found out two of the girls were married off and one was in the process of being prepared for marriage. Sofia, saumu and saida (not their real names) are currently 17, 14 and 11 years old respectively. Sofia was married for a week before her rescue, Saumu for three days and Saida was in the preparation of being a young bride.

## **C. Police Brutality**

The use of excessive force by the National Police Services officers on individuals suspected of being part of illegal activities, crime, and management of public order continues to be rampant. Reforms within the Police Service have not necessarily enhanced service delivery to Kenyans despite numerous attempts and overhauling of the training curriculum and engagement with the Ministry of Interior.

Police officers have continued to violently disrupt peaceful assemblies causing bodily harm/injuries to the victims. Persons who are arrested during the incidents are either charged with trumped up charges or held in detention for long hours and released with no charges pressed against them.

The abuse and misuse of policing power has most often been seen during arrests whether lawful or otherwise but also when officers are called in to stop protests/resolve disputes in the guise of maintaining public law and order.

Policing agencies continue to use excessive force on the citizens/protesters. Despite rein in police excess, complaints against officers continue to rise. Lack of robust accountability structures within policing agencies and political interference in the operations of policing have fueled and entrenched impunity. As a result, arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings are common occurrences.

Two persons were allegedly killed by police from the General Service Unit who had been deployed to quell the chaos caused by the traders during a demolition exercise in Kahawa West in September 2021.

(<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2021-08-25-photos-man-killed-in-kahawa-west-protests-over-demolitions/>)

One person was shot dead and two others injured in Mukuru Kwa Njenga as police battled residents who were protesting alleged grabbing of some land in the area. Media reports indicated use of violent means to disburse the protestors (<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/nairobi/article/2001432887/one-killed-in-battle-between-mukuru-slum-owners-locals>)

## One killed in battle between Mukuru slum owners, locals

By James Wanzala and Collins Kweyu | Dec 27th 2021



Police engage residents of Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums, Nairobi in running battles on Monday, December 27, 2021, when they protested against grabbing of contested land in the area. [Collins Kweyu, Standard]

At least one person died and two others injured in Mukuru Kwa Njenga yesterday as police battled residents who were protesting alleged grabbing of some land in the area.



Four people were shot dead and seven others had bullet injuries by GSU officers in Masimba, Kajiado county when they protested against wildlife invasion that killed a teacher on June 3rd, 2022.

(<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001447280/ipoa-begins-probe-on-masimba-killings-as-residents-demand-justice>)

## IPOA begins probe on Masimba killings as residents demand justice

By Stephen Rotich and Patience Githiga | Jun 6th 2022



Kajiado leaders led by Governor Joseph Ole Lenku console victims at the Mwalindi Sub-county hospital who were injured during a demonstration to protest increased cases of human-wildlife conflict in the area. [Patience Githiga, Standard]

Independent, Policing and Oversight Authority (IPOA) has started investigations into the killings of four people during a protest in Kajiado county.

Four people were shot dead in Masimba last Thursday when residents barricaded the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway, to protest an increase in human-wildlife conflict in the area.

Police said the protests turned ugly when demonstrators hurled stones at a GSU lorry during the incident that also saw several people injured.

A 19 year old girl was shot dead and her friend was badly hurt when they were shot by the police during police crackdown on the notorious Confirm criminal gang in Lake View estate, Nakuru county.

(<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/nakuru/nakuru-killing-my-daughter-was-not-part-of-the-dreaded-criminal-gang--3847112>)

Four youths were brutally murdered on Thursday July 14th 2022 by police officers during a crackdown on the Confirm gang in Nakuru West sub-county, Nakuru county on allegation of being part of the criminal gang. This was after the Interior CS, Fred Matigari instructed the police to hunt for the notorious criminal gang that has been terrorizing the residents.

(Revealed: Police shot murdered Nakuru teen 9 times over gang suspicion | Nation)

## Revealed: Police shot murdered Nakuru teen 9 times over gang suspicion

Wednesday, July 20, 2022



Collins Kibet Kirui, Collins Kipkorir, Kevin Kipyegon and Denis Kipchirchir were gunned down in Barut, Nakuru West sub-county during a security operation. Pool / Nation Media Group

By Mercy Koskei

The youngest of the suspects killed by police officers in Nakuru last week was shot nine times, while the other three had two gunshots each; post mortem on their bodies has revealed.

### D. Persecution of Human Rights Defenders

Human Rights Defenders play a critical role in the promotion and protection of human rights. They continue to work in a climate that is filled with impunity. They face intimidation, harassment, stigmatization, vilification of individual HRDs, attacks on civil society organization and negative profiling from both the state and non-state actors.

#### Smear campaigns

Smear campaigns on social media which state and non-state actors have continued to use to negatively profile HRDs and their work. Individual activities have been targeted through highly coordinated hashtags for name-calling and demonizing the work of activists, especially on social media application -Twitter.

#### Attacks on civil society organizations (CSOs)

Civil society organizations continue to be targeted for their work of defending members of the public and constitution of Kenya. Defenders Coalition was a victim of the targeting by the state and was profiled for its work around litigating against the proposed amendment to the constitution through the Building Bridges Initiative.

Naivasha HRD community-based organization was deregistered on false allegations of being a gang group. Defenders Coalition is supporting the case with legal representation, psychosocial and relocation.

On June 28th 2022 during a security meeting with the locals in Nakuru county over the the rise and violence caused by the notorious Confirm criminal gang, Interior Cabinet Secretary cautioned the Civil Society/human rights groups not to try curtail the operation, alleging that the CSOs are usually quiet when the gang is maiming people.

(Matiang'i taps Kasarani OCPD to dismantle Nakuru's deadly 'Confirm' gang | Nation)

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## Matiang'i taps Kasarani OCPD to dismantle Nakuru's deadly 'Confirm' gang

Wednesday, June 29, 2022



Interior CS Fred Matiangi addresses Mawanga residents at All Nations Estate in Bahati, Nakuru County after holding a security meeting on June 29, 2022.

John Njoroge | Nation Media Group



By Joseph Openda  
Nation Media Group

Interior CS Dr Fred Matiangi has promoted the no-nonsense Kasarani OCPD Peter Mwanzo to be the new Nakuru County Police Commander.

The Kenya Kwanza Alliance brigade from Mombasa county threatened Haki Africa ( a civil society organization) that they will write to the IEBC to deny Haki Africa observer status.



## UDA slams Haki Africa over 'partisan politics'

Says they will write to the IEBC to deny them observer status

2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 26

UFA and the Sotchi Kremlin Brigade in Mambisa have arrested 143 tribes of plotting, partisan politics.

UFA Mambisa governor candidate Hassan Omar yesterday said they are writing to the ICC to testify the Court based Muslim Rights group observed station in the August 2004 election for allegedly being biased.

Speaking during a press conference at UFA offices in Ngaz, Mambisa, Omar said executive director Ismail Khaidi is "involved in

*ready to pursue politics."*

"We will not allow you [U.S.] to take tribute to come from polling stations under the banner of election observation. Do you [U.S.] come in as OUM agents?"

Khalid has since denied the allegations.

He asked U.S. to bring any kind of evidence they have against them, allowing that the rights group has been playing partisan politics.

"We have never been partisan,"

they have any evidence against the safety of the mail themselves, we would kindly ask them to provide that to us and we will take action," he said.

According to Omata, UTA has also received an invitation from Hialeah for a plume of Southern gubernatorial debate.

However, he said, the organizers of that event have already met with other group candidates to plan.

"We Hialeah have already sided with our competitors to agree on the format of debate," he said.

UTA and Kethin Kourou will not be involved in any kind of action.

"In the rest of Africa, a usually benign and compromised human rights or government, is involved."

However, Shabud says they are not planning any government-sanctioned debate in Mombasa.

"We are not a budget for governments that define in Mombasa or any other country in the country. This is how to me," he said.

The U.S.A. Treasury also accused the OGM forces of breaching their commitment to withdraw from Mombasa.

"They took all the billboards in Mombasa. We never asked for the billboards. They are how we're moving our program and we are making it difficult and the public is immediately aware."

"If they continue to harass our workers, we will take legal action against them or we will move the city to Mombasa."

Shabud threatened MSA saying, "There have been threatening people and agencies being attacked in Mombasa during campaign rallies. We channel their T-shirts MCA candidate human rights and their day program government."

Shabud said that the U.S. has been installed by the withdrawal force.

It is important for us to be in the forefront in conservation, so as not to destroy our environment. If the environment is good, the environment stands to benefit the different [communities], "Blackstar" says.

The KOFs' programs and ideas they normally do occur upon frequently because any form of water that they see in the ocean such as mangroves, a dolphin, and therefore the lives of sea turtles.

One of the young conservationists, Emmanuel Kibira, who benefits from the three educational tour in mangroves, says he was happy to learn about marine environmental conservation.

**IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS**

**Tsunza residents turn to fish farming**

**By Susan Ombaka** Tsunza residents in Mwingi's Pwani County have adopted fish farming as a means to improve their economic and liveli-

## IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS

### Tsunza residents turn to fish farming

## Criminalization of HRDs

Human rights defenders were persistently arrested and detained during the period. Defenders coalition responded to 18 cases of HRDs who were in distress and needed rapid response for their safety, security and wellbeing.

Moreover, two activists were sentenced in separate incidents. Jim (not real name) was sentenced to six months imprisonment with an option of a fine for allegedly threatening to kill a security guard of one of the firms that is alleged to have grabbed his piece of land.

A WHRD was allegedly assaulted during a peaceful demonstration to petition the county government to remit dues to contractors. The WHRD received medical attention at a local hospital. The case was booked under OB.Number 35/27/8/2021. The case has since been reported to IPOA for investigations.

## Intolerance against sexual minority HRDs

Defenders Coalition noted an increase in forms of intolerance towards SOGIE HRDs. The forms included forceful evictions from their houses, murder, threats and spousal violence due to affiliation with human rights organizations that support SOGIE activists.

In September 30th 2021, A transgender activist Erica Chandra was found dead in Nairobi along general Mathenge Road. The cause of death is still unknown.

On April 17th, 2022, Sheila Lumumba, a 25-year-old SOGIE HRD was sexually harassed and brutally murdered in her house by a group of six men in Karatina town, Nyeri county. The police are still conducting investigations on the killing.

In the month of April, Alfred Mbat, a SOGIE HRD based in Mombasa county was physically assaulted that occasioned to body harm. The victim alleged that he was attacked by persons known to him. The matter was reported to Jomvu police station.

On June 5th 2022, three SOGIE HRDs were physically attacked and threatened because of their sexuality and work in Kaloleni and Nyawita estates in Kisumu city, Kisumu County while on their way home at 8 pm. The HRDs are focal security persons in their organization.

### **Attack on HRDs**

October 20th, 2021: a house belonging to a HRD located at Kinanie location was attacked by three (3) unknown men in a white pickup registration number unknown, armed with pistols with detonators. The workers say the attackers also shot at the scene but no injury was reported. According to the report, the attackers accosted the site workers, robbed them of personal effects, and assaulted the building that was still under construction with detonators.

A WHRD was assaulted and threatened by police from Dikirr Police station in Narok county. The matter was reported to the police; the investigating officer rejected the video clip produced as evidence and ignored the matter.

In October 2021 and during the opening for schools for second term, a student and son to a known human rights defender was denied admission to one of the local schools to what is alleged to be the connection to the mother activist. The student had been transferred from a nearby school for reasons that are still unknown. It is alleged that the area chief interfered with the process of school transfer due to involvement of the student's mother in activism. A fellow HRD reported the incident to the child rights office in Baringo, recorded a statement at Marigat police station and obtained OB number OB.20/20/9/2021 at 1146hrs. Further reported the incident to the education office.

Five HRDS were arrested on November 22nd, 2021 and detained at Lokichar police station, Turkana county. They were presented in court the following day and charged with unlawful assembly, creating disturbance and incitement to violence.

Emmy (not real name), a WHRD and land rights activist was murdered on 5th January 2022 by her neighbour by stabbing in Isiolo county. The perpetrator was arrested and the Defenders Coalition intervened in the case with legal support.

On 19th May 2022, an activist and HRD was wrongfully arrested at 9:30 am on allegation of possessing two rolls of bhang according to the police. The Defenders

Coalition intervened and he was released of no charges.

Three HRDs were arrested on 18th June 2022 for participating in a peaceful demonstration to call on the Tanzanian government to stop illegal and forceful eviction of the Maa community from their ancestral land.

In June 2022, a WHRD and SGBV activist in Kisii county faced threats and intimidation because of a defilement case she was pursuing. The perpetrators of the case threatened her on phone to intimidate her to stop following up on the matter.

Friday 24th June, 2022 at around 7 pm, a WHRD and PWD was accosted by two people unknown to her. They physically assaulted her and left her with a fractured hand. The matter was reported to Marigat Police Station. The Defenders Coalition intervened and gave medical support to the WHRD.

A HRD and Westland's aspiring MP lodged a complaint with Spring Valley Police Station after he was allegedly attacked by his opponents' supporters in Kibagare slums in Kitisuru over the weekend. His driver and campaign team were injured when an attack was met on them. The HRD also cited that he earlier got threat messages through WhatsApp on a possible attack.

On 18th July 2022, a HRD in Baringo county was allegedly assaulted and threatened by a senior police officer at Baringo County Referral Hospital in Kabarnet over a defilement case that he was following up. The senior police officer threatened the HRD to stay away from the case or face dire consequences.

(OCS 'assaulted' rights activist helping family in defilement case | Nation)

## OCS 'assaulted' rights activist helping family in defilement case

Tuesday, July 19, 2022



Police officers at the Baringo County Referral Hospital when they took a Form Three girl from Kerio Valley for medical tests after being allegedly defiled. Florah Koech | Nation Media Group



By Florah Koech  
Nation Media Group

Drama unfolded on Monday at Baringo County Referral Hospital in Kabarnet after a senior police officer allegedly assaulted and threatened a human rights activist and a relative of a child who had been defiled.

## E. Elections related context and Campaigns

The Elections Act 2016, provides guidelines for the conduct of elections to the office of the President, the National Assembly, the Senate, county governor and county assembly; to provide for the conduct of referenda; to provide for election dispute resolution and for connected purposes and processes overseen by relevant independent institution including the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Part of the processes that the Act provides for is voter registration and awareness creation on the same thereof by all Kenyans who have attained the age of 18 years and above.

IEBC conducted a mass voter registration in the month of October and November 2021. It was reported that IEBC managed to register 1,519,294 eligible new voters out of the targeted 6 million. Elections monitors noted that there was widespread outreach for new voters to register. However, they indicated many did not see the need to register due to attitudes towards the outcome of elections and the state of governance in Kenya.

### Early campaigns

Politicians, including those serving in office continued to conduct campaigns even before the period stipulated in the Elections Act commenced. Moreover, Public officers who are prohibited from taking political sides were keen to support aspirants eyeing top political seats.

Defenders Coalition noted with concern that some Cabinet Secretaries are engaged in political campaigns and allied to the President. Members allied to the Deputy President raised concerns over the engagements of Cabinet Secretaries in politics.

(Ruto allies' concern over involvement of Cabinet Secretaries in politics - The Standard).

#### Ruto allies' concern over involvement of Cabinet Secretaries in politics

By Mwanuzi May 18, 2022



#### Ruto writes to IEBC demanding Mucheru resignation over campaigns

Tuesday May 17, 2022



By Mwanuzi May 18, 2022  
African Media Group



### **Political intolerance, smear campaigns and misinformation.**

Politicians continued to use language that is against Section 67 (1) (m) of the Elections Act criminalizes the dissemination of information with the intention of, amongst other things, creating hostility or fear in order to influence the process and outcome of the elections.

Campaigns have been marred by violence, hate speech and incitements targeting ethnic, rival political groups that are perceived to have different political opinions as well as HRDs. Key perpetrators have consistently been criminal gangs/hired goons who attack individuals perceived not to support their preferred candidates. Binary opposition political interpretation has affected the socio-political class of Kenyans. It has legitimized hiring of thugs by any of the two sides to disrupt opponent's rallies to assure political correctness.

For instance, there were reports from Tana River, where politicians engaged in ethnicized political campaigns triggering tribal clashes.

Prominent political leaders were reported uttering speeches that are associated with ethnic profiling including Meru Senator Mr. Mithika Linturi;

“Sisi tunataka kuwa kwa serikali inayokuja lakini nawaambia watu wa Uasin Gishu msicheze na Kenya na kile nawaomba ni kwamba madoadoa yale mliyonayo hapa muweze kuondoa (I am asking you to remove the spots you have here). Hatuwezi kuwa tukisimama na William Ruto kule Mt Kenya na mko na wengine hapa hawasikii na hawawezi ungana naye.”

“Madoadoa” has a pejorative connotation in the country as it evokes dark memories of the horrific incidents of the 2007-2008 post-election violence (PEV) where 1,300 Kenyans lost their lives and nearly 600,000 were internally displaced.

There also continues to exist political tension along ethnic borders including in the borders of Kericho and Nandi and Luo communities that border Kisumu county. This can be attributed to increased mobilization along ethnic lines.

Political mobilization in many parts of the country was also characterized with the use of phrases or imagery that portrayed their opponents in bad light or demeaned them. This aroused tension and intolerance amongst the supporters of the political rivals. Notably, more cases were reported from Migori, Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Vihiga, Kilifi, Marsabit, Uasin Gishu, Tana River and Busia counties.

Rampant unhealthy competition created through social media and some bloggers have led to online bullying influenced by handouts given to them by political aspirants in the 2022 general elections campaign. The bloggers have shifted their political propaganda in favour of who pays them more thus making them non patriotic to the values of peace and unity as espoused in our national anthem of Kenya.

*April 9, 2022: Security forces were deployed at a polling station in Mombasa county to break up clashes between rival supporters of ODM candidates.*

*<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-04-09-odm-primaries-in-mombasa-marred-with-chaos/>*



## ODM primaries in Mombasa marred with chaos

ODM opted to carry out nominations for MCA aspirants only in Mombasa and Kilifi Counties.

### In Summary

•ODM opted to carry out nominations for the Member of County Assembly (MCA) aspirants only in Mombasa and Kilifi Counties.

•The party's National Election Board (NEB) said some tickets for Governor, Senate, and MPs positions will be given out through a consensus.



April 13, 2022: A group of youths burned ballot papers in Embu county after UDA's election materials transporting vehicles were attacked.

<https://www.citizen.digital/news/uda-nomination-ballot-boxes-burnt-in-embu-n296486>

## UDA Nomination Ballot Boxes Burnt In Embu, Murkomen Dispatched To Help

By Anthony Ndiaga

Published on: April 13, 2022 08:56 (EAT)



June 13, 2022: Kenya Kwanza Deputy president aspirant Rigathi Gachagua was airlifted out of Mutuati, Igembe, Meru county alongside Gubernatorial aspirant Mithika Linturi and South Imenti member of parliament Kathuri Murungi, after a group of youths rival camps hurled stones at the leaders who were campaigning in the area. Mr. Rigathi later called on leaders to stop using idle youths to cause chaos and should instead be working on providing them employment.

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-07-13-gachagua-whisked-to-safety-after-rival-groups-fight-in-meru/>

## UDA MP aspirant injured as youths clash over Embakasi Jacaranda venue

Sunday, June 19, 2022



Police engaging youth in running battle at Jacaranda grounds where Deputy President William Ruto is scheduled to hold a political rally. Evans habili / Nation Media Group



By Justus Ochieng'

Police have lobbed teargas to disperse rowdy youth who started pelting UDA supporters with stones at the Jacaranda grounds, injuring Embakasi East UDA parliamentary candidate Francis Mureithi.

June 25, 2022: Rival factions of the Azimio la Umoja clashed during a rally in Mandera stadium, Marsabit county in the presence of the Azimio la Umoja presidential candidate. Some people were injured.

June 30, 2022: Azimio la Umoja presidential running mate was whisked away from the podium after teargas exploded in the rally.

July 18, 2022: Supporters of Azimio la Umoja and Kenya Kwanza alliance clashed in Umoja One, Embakasi West constituency in Nairobi county. It was alleged that the Kenya Kwanza supporters hindered the Azimio supporters from campaigning in the area. The MP aspirant and a few other people were hurt and properties destroyed that evening. Police intervened and curbed the violence.

### A. Violence and Insecurity

Kenya continues to be threatened by high conflict vulnerability that escalates every election year with the major causes including the politicization of negative ethnicity, poverty, unemployment, historical injustices, marginalization and weak state institutions.

Kenya has 42 tribes and none holds a majority. There has been an increase in population and search for greener pastures that has prompted rural-urban migration as well as migrating outside the traditional home areas, which sometimes resulted in fierce resentment from other ethnic groups and as a result of historical injustices. This is more pronounced in the coastal and Rift Valley areas.

Competition for water and pasture has always been a frontier for conflicts, especially in the north and northeast. Frequent conflict, including banditry, fights over land, and cattle rustling, among the Somali, Turkana, Gabbra, Borana, Samburu, Rendille, and Pokot ethnic groups in arid northern, eastern, and Rift Valley areas continued to escalate during the period. The conflicts resulted in deaths of warring tribes through fresh attacks or revenge missions.

Terrorism continues to be a thorn in the flesh within the North and North Eastern region due to porousness of the border between two politically unstable nations: Somalia and Ethiopia. Notably, two police officers were shot dead and ten injured after they were attacked by militants in Mandera on December 4th, 2021. (Two cops killed, 10 injured after al Shabaab ambush in Mandera)

On 31st January 2022, a bus was ambushed by unknown attackers and killed seven occupants and injured 13 others.

Harmful cultural practices, hunger, drought and scramble for scarce water and pasture continue to be the recipe for escalating insecurity.

Reports indicate that cattle rustling and clan-based clashes are the leading causes of tension among communities in the Rift Valley region. Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit and West Pokot lead in instances of cattle rustling. Approximately 1300 heads of cattle were stolen by bandits in 2021. Rivaling communities continued to conduct revenge missions to reclaim their lost cattle.

Nine people were killed and four injured in a bandit attack in Isiolo county on 9th April 2022. Reports indicate that the bandits are suspected to have come from the neighboring county; they struck the area three times, killing six camel herders and three people in their homesteads. Eight died on the spot while another died while receiving treatment at Isiolo County Referral Hospital.

On 30th May 2022, three children and a herder were killed in an attack by bandits in Tot area, Marakwet sub-county, Elgeyo Marakwet county that left six others injured.

On June 1st 2022, two people including a bandit were killed and a police officer was seriously injured in a fierce shootout between assailants and security officers in Kosile, Baringo North sub-county, Baringo county. Tension was high in the area with locals fleeing border villages fearing more attacks from the armed bandits. The deaths bring a total of 36 people killed by criminals in Baringo county in 2022.

On June 10th 2022, three herdsmen were killed and seven others seriously injured in a dawn banditry attack at Chinchoftu in Cherab ward, Isiolo county.

# Death toll in Isiolo bandit attack rises to four

Tuesday, June 14, 2022



Burial of Isack Guyo Golicha, a victim of last Friday bandit attack in Isiolo who succumbed while receiving treatment at Tuluroba cemetery on June 13, 2022 Waweru Wairimu | Nation Media Group



By Waweru Wairimu  
Nation Media Group

Another person who was injured during a raid in Bulle, Isiolo County on Friday has died, bringing to four the number of people killed in the attack.

A police officer was in critical condition as he was attacked by an assailant on June 19th, 2022, in Nairobi central business district while on patrol. The police officer who was in the company of other colleagues was injured as he tried to save his colleague who was also attacked and injured. The suspect was arrested and arraigned in court and accused of assaulting a police officer contrary to section 103 (a) of the National Police Service Act of 2011. (Report from monitor)

Reports indicate there is increased crime rate in Lucky Summer, Nairobi county as it is a hotspot for criminal gangs who have been terrorizing the residents to the extent of bringing dead bodies to the estates. (Report from monitor)

Body of aspiring Kasarani MCA was found in Kijabe forest, Kiambu county. The aspiring MCA had been reported missing days before his body was found. Investigations are ongoing. (Report from monitor)

A twitter influencer, and his three friends were found murdered, and their mutilated bodies dumped in Kijabe forest, Kiambu county. Police are carrying out investigations on this case. (Report from monitor)

On June 20th, 2022: A man and his wife were arrested in Kerio Valley in possession of 76 rounds of ammunition and empty magazines for AK 47 and G-3 rifles among other items. They are suspected to be linked to banditry in Kerio Valley, Turkana county. (<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-06-20-man-wife-arrested-as-police-profile-350-suspects-over-kerio-valley-banditry/>)

On June 6th, 2022: More than 200 guns and 3,000 bullets among other crude

weapons were recovered from residents in Marsabit county by multi-agency teams. The operation was initiated in May following perennial attacks and an attack that led to the death of a chief, assistant chief and five others in a brazen bandit attack in April. (Report from monitor)

Clan-based clashes were rampant in Marsabit County. In one instance, it was reported that two people were burnt alive due to clan-based clashes. (Clan wars blamed as another Marsabit trader is abducted | Nation)

Two Kenya Defense Forces officers were shot dead after a fierce exchange with duty bandits in the area during a security operation in Laikipia County.

## **B. Forceful evictions and displacement**

Local authorities continue to forcefully evict persons from their homes to pave way for construction without following provisions of the Evictions and Resettlement Act, 2012.

Notably, residents of Mlango Kubwa area in Mathare were rendered homeless after a fire was started, allegedly, by private developers to forcefully evict them in October. Two people were, an adult and a minor were burnt to death in the incident.

Approximately 30,000 residents of Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slums in Nairobi were forcefully evicted from their homes to pave way for the construction of feeder roads for the Nairobi Expressway. The evictions took place for over a month with the victims left with no access to basic needs.

A number of persons, including women and school-going population, was displaced from their homes due to increased conflicts related to cattle rustling and security operations to tame the runaway insecurity in West Pokot, Laikipia, Baringo and Marsabit Counties in the months of September to December.

## **C. Attacks on the media and Journalists**

Media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information are fundamentally provided for freedoms in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya under articles 33,34 and 35. Moreover, Media Council Act 2013 and KICA -1998 provides for the code of conduct and protection of rights and freedoms of the individuals who work round the clock to ensure access to information is realized by all.

Media institutions and journalists whose role is critical in inspiring democracy and accountability continue to face risks from the state and non-state actors. Their safety remains as precarious as ever, impunity for crimes against them as high and persistent as before. During the period, journalists continued to face threats, harassment and physical attacks for simply doing their job.

During the period, the following forms of violations touching on the safety of journalists:

A journalist from a local media house was attacked by goons on November 7, at Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega County where he was covering a match between Kakamega Homeboyz and Bandari FC.

In July, journalists from Citizen tv, Standard media group, Nation Media Group, The Star Newspaper, Equatorial TV in the company of other media crews were assaulted and robbed of their equipment by youth while covering a political rally in Mathare. The individuals who were assaulting a group of rowdy youth who were demanding cash from them.

A Citizen TV media truck was attacked on 16 January 2022 by rowdy youths who were pelting stones at the media truck and its occupants, who at the time were covering the Deputy President rally in Jacaranda Grounds in Pipeline, Nairobi. It was reported that the rally was momentarily halted after a rival group opposed to the gathering raided the venue and started pelting attendees with stones.

In September 2021, Politicians allied to and supporters of Deputy President launched an onslaught on Royal Media Services LTD's Citizen TV over what they claimed was malice and bias reporting against the Deputy President. Supporters of the Deputy president tweeted as below:

"I advise the Hustler Nation to desist from watching Citizen TV Kenya. They are taking us back to the dark days of KANU party and KADU where biased news was a norm," Tweeted MP Kapseret Constituency.

"As Hustlers, we can update ourselves using alternative sources like social media. Hata mlika mwizi iko na kazi yake! (Even the rudimentary phones have their work!)" he added.

"I congratulate Citizen TV Kenya for openly being anti-DP Ruto and fiercely being pro-Raila. Freedom of choice. No problem. Let us wait and see what happens when the people decide 11 months from now!" Political analyst was quoted saying.

In January 2022, a Citizen TV journalist claimed that his life was in danger after receiving threats to his over a story he covered and linked the murder of a member of the public to security personnel of a powerful governor from the South Rift.

## **D. Reemergence of criminal gangs**

Existing socio-economic challenges, including poverty, criminality and youth unemployment, have been further exacerbated by vulnerabilities created by the current COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, while political tensions are peaking due to 2022 elections, more and more Kenyans, especially the youth are lured into criminal gangs/groups due to socio-economic shocks.

Informal settlements of Bondeni, Kivumbini, Flamingo, Kisulisuli estates in Nakuru Town East sub-county; Nakuru county, harbors criminal gangs who have been terrorizing the county. The known criminal gangs are Mauki, Wa Tz, Mungiki, Gaza and Five Fingers which comprises youths who are hired by politicians who take advantage of their socio-economic status to disrupt rival political gatherings, cause tensions and violence. Confirm and Wa TZ gangs are notorious

in muggings and stabbing, leaving their victims struggling for their lives. Most of the violations committed by these gangs have been reported to Bondeni police station, Flamingo police post, Naka police post and Kaptembwo police station. Many of the cases reported are never followed up as most of the perpetrators are never positively identified, and for some of those cases that they are identified, the victims back down for fear of backlash from the gangs as some are youths from the neighborhood.

Organized gangs in Coast province, usually made up of young men, are prevalent in Kisauni and Kilifi. The gangs are usually mobilized by politicians accused of causing violence, deaths and brutalizing ordinary civilians. Gangs also distribute drugs, carry out illegal taxation on citizens, forcefully control economic activities and act as neighborhood security enforcers. In Mombasa County, some of the prevalent gangs include Geta, Wakali Wao, Congo by Force, Bad Squad, 88 Battalion, Young Turks, Wajukuu wa Bibi, Akili za Usiku, Buffalo, Born to Kill, Gater Family, Kapenguria Six, and Waiyo.

In counties of Nyeri, Kirinyaga, and Murang'a: the prevalent gangs include Mungiki, Gwata Ndai, and Kenda Kenda. These gangs engage in extortion, violence, kidnappings and killings. Some boda boda riders in these three counties have also organized themselves into groups ready for political hire. They have routinely been used to cause violence and mayhem in rival political rallies.

In Nairobi and Kiambu: these gangs create alliances with corrupt politicians and are variously deployed by the political class, including for information and security services, extortion, illegal protection of acquired land, and intimidation of opponents, rivals and even government agencies such as the police. These include Yes, We Can and Kenya Youth Alliance in the central business district; in Kawangware and Riruta areas, gangs such as Taliban, Kamukunji Pressure Group, Alsafa, Nubians, Kibera Battalion, J-10 and Siafu operate. The Superpower gang operates in Eastleigh and Kamukunji, while Gaza, Usiku Sacco, Siafu and Kamjesh operate within Kayole. In Kiambu, Mungiki and Gwata Ndai dominate.

In September 2021, Nakuru town experienced an increase in gang violence in Bondeni, Langa Langa and Kivumbini estates. The gang were moving from estate to estate on revenge missions after some of their associates were reported by community policing members and had been arrested. The gang were stealing and attacking residents.

In November 2021, reports from our monitors indicated the reemergence of criminal gangs in estates and matatu stages. Mauki, Confirm, Gaza, and Wa TZ were attacking and stealing from people. Brian Omulo was mugged, stabbed and left bleeding near Kivu resort. The matter was reported to Bondeni Police Station and the victim referred to Provincial General Hospital for medical attention.

In January 2022, Confirm gang created tension and fear in Nakuru estates as they kidnapped, stole and physically attacked residents in Nakuru town. Reports from our monitors indicate that many cases were never followed up as most perpetrators could not be positively identified and those that could be identified were not able to be reported by the victims out of fear of backlash. Some of the cases were reported to Bondeni Police station.



# Revealed: The origin of the dreaded 'Confirm gang'

Tuesday, July 05, 2022



Mobile phones recovered by the police during a crackdown on outlawed criminal gangs 'confirm' on June 28

Joseph Openda | Nation Media Group



By Mary Wambui  
Nation Media Group

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/revealed-the-origin-of-the-dreaded-confirm-gang--3869176>

In Nakuru county, Confirm gang has been notorious in attacks, killings and stealing from the residents. In a span of two weeks, the gang had murdered 5 women in Mawanga, Bahati sub-county and injured many residents leaving the residents in tension and fear of their lives. On 25th June 2022, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior ordered a sting operation to flush out the notorious gang which led to 128 suspects of the Confirm gang being arrested. During the crackdown, the police recovered 406 phones, 40 laptops, 100kg of bhang among other crude weapons.

On June 12th, 2022; a woman in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado county was raided by armed members purported to be from the Kawangware gang. They destroyed property and stole money from her at gunpoint. Two suspects have been arrested as investigations are ongoing. (Report from monitor)

On June 26th, 2022; a 47-year-old man was beaten by a blunt object and left to bleed to death by unknown gang in Kaminji village, Kirinyaga county. The deceased was a caretaker manning unfinished building when assailants struck and killed him. Police are still conducting investigations (<https://www.tuko.co.ke/people/460007-kirinyaga-caretaker-unfinished-building-found-murdered-police->



say-he-was-hit-blunt-object/). Few days ago, in Murunduko village in Kirinyaga county, a rider was accused of killing a friend and dumping his body in a septic tank. (<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-06-17-shock-as-man-kills-lover-friend-in-kirinyaga/>)

On July 15th 2022, the police killed four suspected members of Nyuki squad in Barut area, Nakuru Town West in Nakuru county. The suspects were linked to a spate of robberies and violence in the county. The suspects are also alleged to have attacked police officers at Kwa Maiko village with armed arrows and machetes.

This combination, if not properly mediated, could precipitate political violence and/or a disenfranchised public that is apathetic towards politics. There is a need for youth participation and inclusion in the electoral process to sensitize them on their democratic rights and civic duty.

## **E. Public Order Management**

Defenders Coalition is concerned by the use of excessive force by the duty bearers/police in response to protests despite the constitutional guarantee of the right to peaceful assembly enshrined in the 2010 constitution of Kenya.

The police have continued to use brutal force to disperse peaceful protests using lethal crowd control weapons such as teargas, live ammunition, batons to brutally assault protesters and subjecting protesters to arbitrary and illegal detentions as well as death.

Defenders Coalition strongly condemned the Sunday, 12th June 2022, killing of Whitney Akinyi by the police in Lakeview estate, Nakuru East sub county, Nakuru county and demanded swift investigations by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) with the aim of holding to account misuse of firearm by the police. <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-06-14-ipoa-commences-probe-into-shooting-of-form-4-girl-in-nakuru/>

The incident took place less than two weeks ago when General Service Unit (GSU) officers on 2nd June 2022 fired live bullets killing four people and leaving seven suffering bullet wounds. The victims were protesting the invasion of wildlife animals (elephants) that killed a teacher in Masimba, Kajiado county.

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001447280/ipoa-begins-probe-on-masimba-killings-as-residents-demand-justice>

## IPOA begins probe on Masimba killings as residents demand justice

By Stephen Njocka and Peterson Githiga | Jun 6th 2022



Kajiado leaders led by Governor Joseph Ole Lenku console victims at the Makindu Sub-county hospital who were injured during a demonstration to protest increased cases of human-wildlife conflict in the area.  
[Peterson Githiga, Standard]

Independent, Policing and Oversight Authority (IPOA) has started investigations into the killings of four people during a protest in Kajiado county.

Four people were shot dead in Masimba last Thursday when residents barricaded the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway, to protest an increase in human-wildlife conflict in the area.

Police said the protests turned ugly when demonstrators hurled stones at a GSU lorry during the incident

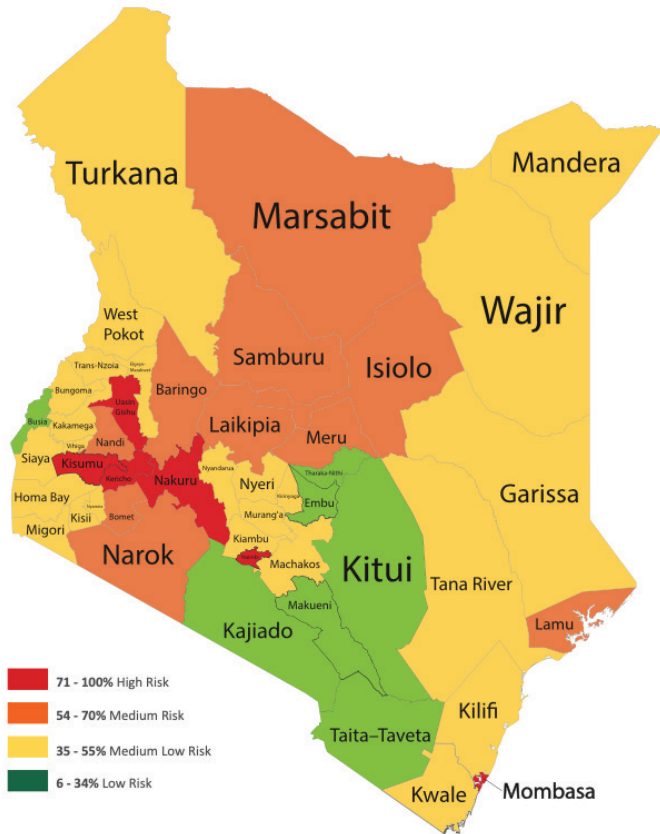
As we approach the general elections, the Defenders Coalition reminds the national police service to prioritize de-escalating crises and deploy public order management responses to preserve the rule of law and human rights. The culture of brutal repression remains a critical concern and informs on the government response to any anticipated election-related protests.

### Hotspot Mapping

National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) released a report on Conflict Hotspot Mapping where the findings of the report were shared with stakeholders across the peace sector for purposes of synergies and affirming their role in contributing to peaceful election through conducting various coordinated interventions. Out of the six high risk hotspots mapped by NCIC, Defenders Coalition has deployed in Nairobi, Uasin Gishu, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Kericho counties.

[https://cohesion.or.ke/images/docs/downloads/hotspot\\_mapping\\_ncic.pdf](https://cohesion.or.ke/images/docs/downloads/hotspot_mapping_ncic.pdf)

According to the NCIC, six counties were categorized as High-Risk including Nairobi, Nakuru, Kericho, Kisumu, Uasin Gishu and Mombasa.



Things to watch out for in pre, during and post 2022 general election are:-

- Organized gangs/criminal gangs.
- Hate speech/Incitement
- Misinformation, fake news, disinformation.
- Ongoing conflicts/insecurity exacerbated by 2022 politics.
- Informal settlements at risk due to elections e.g. Mathare, Kibera, Korogocho, Kariobangi North.
- Counties perceived as hotspots.
- Criminalization of political outfits which limits political freedom of choice i.e., independent candidates face intimidation, physical attacks, harassment and threats during campaigns.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the Defenders Coalition notes that the majority of Kenyans are warming up to the general elections in 2022 to exercise their democratic rights of electing their next leader. State agencies and institutions including the IEBC; National Police Service and Judiciary have expressed their preparedness objectively working together to deliver a peaceful and credible election on 9 August 2022. However, the Defenders Coalition is concerned that numerous violations are on a rising trajectory with the enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, police brutality, insecurity, incitement against political opponents and sexual and gender based violence being the most prevalent.

The Defenders coalition therefore recommends the following:

IEBC to continue creating awareness, on the democratic right to vote by all adults who have attained the age of 18 and above. This will ensure that all voters are

registered and that they are aware of the duty to elect their leaders in the 9 August general elections;

1. That IEBC should ensure an elaborate process of acquiring accreditation badges for election monitors during the elections period in 2022 as it was challenging acquiring them for the monitors.
2. Based on the code of conduct for the practice of journalism in Kenya and ethics as per Media Act (2103) ensure fair coverage for the presidential candidates especially the national broadcaster. Privately owned media stations should also ensure integrity, ethics and professionalism in their coverage.
3. That the media should not allow politicians to use their platforms to spread fear, ethnic hatred, and despondency during presidential campaigns or an electoral period.
4. All civilians, to respect the right to own property, political freedom of choice and freedom of movement anywhere in Kenya and avoid destruction of public and private property.
5. To desist from actions that injure the safety of journalists including attacking journalists as this is a serious violation of freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information as provided for in the Constitution.
6. Civil Society Organizations to enhance their capacities in preventive management of elections-related scenarios

7. Development partners should set aside support towards civil society organizations involved in Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism (CEWARN) mapping and coordination throughout the elections period.
8. The National Police Service should give clear instructions to the security forces that HRDs and journalists have a right to monitor and report on demonstrations and should not be obstructed in any way.
9. Engaging women in policing protests and at decision and commanding level can help tackle sexual violence in protests.
10. Security agencies ensure that the cases reported promptly and thoroughly investigated and those found culpable are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
11. The county government and county security teams must coordinate effectively in developing and supporting county-specific measures that address localized conflicts and violence at the county level.
12. There is a need to guarantee a prompt and impartial investigation of violations committed against women and WHRDs and the prosecution of those responsible. Investigations should use a women's rights framework and consider the context in which WHRDs work and the patterns of attacks that often target them.
13. The gender desks in police stations should be equipped with staff who will be able to respond to gender-based cases/violations in a timely manner.
14. Coordination of all election observers and monitors to enable safety in the conduct of their exercise and timely information sharing for efficient and effective response by relevant actors.
15. Put in place early warning systems to ensure the safety and security of election monitors and observers as they carry out their exercise.
16. Rapid response mechanism set out for monitors, observers and other victims of human rights violations







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