

DEFENDERS
COALITION

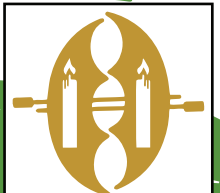
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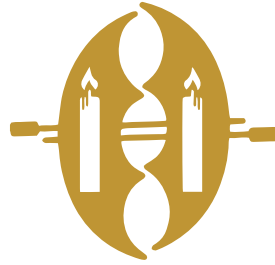
ENJOY THE STORIES

HAKI NEWS!

PERSECUTION WILL
NOT SILENCE US!



DEFENDERS
COALITION



**DEFENDERS
COALITION**

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ABOUT THE COMIC BOOK

IN THIS COMIC BOOK, WE ARE GOING TO LEARN ABOUT 14 BRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN KENYA, WHO TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO DEMAND JUSTICE, FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES, IN THE FACE OF RESTRICTIONS, ARRESTS, ILLEGAL DETENTION, HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION FROM POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE VARIOUS INTERVENTIONS THAT THE DEFENDERS COALITION OFFERED WHEN THEY WERE IN DISTRESS AS A RESULT OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK.



DEFENDERS COALITION IS THE NATIONAL COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN KENYA, A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS PRIMARILY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDS) IN KENYA. FORMED IN 2007, DEFENDERS COALITION STRENGTHENS CAPACITIES OF HRDS TO WORK SAFELY AND MORE EFFECTIVELY, BESIDES ADVOCATING FOR FAVOURABLE, LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THEIR RISKS TO PERSECUTIONS AND/OR HARM. DEFENDERS COALITION TAKES A HOLISTIC APPROACH IN ITS WORK GEARED TOWARDS A SAFE AND SECURE WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR HRDS THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM, CAPACITY BUILDING, MOVEMENT BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES.

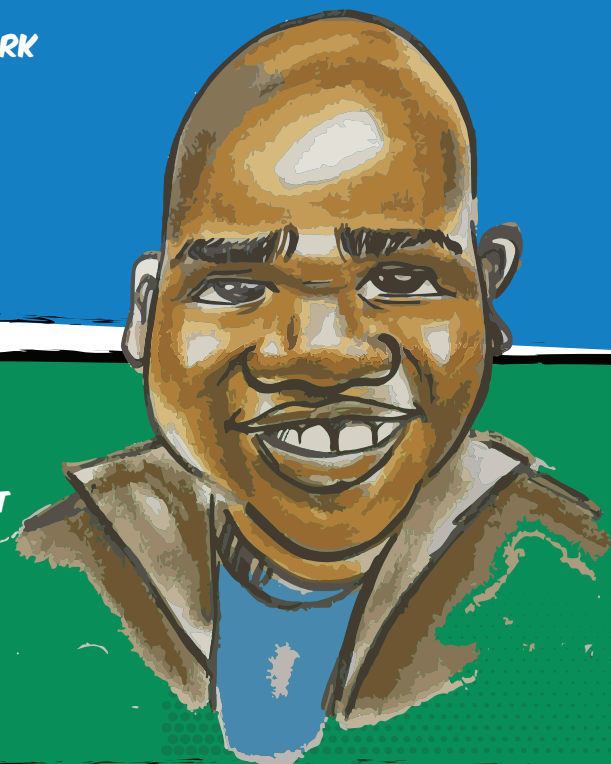
DEFENDERS COALITION, HAS OVER THE YEARS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A DEPENDABLE, PROFESSIONALLY RUN INSTITUTION MANAGED BY COMMITTED, PASSIONATE AND COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS, COMPRISING STAFF, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, A TEAM OF VOLUNTEER GEOGRAPHIC AND THEMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS. ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE KENYAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, HRD NETWORKS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL HRDS. THE COALITION IS ON ITS PART, A MEMBER OF VARIOUS NETWORKS REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY.

DEFENDERS COALITION DEVELOPED ITS CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2020 TO RUN UPTO 2025 WHICH OUTLINES THE VISION, AMBITION AND STRATEGIES OF REALIZING THE SAME. THE PLAN, WHICH IS ALSO ALIGNED TO GLOBAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGIES LIKE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS), NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG OTHERS, SEEKS TO EFFECTIVELY REPOSITION THE DEFENDERS COALITION IN THE RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. THE STRATEGY WHICH RESULTED FROM DEEP ANALYSIS OF THE PREVAILING OPERATIONAL, LESSONS LEARNT FROM ITS WORK AND THE ORGANIZATION'S TRACK RECORD AND PARTNERS FEEDBACK, THE DEFENDERS COALITION SEEKS TO FOCUS ON ENHANCING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND WELLBEING OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BY PRIORITIZING THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC AREAS:

- 1. SUPPORTIVE LAWS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**
- 2. HRDS PROTECTION AND SAFETY**
- 3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF HRDS**
- 4. INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE**

THROUGH THIS COMIC BOOK, WE AMPLIFY THE IMPACT OF OUR PROTECTION SERVICES TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS WHO ARE AT RISK DUE TO THEIR WORK. I INVITE YOU TO INTERACT WITH THIS PUBLICATION AND KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR WORK.

**KAMAU NGUGI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DEFENDERS COALITION**



1.

THE STORY OF KIMANI MAINA

FIRST, WE'LL MEET KIMANI A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
WHO ALSO ENGAGES IN LIBERATION THEOLOGY..."

IN OUR DEFENSE ACTIVITIES,
I HAVE INTERACTED WITH
DEFENDERS COALITION A
FEW TIMES, I HAVE ALSO
READ EXTENSIVELY ABOUT
THEM AND THE GOOD WORK
THEY CONTINUE TO DO AS
THEY SUPPORT HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDERS



"I WAS ONCE ARRESTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATIONS
AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING ON AUGUST 8, 2023..."

BEFORE THE DEMONSTRATION,
WE FOLLOWED THE NORMAL PROCEDURE..."



Constitution of Kenya
ARTICLE 37
Assembly,
demonstration,
picketing and
petition

Every person has the right,
peaceably and unarmed, to
assemble, to demonstrate, to
picket, and to present petitions
to public authorities.

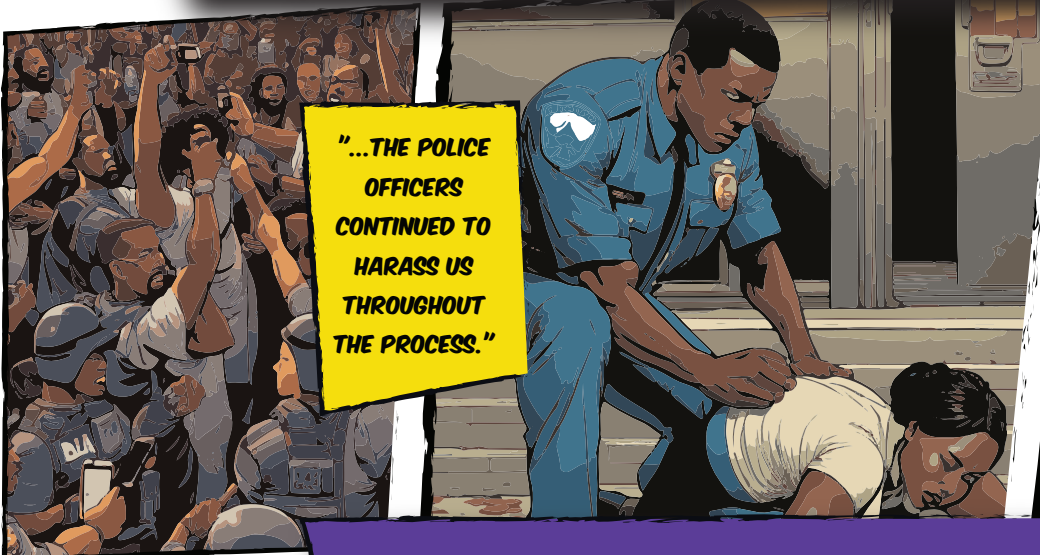
1.

ON THE DAY OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS..."



THE POLICE WERE ALREADY ON-SITE IN FULL RIOT GEAR...

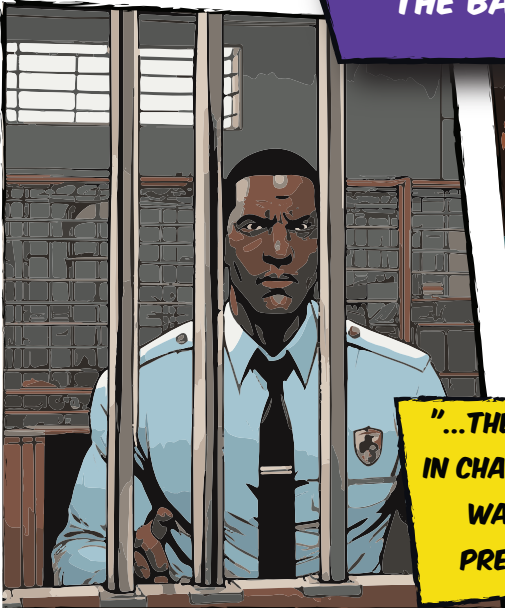
"WE WERE ALL ARRESTED BEFORE WE COULD EVEN START THE DEMONSTRATION AND TAKEN TO CENTRAL POLICE"



"...THE POLICE OFFICERS CONTINUED TO HARASS US THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS."



"THE BAIL PROCESS WAS NOT AS EASY..."



"...THE OFFICER IN CHARGE (OCS) WAS NOT PRESENT."



"DEFENDERS COALITION'S LAWYERS WERE ABLE TO SECURE OUR BAIL..."



**"WE WERE RELEASED AT AROUND 8 PM,
THIS DELAY SEEMED LIKE AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT US
FROM RETURNING TO THE DEMONSTRATION.."**

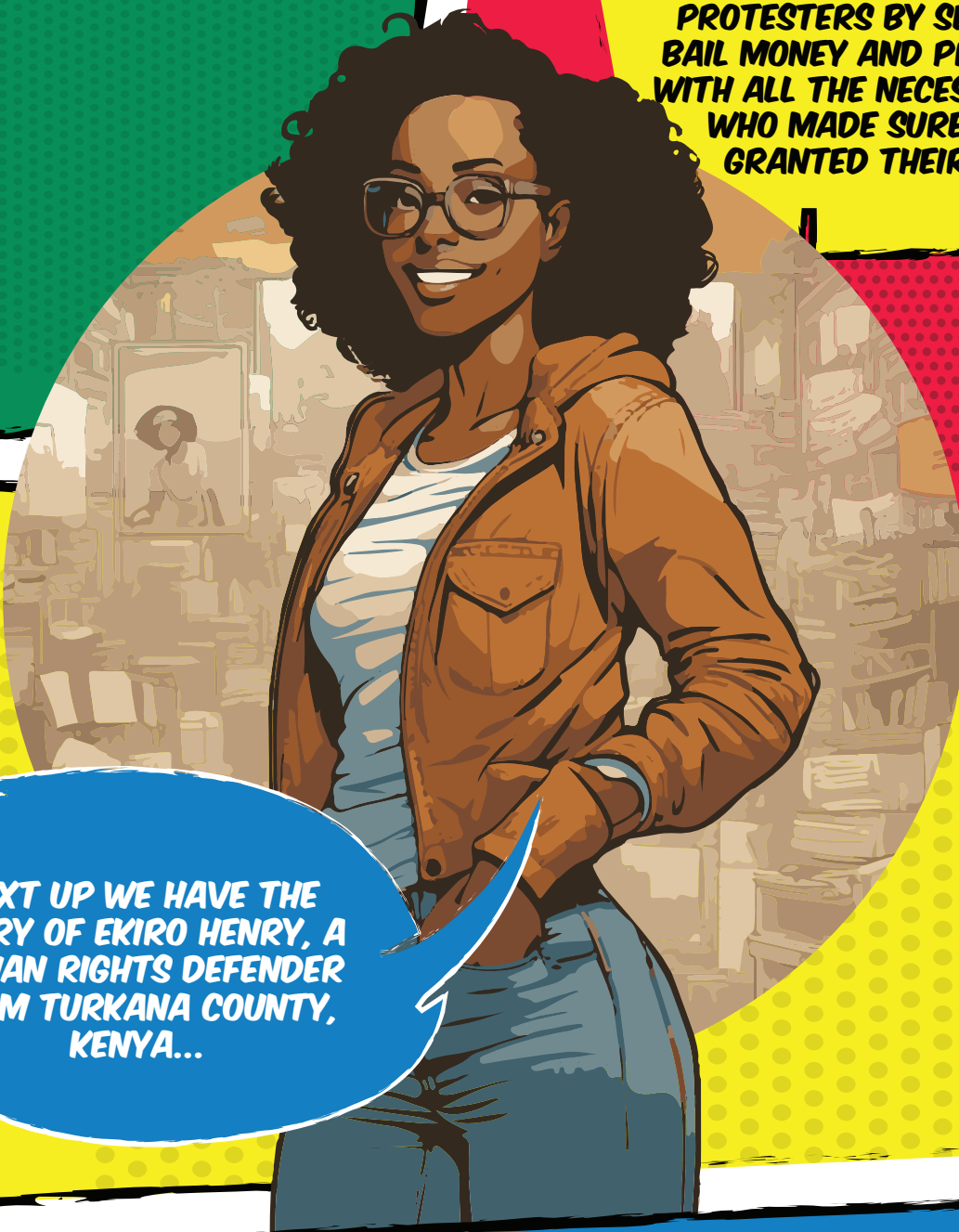


**WE RUSHED THE
INJURED TO THE
HOSPITAL**

**"I DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL PAST
10 PM THAT DAY..."**



**"...WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL
TO DEFENDERS COALITION
FOR THEIR SUPPORT**



WE'VE SEEN HOW THE DEFENDER'S COALITION CAME THROUGH FOR KIMANI AND HIS FELLOW PROTESTERS BY SECURING THEIR BAIL MONEY AND PROVIDING THEM WITH ALL THE NECESSARY LAWYERS WHO MADE SURE THEY WERE GRANTED THEIR FREEDOM.

NEXT UP WE HAVE THE STORY OF EKIRO HENRY, A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FROM TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA...

HE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER. HE BEGAN THIS JOURNEY IN 2021 WHEN HE WAS EMPLOYED AT THE DRAGON STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND COOPERATION LIMITED FROM FEBRUARY TO APRIL. DURING HIS TIME THERE, HE WITNESSED NUMEROUS ISSUES WITHIN THE COMPANY. THE COMPANY, MANAGED BY THE CHINESE, HE SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF KENYAN LABOR LAWS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DECIDED TO BECOME A WHISTLEBLOWER TO PROTECT THE NEGLECTED HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE EMPLOYEES. HIS PASSION FOR ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN WITH HIM SINCE HE WAS 12.