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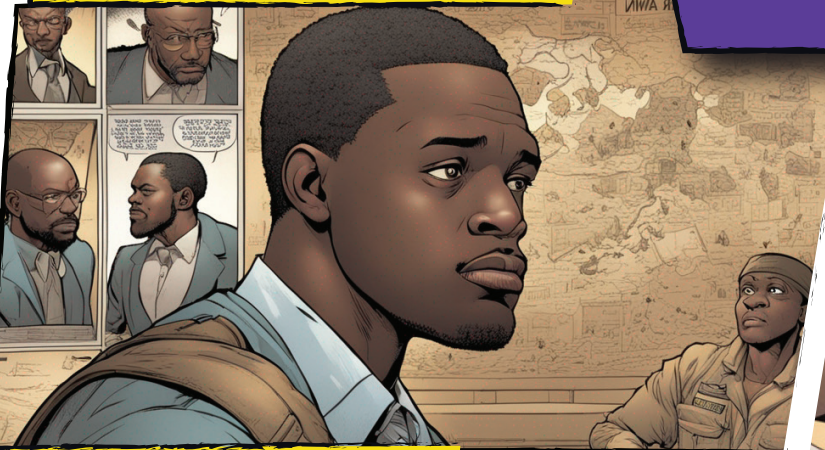
THE STORY OF KINYUA NDUNGU

LAIKIPIA COUNTY - A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S JOURNEY.



FIVE YEARS AGO...

...MY JOURNEY BEGAN...I DECIDED TO GET BASIC TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM.



ONE DAY DURING A CLIMATE JUSTICE TRAINING...



...WE STUMBLED UPON A DISTURBING SCENE WHERE TWO MEN WERE FIGHTING ONE MAN CLAIMING HE WAS A THEIF

ONE OF THEM HAD A GUN.. THEY CLAIMED TO BE POLICEMEN



I DECIDED TO RECORD THE INCIDENT ON MY PHONE



THE SITUATION ESCALATED AND THEY TURNED ON ME



MBONA UNA RECORD WEWE??

...LEADING TO MY ARREST...



THEY TRIED TO GET ME TO DELETE THE VIDEO

...BUT LUCKILY I HAD ALREADY SHARED IT WITH A FRIEND AND HAD ALREADY STARTED CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA



A FRIEND TRIED TO VISIT ME HE GOT ARRESTED TOO.

DEFENDER'S COALITION GOT WIND OF OUR STRUGGLE AND SENT US ONE OF THEIR BEST LAWYERS



FALSE CLAIMS BY THE POLICE WERE EXPOSED LEADING TO THE CHARGES BEING DROPPED



I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF A FEW MOVEMENTS AND SOME POLITICAL GROUPS. POLITICALLY, I AM A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THROUGH THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP, WE CONNECTED WITH DEFENDERS COALITION, AND THAT'S HOW THEY BAILED US OUT AND PROVIDED US WITH A LAWYER. OUR LAWYER ESTABLISHED SOME FACTS ABOUT THEM, AND THE POLICE WERE UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY OF THEIR CLAIMS, SO THEY HAD TO DROP THE CHARGES.



I ALSO FOCUS A LOT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. THERE'S A SIGNIFICANT POLLUTION ISSUE IN MY COMMUNITY. THE SEWER SYSTEM IS INADEQUATE, AND ALL THE DIRTY SEWER WATER GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE RIVER. THIS IS NEITHER SAFE NOR AESTHETICALLY PLEASING. WE REPORTED AND RAISED THESE ISSUES WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, BUT NOTHING WAS DONE.



IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RIGHTS OF COMMON PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO SHOULD RESPOND TO THEIR CONCERNS IS OFTEN FILLED BY POLICE OFFICERS. POLICE OFFICERS SOMETIMES FORGET THAT THE RIGHTS OF COMMONERS ARE ALSO THEIR RIGHTS. FREQUENTLY, THE POLICE FEEL SUPERIOR, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO ACCESS THOSE ABOVE THEM.

TRULY A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE, KINYUA SHOWED US WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN WE COME TOGETHER AND USE THE RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.



DAVID RAS IS A 25 YEAR OLD HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FROM DANDORA LETS READ WHAT HE HAS IN STORE FOR US.

DAVID RAS IS FROM DANDORA, 25 YEARS OLD. HE IS A CREATIVE DIRECTOR AT SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAVELLING THEATRE AND A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS. HE HAS BEEN A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE MOVEMENT FOR 6 YEARS NOW. HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH DEFEDERS COALITION WAS WHEN WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER IN KUDU HILLS NATURE PARK WHERE THEY HAD NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS