



13TH AUGUST, 2017

NEWS EDITORS

**RE: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE AND
INVESTIGATION OF POLICE ABUSES**

Through our monitoring of public order management by the national Police Service in 19 counties identified as potential hotspots since 1st June 2017, we have observed and commended the NPS for displaying a very proactive approach in preparing its officers and other auxiliary forces to provide safety and security during the elections. Up until Friday night we observed adequate police deployment across the country as well as overall professional conduct by police officers during party nominations, campaign period, and voting day until the announcement of the presidential election results.

Equally we commend the public for adhering to the rule of law during the entire electioneering period in exercising their right to peacefully assemble, associate and express themselves. We also commend Jubilee and NASA supporters who went out into the streets last night to either celebrate or reject the IEBC's announcement of Uhuru Kenyatta as the winner of the Presidential vote.

We however express our grave concern with the ongoing post-election violence in parts of Nairobi, Migori, Homabay, Kisumu and Siaya counties, since the announcement of the Presidential election results on Friday night.

While we unequivocally defend the right of citizens to express their freedom of assembly, association and expression, we remind them that these freedoms must be exercised non-violently, in line with the rule of law and with respect to other citizens' rights.

We are afraid to note that incidents like the reported burning down of a petrol station in Bondo, Beyond Zero clinic in Kibera, looting of property in Dandora and reported grievous harm of police officers in Mathare and Kawangware are criminal acts, and all those responsible must be held to account.

Though recognizing the mandate of the police to respond to the violent protests Friday night and yesterday morning, we condemn acts of lawlessness and excessive use of force witnessed in Mathare, Kibera, Dandora, Bondo and Ahero.

As the government and the National Police Service continue to deal with the situation, we remind the Inspector General of his duty to ensure that police continue to operate within the confines of the law and appropriate and immediate action taken on any officer deviating from this standard.

We also urge the Internal Affairs Unit and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority to commence immediate investigations with the regard to reports of:

1. Use of lethal force and resultant deaths of 17 persons and over 20 persons with serious gunshot injuries in Nairobi, Migori and Siaya counties;
2. GSU and APS officers breaking into Annex Club in Bombolulu Kibera and theft of soft drinks last night.
3. Police officers raiding homes, assaulting and injuring residents in Ahero town and its environs, among them a 20-year old form 4 student from Kamwanda Village, Kakola Ahero Sub location.
4. Police raids into houses in Shauri Yako, Sofia, Mbuni and Makongeni Estates of Homa Bay county and beating up people indiscriminately.
5. Police raids into houses in Mathara area 4A Utalii area and indiscriminately beating up residents.

Peter Kiama



Executive Director