

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia,
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Dear Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia,

**RE: URGENT ACTION REQUIRED TO STOP DANGEROUS HATE CAMPAIGN
AND PREVENT IMPENDING VIOLENCE**

The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) brings to your attention an ongoing hate campaign culminating in anti-LGBTQ+ protests on September 15, 2023, in Mombasa. The demonstrations are poised to trigger a disturbing surge of hatred, prejudice, and instigation within Kenya, endangering the lives and safety of people with diverse gender and sexual orientations.

An amorphous group based in Mombasa dubbed the “Anti-LGBTQ Movement” leads the onslaught with horrifying messaging that incites violence against LGBTQI+ persons.

Evidence shows the movement is calling for the “kicking out” of LGBTQI+ persons and raising funds to accomplish their mission. We believe “kicking out” is a code phrase implying harm, or worst-case scenario, even the murder of their targets.

Furthermore, the movement has hinted at allying with the extremist group Al-Shabaab, threatening to plunge our nation into a state of violence and turmoil that we must avoid.

At present, the freedom of association and the right to life are at risk; human dignity, equality, freedom from discrimination on trial; and protection against incitement to violence and hate speech under assault. These fundamental rights are in our Constitution and other international human rights treaties.

KHRC urgently demands your immediate attention and decisive action to end the sinister plot and the vile agenda that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of our nation. Get this right: The movement’s messaging is not a freedom of speech but a call for violence. We have previously witnessed how intolerance in Kenya has led to severe atrocities and human rights violations—a path we cannot afford to endorse.

Because of these reasons, KHRC calls upon the Commission to:

Embark on swift and uncompromising investigation: We demand that NCIC launches a quick, thorough, and unrelenting investigation to identify the instigators of this hateful campaign.

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An independent non-profit organization with a mandate of enhancing human rights centered governance at all levels.

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Collaboration with law enforcement agencies: Work with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to secure the apprehension and legal action against those responsible for the hate campaign. Additionally, we urge a strong partnership with law enforcement organizations to guarantee the safety and well-being of all LGBTQ+ individuals facing threats that endanger their lives.

Immediate ban of group's illegal activities: We insist that the NCIC works with law enforcement agencies to stop illicit activities associated with the "Anti-LGBTQ Movement." This is not a matter of differing opinions; it is about preventing violence and safeguarding the lives of vulnerable individuals.

Emergency public address: The severity of this situation demands a clear and unambiguous public address from the NCIC, condemning hate speech, discrimination, and any form of violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. The time for action is now, and the message must be clear and resounding.

Zero tolerance for hate: Let this be the moment when Kenya declares a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech, incitement, and discrimination. Let it be known that those who attempt to sow division and discord will be met with the full force of the law.

We cannot stress enough the urgency of this matter. Lives hang in the balance, and the very future of our nation is at stake. We expect, as a matter of principle and duty, that NCIC rises to this challenge and demonstrates unwavering commitment to the values that Kenya holds dear.

We look forward to an immediate response outlining the concrete actions that NCIC will take to address this crisis. Time is of the essence, and Kenya's eyes are on you.


DAVIS MALOMBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Cc:

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)

Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ)

National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ)

Inspector General of Police (IG)

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