

TO ALL EDITORS,

MARCH 22, 2019.

**PRESS STATEMENT OF KHRC FACT-FINDING MISSION IN MACHAKOS COUNTY IN FEBRUARY  
2019**

In late February 2019, KHRC traveled to Machakos County after receiving reports of multiple counts of child sex abuse at Martyrs of Uganda School in the county. KHRC interviewed one victim of sexual abuse and one parent of a victim of sexual abuse. KHRC also made inquiries with the Machakos County Department of Children's Services (DCS), the investigating officer in the case, and the leadership of Machakos Police Station.

These interviews have led KHRC to believe that allegations of sexual abuse took place at the Martyrs of Uganda School. This abuse implicates a staff member of the school who is still at large. Additionally, KHRC believes that sexual violence at the Martyrs of Uganda School and Children's Home is widespread and systematized and that the institution's administrators have taken few steps, if any, to prevent sexual abuse against minors. The Machakos County DCS and the police must initiate investigations into the extent and systematization of sexual abuse against minors in the institution and whether the administration of the school was aware of the violence meted out on children under its care. The Catholic Diocese of Machakos must also take steps to eradicate systematized sexual violence against children, and all violence against children in general, within its own institutions.

Lastly, KHRC believes that the efforts being taken by local law enforcement at the Machakos Police Station far fall short of acceptable standards of police investigations of heinous and systematized sexual crimes, especially crimes against children which should be treated with particular urgency. We are deeply worried by further reports that the alleged perpetrator in this case attacked and sexually assaulted a young pupil on his way to school. This is unacceptable and a testament to the slow pace of police investigations in this case. The Machakos Police Station have so far taken few active steps aimed at investigating the crime or arresting the perpetrator and have only recently obtained the perpetrator's contact details, spoke to people known to the perpetrator, and obtained a photograph of the perpetrator. The police must dedicate all the resources available to ensure the arrest, investigation and prosecution of the perpetrator.

We applaud the Machakos County DCS for taking immediate action to close the children's home and relocate the children housed there. We urge their continued pursuit of justice and care, including medical and psychological care, in this case.

George Kegoro

Executive Director

  
**GEORGE KEGORO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KENYA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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