

Cover Picture: A Shona woman displays her certificate of registration issued to mark the Shona community being recognized as Kenyan citizens.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACPHR African Commission for Peoples' and Human Rights

AFRICOG African Centre for Open Governance

AOKL Afriorganic Kenya Limited

CAF County Assemblies Forum

CS Cabinet Secretary

DORA Division of Revenue Act**DNA** Deoxyribonucleic acid

ECOWAS Economic Commission for West Africa

EMB Electoral Management Body

EMCA Environmental Management and Coordination Act

GCM Global Compact for Migration

HRD Human Rights Defenders

IAU Internal Affairs Unit

IDP Internally Displaced Persons

IGAD Inter-governmental Authority on Development

IMLU International Medico-Legal Unit

IOM International Office of Migration

KHRC Kenya Human Rights Commission

KCIA Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act

KNCHR Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

LSK Law Society of Kenya

MCA Member of County Assembly

MP Member of Parliament

NCM National Coordinating Mechanism

NPSC National Police Service Commission

ODPP Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

PALU Pan-African Lawyers Union

PRWG Police Reforms Working Group

QMS Quality Management System

TEW Tanzania Election Watch

01 KHRC AT A GLANCE

The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) is a premier and flagship Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Africa established in 1992 with a mandate of enhancing human rights centred governance at all levels.

Our overall approach as a mainstream human rights organization is based on the very belief and conviction that the human rights discourse, frameworks and approaches provide both the formidable means and ends towards the realization of our vision. We strongly believe that the primary purpose of a human rights organization like us is to shrink the spaces of powerlessness and to also make a difference in people's lives. This calls for continuous engagements with both the rights holders and duty bearers at all levels.

The announcement of the first Corona Virus(-COVID-19) case in Kenya on March 13, 2020 and the government directive for all to work from home, keep social distance among other mesures which were geared to towards suppressioning and containing the spread of the disease changed our work in a big way. We made a decision to work offline and focus more in monitoring and responding to the violations associated with the actions by the government and companies.

Second, and owing to the pending institutional obligations and its connections with the COVID and the obtaining political context,

The Kenya Human Rights Commission we continued to work on many policy researches (KHRC) is a premier and flagship Non-Gov- and actions we had committed to before the endernmental Organization (NGO) in Africa of our operational year in March 2020.

Third, we remained responsive to the shifting context whereby as we struggled to navigate through the pandemic, the political leadership took the country back to the pre-COVID conversations around constitional reforms and the 2022 succession politics which has since seen unprecedented consolidation of executive authority and subjugation of other institutions of governance. This also obliged us to remain connected with the related developments and conversations within the region and beyond.

This annual report aggregates key achievements, challenges, lessons and changes realized with the organization during the April 2020 to March 2021 Operational period (our calendar year).

As such, we can graciously affirm that, despite the many challenges operational and political, we indeed, "enhanced policy leadership in the wake of COVID-19 and beyond".

We take this earliest opportunity to thank our staff and partners (involved in our interventions at all levels, our board members for strategic leadership, our consultants Charles Waria and Wycliffe Omanya for drafting this report and our funders) for enabling the KHRC to realize both the achievements and overcome the challenges below.

KHRC IN NUMBERS

| 1,670 | Members of the Shona community attain Kenyan citizenship |
|-----------------|---|
| 1,300 | Number of Rwandese people recognized as Kenyans |
| 600 | Number of Shona children issued with birth certificates |
| KSH 694,000,000 | Kakuzi compensation to victims of egregious abuses |
| 7,500 | Number of workers who received COVID-19 support |
| 2,000 | Stateless households receive relief support |
| 400 | Flower farm Workers issued with employment contracts for the first time |
| 21 | Number of police officers interdicted for human rights abuses |
| 5,000 | Number of people we are supporting in litigation over the Solai dam tragedy that left them homeless |
| 10 | Number of Public Interest Cases successfully litigated |
| 68 | Number of HRDs supported to cope with COVID-19 |
| 2 | Led Observation of 2 Regional Elections |
| 120 | Number of media local, regional & international media mentions |
| 8 | Number of Policy Frameworks developed |
| 20 | Number of vulnerable HRDs protected from prosecution |
| | |

02 OUR MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

1,670 Shona People and 1,300 persons of Rwandese descent get citizenship

With support to the Shona community towards assserting rights, the KHRC championed for the recognition of and identity of the two communities. The government as a result recognized 1,670 Shonas and 1,300 Rwandese people as Kenyan citizens.

As a result of sustained campaign by the KHRC, the Kenyan government issued 600 birth certificates to children of the Shona community.

After a legal suit against Camellia PLC, the parent company to Kakuzi, in the United Kingdom- Camellia committed to compensation settlement for victims that had suffered egregious violations by Kakuzi guards. These violations included: rape, assault, and killings. The company opened up 3 out of 6 roads we demanded actions around and also earmarked some land for public use among other other actions.

7,500 flower farm workers receive food and stimulus cash transfers

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, the KHRC partnered with HIVOS foundation, FEMNET, Haki Mashinani, Ufadhili Trust and Kenya Flower Council to provide relief food to 5,000 workers and cash transfers to 2,500 workers who had either lost their jobs or suffered wage cuts.

100 female flower farm workers to enjoy paid maternity leave
Female seasonal workers in Afriorganic Company will, for the
first time, enjoy paid maternity leave. The women, who earn
a minimum wage went for unpaid maternity leave until
KHRC's intervention..

400 Workers Receive Contracts

At lease 400 workers in Afriorganics Company were issued with contracts of employment for the first time since they were engaged. 100 others were issued with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). This was as a result of KHRC challenging the non-issuance of contracts and PPEs.

7 5,000 People affected by Solai Dam tragedy remain hopeful KHRC filed a case in court in pursuit of compensation by victims of the Solai dam tragedy. The case is still ongoing.

Kitui County Revokes License for Ndovu Mining Company

Residents of Twi Muma village in Kitui County got a reprieve as the County Government revoked the Transport and Cess License fo Ndov Mining Company. This followed a joint mission with, and supported by KHRC on December 11, 2020..

21 Police Officers Interdicted and 3 others Convicted

KHRC, Police Reforms Working Group and the Missing Voices led public conversations to demand for the prosecution of officers found culpable of excesses. Out of this advocacy, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority investigated numerous complaints by citizens and duty bearers on police excesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the investigation, the National Police Service interdicted 21 officers while 3 police officers were convicted.

Developed a Compilation of Laws related to Protection of Civic Space

KHRC as part of the Civic Protection Platform led the process of developing a compilation of laws related to the protection of civic space in Kenya. The compendium once published in June 2021 will provide better understanding of all the repressive laws and mechanisms of addressing the risks.

Successfully Litigated on Public Interest Matters

KHRC has continued to engage in public interest litigation either as a lead applicant or an interested party in diverse human rights and governance issues. This has seen progressive decisionsleading to improved jurisprudence; increased remedies and accoutability on matters touching on both the Stae and non-state actors in Kenya. We have therefore managed to have at least 6 cases adjudicated. More than 10 cases are in court awaiting final decision.

Spearheaded Transnational Accountability

KHRC led a consortium of national and international organizations in drafting an open letter to the United Nations Security Council whose contents were to request the council to extend the arms embargo against the government of South Sudan. This letter was strongly considered as such resulted in the Security Council adopting resolution 2521 (2020) that exteded the arms embargo on the government of South Sudan.

ACHPR adopts Resolutions on Kenya

KHRC engaged in a comprehensive human rights monitoring process that culminated in publication of a report titled 'Wanton Impunity and Exclusion.' The recommendations wee used to engage relevant actors and also peer review mechanisms at the ACHPR. Following this, KHRC led a consortium of CSOs with the ACHPR Chair Dr. Solomon A Dersso. The engagements resulted in the adoption of Resolution ACHPR/Res. 445 (LXVI) 2020by ACHPR that urged the Kenyan government to respect human rights.

Led in Monitoring aand Responding the Tanzania and Uganda General Elections

KHRC coordinated different CSOs in responding to political injustices and human rights violations witnessed during the general elections in Tanzania and Uganda in October 2020 and January 2021 respectively. This was a novel initiative given it was the advent of monitoring and addressing election related violations through a consortium of regional organizations.

Exposed SGBV in Context of the 2017 Elections and Supported

After the 2017 elections, KHRC documented cases of sexual violence that took place in various parts of Migori, Kisumu and Vihiga Counties. As a result of the documentation, KHRC was consulted by the Count government of Migori to partner in developing the Migori County Sexual and Gender Based Policy (SGBV), a policy geared towards protecting, responding and care for victims of SGBV. The KHRC also supported the county to convene Members of County Assembly to lobby for its adoption On 8th March 2021, Migori County and other stakeholders launched the SGBV policy i in Migori County..

Supported the Development of the Migori SGBV Policy

After the 2017 elections, KHRC documented cases of sexual violence that took place in various parts of Migori, Kisumu and Vihiga Counties. As a result of the documentation, KHRC was consulted by the Count government of Migori to partner in developing the Migori County Sexual and Gender Based Policy (SGBV), a policy geared towards protecting, responding and care for victims of SGBV. The KHRC also supported the county to convene Members of County Assembly to lobby for its adoption On 8th March 2021, Migori County and other stakeholders launched the SGBV policy i

Two Strategy Documents and 8 Policy Frameworks developed

The KHRC is at advanced stages of developing our Strategic Plan for April 2021 to March 2026. We have also developed a two year Operational Plan for April 2021 to March 2023.

Media Engagements Informing Public Discourse

The KHRC released 27 press statements in 2020 resulting in 120 media mentions on international, regional, national and online media outlets. KHRC also released 19 publications documenting, exposing and advocating against human rights violations for public information diffusion. We have recorded 28,374 online downloads of our publications.

khrc.or.ke

O3 KEY CHALLENGES LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

KEY CHALLENGES

First, the upsurge of the novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) presented many challenges to our work

- a) It forced us to re-organize our work, work more online and from home mainly from March to July 2020, the period of the first phase of containment measures initiated by the government of Kenya. This meant reduced, direct engagements with our beneficiaries and partners.
- b) Moreover, the pandemic and ensuing responses created unprecedented social, emotional and economic distress to communities owing to the massive loss of jobs and income.
- c) It caused massive repression and violation of civil and political rights as the government invoked Public Health Act and Public Order Act in its response measures. Such developments put KHRC and its partners in constant pressure for rapid and urgent actions.
- d) COVID has also reduced funding opportunities as the global economies were hard hit and development and sectoral partners were being forced by circumstances to re-organize and tighten funding terms and conditions.

Second and partly related to the latter, we had one of our core donor transitioning our support. Core and general support is usually very critical for it provides the requisite flexibility and certainty to implement organizational strategies and interventions without limitations. This enables premier human rights organizations like KHRC to remain more effective in responding to gross and systemic human rights violations in the society.

Third, the Building Bridges Initiative(BBI) mooted by President Uhuru Kenya and the opposition leader Raila Odinga in March 2018 presented a momentum for the unanticipated referendum and constitutional reforms mainly from August 2020 to February 2021. This has created a fluid context that makes programming around key national issues very indescribable.

Moreover, corporate impunity continued to be an obstruction to our work. For instance, and following the successful actions against Camellia Park and Kakuzi limited(its subsidiary in Kenya) in a case we filled with Leigh Day in London and the statement we issued in response to the out of court settlement in February 11, 2021, Kakuzi limited has sued the KHRC our grassroots partner, Ndula Resource Centre. We shall file an aggressive defence against this matter which borders on what is popularly known as SLAPP .

Finally, the period under review witnessed massive repression targeting the civil society, media and the opposition before, during and the general elections in Tanzania and Uganda in October 2020 and January 2021 respectively. KHRC in partnership with other organizations was forced to provide leadership in the monitoring and responding to the electoral malfeasances and ensuring injustices.

LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

It is important to note that the above challenges presented great lessons and opportunities for KHRC to reflect and intervene around. Thus, it enabled us to be more flexible, dynamic, innovative and responsive to emerging situations and contexts as illustrated below:

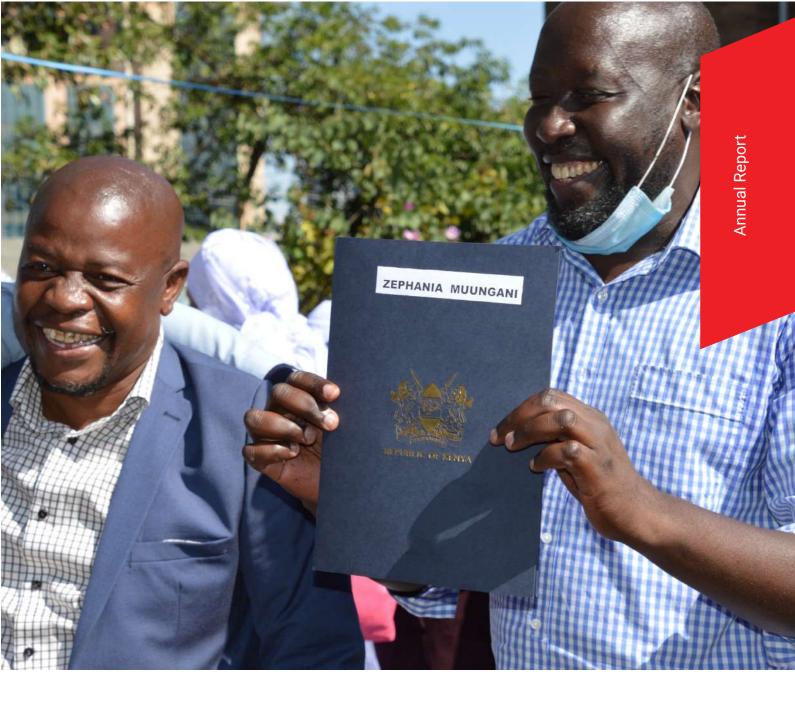
- a) Upon the emergence of COVID, we designed and implemented human rights monitoring and humanitarian response initiatives. Combing our human rights strategies and the novel humanitarian actions is a new approach for us.
- b) The limitations in funding has enabled to reflect and deploy a more aggressive, strategic and programmatic institutional resource mobilization and sustainability plans.
- c) The BBI and referendum processes have enabled us to mobilize and stand against the unnecessary reforms that are meant to water down our progressive constitution for elitist and parochial ends.
- d) The SLAPP presents a golden opportunity to enlist like-minded partners to challenge the deepening culture of corporate impunity, which entail abuse of court processes to avoid public accountability;
- e) Finally, the ensuing closure of civic and democratic space in the context of elections in Africa has created a momentum for KHRC and regional civil society to effectively organize and deal with state-instigated electoral and political impunity. There has been a trend of civic actors focusing more nationally.







O4 DETAILED RESULTS OVER THE KEY INTERVENTIONS



A THE SHONA PEOPLE ATTAIN CITIZENSHIP

For nearly six decades the Shona community has had no identity and recognition in Kenya. With support to the Shona community towards asserting human rights, KHRC championed for recognition and identity of the Shona community. The government as a result issued 600 birth certificates to Shona children and recognised 1,670 members of the Shona community as Kenya citizens through issuance of certificates of citizenship. The president of Kenya presided over a function where he issued certificates of citizenship to 10 representatives of the Shona community in person as a symbolic gesture on the recognition of the 1670 Shonas. The Department of Immigration has also reorganised its portal to allow stateless people register.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE SHONA PEOPLE OF KENYA.

The current Shona people are descendants of missionaries whose origin is traced from Matebele in Zimbabwe and who settled in Kenya in the early to mid-1960s. In 1968, after applying for church registration, the Shona's Gospel of God Church in Kenya received its certificate of registration from the Registrar of Societies. They initially settled in Ngong and later moved to Kiambaa. Their missionary work has seen an expansion to areas including Lenana, Githurai, Kasarani, Nyahururu, Meru, Nakuru, Kericho, Kitengela and Malindi where the Gospel of God Church has branches. Currently the estimated population of the Shona is 2300 people spread in over 900 households. Citizenship in Kenya is acquired by birth or by registration. However citizenship by birth is acquired by descent (jus sanguine), which locks the Shona community out. And so the Shona community have never had national identification cards locking them out from political decision making.

A JOURNEY OF NEARLY 60 YEARS RESULTS IN CITIZENSHIP.

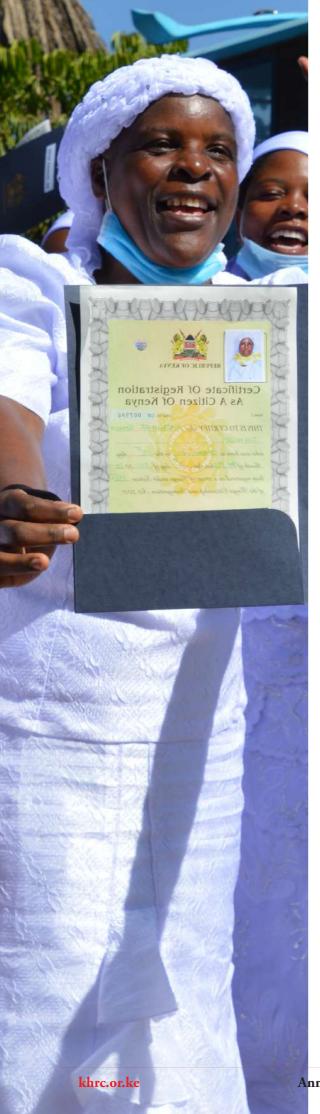
Situating the problem

The Shona communities are neither Zimbabweans nor Kenyans. They lost a window to claim their citizenship in Zimbabwe since by 1984, the majority of the founding missionaries were dead and the new generation of Shona had no linkage with Zimbabwe. In Kenya, they were not considered amongst the indigenous communities at independence in 1963. They face stigma and exclusion in schools, have no social protection programs available to the rest of the Kenyans, and cannot own property. Community members survive on casual labour, carpentry and weaving by the women to fend for themselves. Their children cannot complete their education due to lack of legal identity documents necessary for school enrolment and national examination registration.

When the Shona Community reached out to KHRC and UNHCR, the community representatives became aware of the fact that they were stateless. KHRC undertook a study that provided information on their history and socio —cultural background to help prepare a comprehensive report that would prove their case for citizenship. The report is titled African Missionaries in Limbo: the Shona of Kenya. KHRC also organised the community to advocate for their right to a nationality. KHRC drafted a petition to the Kiambu County Assembly and created an ally base of MCAs and MPs under the Kenya Citizenship Caucus with 20 MPs and senators.



Shona women display their copies of the "African Missionaries in a Limbo" report during the launch of the report that captures the origin, history, and citizenship journey of the Shona in Kenya.



RECOGNITION AT LAST.

KHRC worked with Shona to submit a petition to the Members of Parliament and Senate with the caucus calling for speedy resolution of the matter, and tabling amendments to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act in parliament. The caucus also met the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government to provide a status update. The advocacy contributed to Kiambu County Assembly passing a motion that recognised Shona community as residents of Kiambu and sent a letter to the speaker of the Senate urging him to take steps for grant of citizenship. The government re-established a taskforce on statelessness in August 2019 after initial en-masse application for citizenship with the mandate renewed in August 2020 for another year. Additionally, the government committed to recognize and register Kenyan citizens members of the Shona community, who qualify for citizenship under the law by 2020; enact a new Births and Deaths Registration Act that provides safeguards to prevent statelessness; and, committed to the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019 to complete legal reforms to address and remedy statelessness in Kenya permanently by 2023. For the first time ever, Nosizi Dube a young Shona woman who had qualified and been admitted to join the University of Nairobi, was supported for admission to the University to study economics. This is a new dawn for the Shona to claim their place as part of the Kenvan communities, and legal Kenyan citizens and to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship.

B A ROADMAP TOWARDS SUPPORTING PEMBA'S NATIONALITY QUEST

Context

The Pemba community arrived from the Pemba island in Tanzanian in the 1930s and in a second wave in the 1960s. Their eligibility for citizenship has been in question because they lacked evidence to prove they arrived or were born in Kenya before independence. The nearly 3,500 members of the Pemba community have been locked out of social, political, and economic development opportunities and consequently have suffered human rights violation.

Our engagement and the early gains.

KHRC together with the Haki Centre organised the Pemba and their leadership to compile a register of the Pembas and build their capacity on citizenship and legal identity documents. KHRC also engaged the Members of County Assembly (MCAs) from Kwale and Kilifi county assemblies, and progressive Members of Parliament (MPs) to advocate and build their capacity on matters of citizenship, legal identity, and statelessness. The Commission engaged County Commissioners and briefed them on the Pemba community paving way for the submission of the register in both Kwale and Kilifi counties as a way of self-identification. KHRC organized further meetings with the Statelessness Taskforce and prepared draft amendments to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act (KCIA) and linked MPs and MCAs in Kilifi and Kwale, with members of the Pemba community.

KHRC organised a learning meeting with the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for Kilifi County to learn from the Kiambu County process with the Shona community. Hon Own Baya, the Member of Parliament for Kilifi North on behalf of the Pemba community tabled a petition in the National Assembly. Subsequently, the National Assembly Committee on Administration and National security visited Kwale and Kilifi Counties in March 2021 for public hearings on the petition.

Additionally MCAs in both Kilifi and Kwale conducted an inquiry into the Pemba in their respective counties. While the process is yet to be concluded, gains registered include: 1) the County Commissioner of Kwale held a meeting with the security team and introduced all Kenya Pemba fishermen and urged that they should not be arrested for lack of permits, 2) County Commissioners intervened in the release of Pembas arrested in Kwale and Kilifi in 2020 for fishing without permits, 3) Kilifi County passed a resolution to include Pemba culture in the Annual Cultural Day. the Caucus, 5) the Pemba community is now able to enjoy access to birth certificates regularly and have free access to and protection from government officials in Kwale and Kilifi counties.



Members of the stateless Pemba community present their petition for recognition as Kenyan citizens before the Kilifi County Assembly in their ongoing effort for recognition as Kenyans.

C INCORPORATING HUMAN RIGHTS INTO THE IMMIGRATION POLICY

The draft migration policy in its development as a roadmap to address impacts and challenges of migration largely failed to secure human rights and integrate regional mechanisms on migration governance.

KHRC analysed the draft migration policy together with the Open Society Foundations Africa regional office. It also reached out to the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) on the content of the policy and engaged the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on migration on the draft policy. KHRC then submitted a memorandum to NCM urging them to rework the policy to which NCM agreed that the policy needed a review but through a broader consultative process.

KHRC worked with CAF to submit a more detailed memorandum on the draft policy and shared our concerns with representatives from the head of public service who offered to support the review meeting. With this support, the NCM finally opened the redrafting of the Policy to make it more contemporary, development focused, and integrate regional mechanisms on migration. This resulted in a weeklong workshop with stakeholders from all government ministries, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), academia, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the KHRC. The meeting had a chance to consult relevant international, regional and national frameworks including the Kenya Vision 2030, the Big 4 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), Migration Governance Framework, the African Union Migration Framework, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional migration policy framework aimed at promoting safe, orderly and humane migration. KHRC AND OSF engaged a consultant to update the draft National Migration Policy by incorporating views from all the stakeholders and alinging the Draft Migration policy with all National, Regional and International human rights Standards.

D STANDING UP AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY ON CITIZENS

VICTORY AGAINST IMPUNITY AND POLICE EXCESSES.

A brief context on police excesses in Kenya

Police officers have subjected members of the public to harassment and extrajudicial killing. As per the 2017 Human Rights Report by Amnesty International, Kenya ranked top in Africa in cases of police shootings and killing of civilians. At the same time, in 2017, the Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU), an organization that investigates police brutality, reported 152 deaths at the hands of police. In 2018 alone, Kenyan human rights groups documented at least 267 cases of extrajudicial killings by police. Human Rights Watch found that, in three separate incidents in 2018 and 2019, police shot dead at least 21 people alleged to be criminals in Nairobi's Dandora and Mathare neighbourhoods alone. In 2020, with the enforcement of curfew to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, citizens have increasingly faced threats and violations of their rights from law enforcement officers.

These killings happened contrary to Kenyan and international law t hat states, police should only intentionally use lethal force when it is strictly unavoidable to protect life.

Our intervention and milestones.

KHRC reached out to the Director of Internal Affairs Unit (IAU), and Office of the Director for Public Prosecutions (ODPP) together with victims of police threat. KHRC also reached NIS Director and held meetings with the OCS for Central Police Station for administrative action to release Human Rights Defenders.

Together with LSK, KHRC engaged the Nairobi County Commander, chair of National Police Service Commission (NPSC), Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), deputy Inspector General and general service and administration police to explore the possibility of having a platform for taking stock of reforms in the police service, BBI and police reforms. This led to a police conference themed 'Building Back Better, Together; Reflecting on Achievement in Policing Reforms, Gaps and Lessons.' KHRC was appointed co-chair of the conference.



21 POLICE OFFICERS AND 2 CHIEFS INTERDICTED OVER ABUSES

Together with Human Rights Networks (HURINETs), KHRC commenced documentation of incidences of police excesses. KHRC led public conversations to demand for the prosecution of all officers found culpable on social media and through physical meetings and outreach to the Police Reforms Working Group (PRWG) and Missing Voices. KHRC held a national dialogue meeting with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) chair and Kenya Rapporteur, and supported medical treatment of one victim of police violence. KHRC, PRWG and the Missing Voices led public conversations to demand for the prosecution of all officers found culpable of excesses. Out of this advocacy, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority investigated numerous complaints by citizens and duty bearers on police excesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. From the investigations, NPSC interdicted 21 police officers while 3 police officers were convicted. Threats against HRDs and members of the public in Nairobi informal areas were curbed, and cases against HRDs charged with illegal assembly withdrawn.



E ADVANCING ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN EAST AFRICA

A brief background

KHRC partnered with other civil society organisations (CSOs) from Uganda and Tanzania to provide an alternative voice that documented the electoral context in Tanzania. Through an initiative dubbed Tanzania Elections Watch (TEW), KHRC developed a high-tech election monitoring technology that supported in collecting and collating data on election malpractices and human rights violations. The KHRC-led initiative contracted a team of 15 personnel to implement the project objectives. Together with partners, KHRC mobilised a team of eminent persons across Africa who became the face of the initiative and released press statements and media briefs that ignited conversations around elections in Africa. The initiative held several webinars on the election context in Tanzania that helped in dissemination of reports and statements. These provided a situation analysis of the elections in Tanzania as well as insights on managing an election monitoring process. Where little information would have been forthcoming due to exclusion of election observers, KHRC provided a platform that was a source of information to many organisations and individuals.

ADVANCING ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN TANZANIA AND UGANDA

In a bid to hold the electoral management bodies (EMB) accountable on the happenings in the electoral process, KHRC and partners wrote letters to the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania calling for free, fair and credible elections in line with national and international laws and norms; to Zanzibar Electoral Commission calling for preparations for free, fair and credible elections in Zanzibar; to the Director General of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority calling for non-interference in the general elections; and, to the government of Tanzania calling for the release of arrested opposition leaders on unspecified reasons. KHRC also reached out to various international spaces on the election process and human rights violations. The Commission and the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) filed a petition at the East African Court of Justice with claims on violation of the rights of residents of Tanzania by the security agencies and agents.

With the political environment becoming increasingly repressive, KHRC plans to create a regional coalition that will step in to actively monitor elections of neighbouring countries and intervene to avert and stand against repression. In Tanzania, for instance, journalists were threatened and others beaten, NGOs were defunded, and others had their bank accounts frozen. The regional electoral work is therefore necessary as leaders continue to learn from each other and get away with human rights violations. This process is also drawing lessons from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) where neighbouring governments ensured election processes of neighbouring countries were respected like in the case of Gambia.

After the 2017 elections, KHRC documented cases of sexual violence that took place in various parts of the county namely; Migori, Kisumu and Vihiga Counties. As a result of that documentation, KHRC was consulted by the Migori County government to partner in development of the Migori County sexual and gender based policy (SGBV). A policy that is geared towards protecting, responding and care for victims of SGBV. The KHRC also supported the County to convene Members of County Assembly to lobby for its adoption before it is further tabled for discussion in the assembly. On 8th of March, during the International Womens Day, the KHRC, Migori County and other stakeholders launched the SGBV policy in Migori County.

F ADVANCEMENTOF LABORJUSTICE

ADVANCEMENT OF LABOR RIGHTS IN FLOWER FARMS

The situation at Afriorganic Kenya Limited

In the Timau area of Meru County, horticultural workers at Afriorganic Kenya Limited reached out to KHRC with concerns of labour injustices. None of the 400 workers had a contract of employment, others lacked personal protective equipment, and seasonal female workers did not enjoy paid maternity leave. Further, they cited intimidation and victimization for joining a trade union and claimed that the management had instead appointed and infiltrated a welfare committee, making it difficult for workers to voice their concerns freely.

A call to action!

KHRC engaged with the company's management team and raised the grievances that had been reported by workers. Additionally, KHRC provided a brief that outlined the grievances, clearly pointing out the specific laws that Afriorganic had offended. In a meeting between the KHRC and the director of the company, a resolution was reached that the company would urgently address the issues and report back to KHRC on progress. It is in fact the threats by KHRC to engage Afriorganic in a court battle that pushed the company to adopt all the recommendations to improve labour relations. Additionally, the Commission sensitised workers on their basic labour rights and established a network of workers' leaders and representatives and connected them to other existing worker's networks for solidarity and experience sharing.

Strengthening Certification Standards in the Horticulture Sector

The last 20 years have seen a proliferation of voluntary social and environmental standards and certification programmes particularly in the horticulture sector. Most of these regimes are driven by some of the biggest retailers as ethical consumerism in the global North continues to shape market decisions. In Kenya, the horticulture sector is the fastest growing agricultural sub-sector and is ranked second after the tea sector in terms of foreign exchange earnings. The sector is a major employer with the flower sector alone estimated to employ approximately 500 000 people and to impact over 2 million livelihoods indirectly.

While major improvements have been registered in the sector owing to the onset of voluntary certification standards, a lot remains to be done. Horticulture companies have continued to apply the standards merely for market access as opposed to a genuine drive to improve conditions of work in the farms. It is little wonder therefore that labour rights violations continue to abound in some of the farms that brandish the most coveted certification standards.

Based on the foregoing, KHRC has for the last four years implemented a project that sought to unpack the utility of certification standards and the extent to which they have delivered real and meaningful change to workers. KHRC conducted a baseline study that paved the way for engagement with the Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD) towards reviewing a statutory standard-KS 1758-that is applied in horticulture companies in Kenya. HCD is a government body mandated to promote and coordinate production and marketing of horticultural produce. HCD is also tasked to licence all horticultural export companies. The review led to identification of huge gaps along the labour rights indicators most of which were not aligned to existing laws. The KHRC strengthened these indicators by aligning them to the relevant laws and also reviewed the Quality Management Systems tool which is an attendant tool to KS 1758. The HCD adopted all the indicators as proposed by KHRC. This means that respect of labour rights will be strengthened in horticulture companies as that now forms part of the prerequisites for the HCD to approve the export licenses.

Further, KHRC reviewed the Milieu Programma Sierteelt Social Qualification (MPS-SQ), an internationally recognized Dutch certification standard applied by more than 70 flower farms in the horticulture sector in Kenya, and identified many gaps in the labour rights indicators. KHRC made recommendations towards enhancing the indicators in line with the constitution, the labour laws and other legal frameworks. The more than 60 revised labour rights indicators were adopted by the Dutch certification body. This means that more than 70 flower farms that apply the MPS-SQ standard have more stringent indicators to comply with, failure to which access to specific European markets will no longer be guaranteed.

G VICTORY AGAINST KAKUZI

15 YEARS PURSUIT FOR JUSTICE FOR POOR VICTIMS OF ABUSES BY KAKUZI COMPANY.

A Brief History on the journey

For more than 15 years, KHRC has worked to promote justice for people living around Kakuzi in Murangá County. Kakuzi has dispossessed 13 communities of their land since the pre-colonial times of 1906. The land sits on more than 40,000 acres. Kakuzi has been accused of egregious human rights violations including rape and other forms of sexual violence, killings, causing grievous bodily harm, subjecting workers to labour rights violations.

Concerted actions and the gains to-date

KHRC sensitised affected communities and workers on access to remedy by among others: supporting the communities to file petitions with the National Land Commission (NLC); supported the communities and affected workers to convene and share own experiences and lessons; and profiling and highlighting the plight of Kakuzi communities through media engagements, mainly press conferences and releases for sustained pressure. In 2018 and in partnership with Ndula Resource Centre and SOMO, KHRC engaged with the Rainforest Alliance (RA), a certification body based in Netherlands, and raised the adverse human rights impacts suffered by the communities and workers. This led to a cancellation of the RA certificate for one year (2018-2019). In 2019, KHRC reported Kakuzi on the alleged human rights abuses to the Ethical Trading Initiative, a UK-based alliance of companies, trade unions and voluntary organisations with an interest in promoting respect for workers' rights.

Following the report by the KHRC, the ETI commissioned an independent investigation which confirmed KHRC's claims were valid. This was the first point of pressure for Kakuzi on the market front. It led to a plan of action drawn by UK retailers demanding that Kakuzi meets certain obligations for continued relations with the UK market. One of the immediate outcomes of this engagement was the launch of a Sexual Harassment Awareness and Reporting Programme (SHARP) by Kakuzi to curb sexual harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment was one of the issues that KHRC had raised with the ETI. Additionally, workers reported an improvement in the production and harvest targets set by the company and which were a constant cause of workplace injuries as workers struggled to meet the previous high targets. Resultantly, there has been a positive change in working hours as workers now do not have to be retained in the company until targets are met.



In addition, the community has since organised themselves into 13 formations of affected villages and formed a Central Advisory Board, drawing representatives from the 13 affected villages. KHRC supported the communities to present petitions to the National Land Commission to demand restitution of the land from which they were displaced. The NLC determined in February 2019, that ALL public utilities on Kakuzi land must be surrendered to the county and national governments and all public roads must be opened. This is a big win for the disenfranchised communities living in and around Kakuzi as they are now poised to get schools, hospitals, markets, police stations and roads back from the multinational company.

The last straw on the camel's back must be a legal suit that KHRC helped to bring in the UK courts through Leigh Day, a leading UK law firm, together with its partners Ndula Resource Centre and Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO). The suit brought 85 claimants all of whom had suffered egregious harm in the hands of Kakuzi guards. The claims included rape, killings, grievous bodily harm suffered after physical assault and sexual violence. The suit closed in March 2021 with an out-of-court settlement that saw Camellia, Kakuzi's parent company based in London, part with more than KES694 million in individual settlement and legal fees. In addition, Kakuzi was forced to put in place other remedial mechanisms that will see the communities get back part of their land as well as have three new roads with motorable access. Hitherto, community members required prior authorization in the form of a pass obtained from the company for motorable access of the roads. The company also committed to a survey process to determine the land to be surrendered to the communities.

Other gains recorded through KHRC's campaign include: formation of a technical working group to undertake the survey process to determine the land to be surrendered to the communities; establishment of an operational grievance mechanism (OGM) where workers and communities can report any human rights abuses by the company; commissioning of a human rights impact assessment (HRIA); and, initiation of a human rights defenders policy to inform improved relations with HRDs.

CAN'T BUY, WON'T BUY: A MARKET BOYCOTT OF KAKUZI PRODUCTS IN THE UK.

KHRC's advocacy work against Kakuzi saw all major UK retailers (Lidl, Sainsburys and Tesco) withdraw from the Kakuzi market in October 2020. This withdrawal was the tipping point that exposed the soft underbelly of the multinational corporation. KHRC and Leigh Day brought to the attention of the UK Sunday Times the violations reported in Kakuzi following which the UK newspaper published an expose' that led to the eventual withdrawal of the retailers from the UK market. The expose was greatly informed by the suit filed in London. It is the pressure generated by the market boycott that saw Camellia bow out of the suit and call for an out-of-court settlement. Camellia announced to its shareholders that it will spend GBP4.6M (KES696 million) to settle individual claims, undertake social development programmes and as part of legal fees. Earlier in October 2020, Camellia announced that it had spent in excess of KES500 million in legal fees.

VESTIGATION

Supermarkets cut ties with Kakuzi, the avocado farm linked to 'violence and murder'

Tesco, Sainsbury's and Lidl say they have stopped buying from a Kenyan supplier whose guards are accused of killing and rape

Emily Dugan. Social Affairs Correspondent



A newspaper headline by the Sunday Times on UK supermarkets boycott of Kakuzi products following reports of human rights abuses in Kenya.

H STANDING WITH NGAAIE & TWI MUMA COMMUNITIES AGAINST THE MINING BULLIES IN KITUI COUNTY.

The Villager's Plight

In 2013, Athi River Mining (ARM) company was awarded a contract to prospect for limestone in Ngaaie area. Later in 2015, the national government signed an agreement with Athi River Mining (ARM) company permitting the company to mine limestone from Ngaiie hills. Although the idea of mining was exciting to the locals at first, a protracted tussle would later ensue between them and the company over compensation claims. On the one hand, the company required land ownership documents to be produced as a prerequisite towards determining the value of land. The community, on the other hand, occupies communal land most of which does not have ownership documents. In the absence of title deeds, the company undervalued the land and resolved, without involving the community, to compensate affected households at Kshs. 150 000 per acre, grave yards with concrete slab at Kshs. 100 000, grave yards without concrete at Kshs. 70 000 and grave yards where children were buried would be compensated at a rate of Kshs. 50 000. The community contested the undervaluing and approached KHRC for support. Further, ARM did not remedy disturbances caused to community members by their mining activities during prospecting.

Based on the foregoing and after several failed attempts to negotiate with the company, the KHRC resolved to support the community to file a petition at the Environment and Lands Court (ELC) in Machakos county. The matter is currently in court although the onset of Covid-19 has slowed down court operations. We intend to continue with advocacy through litigation as well as engage the Ministry of Mining to review ARM's mining license. Through KHRC's intervention, the county government of Kitui committed to review the composition and validity of the current Community Liaison Committee whose term is said to have expired and composition compromised.

RESIDENTS OF TWI MUMA VILLAGE RELIEVED AS LICENSES FOR MINING COMPANY REVOKED.

KHRC has sensitized the community members on land ownership rights and compensation, displacement processes and mining procedures. The Commission reached out to the county government through the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources to create linkage between the county government and the community. The Minister took up the issue and visited the community where he was completely unaware of what was going on. He further brought the matter to the attention of the governor who committed to support the community. KHRC facilitated a joint visit to the location of the mining activity. While on location, reliable information was shared by Twi Muma-one of the communities present-that there were ongoing mining activities that had caused massive disruption to their lives. Some of the challenges experienced by the community included deafening sound and unbearable tremors which had caused visible cracks to their houses as a result of massive shake-ups of the grounds. The presence of the KHRC and the pressure generated to hold the miner to account led to the immediate arrest of one of the directors of the mining company. The transport and cess licence for the company was revoked on the spot even as the director was arraigned in court the following week.



Our team visited Ngaaie on a follow-up mission on mining activities in the area & the impact on host communities.

We unearthed illegal mining by Ndovu Cement leading to termination of the company's transport license, arrest and prosecution of the mining culprits by the county government of Kitui.

A WIN FOR DEVOLUTION IN REVENUE ALLOCATION

Considering that devolution is entirely dependent on vertical sharing of revenues in the absence of which it is not possible for the counties to deliver on their mandate and services under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, KHRC and other partners namely AFRICOG, Transparency International and The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA0 moved to the High Court under Petition 232 of 2019. KHRC's principal argument in the Petition was that the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Finance in tabling the budget policy statement and legislative proposals on the 13th of June 2019, without the passing of the Division of Revenue Bill 2019, acted contrary to the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act, and the CS cannot in subsequent years table the highlights in the absence of the Division of Revenue Bill. KHRC petitioned the High Court, and the matter was heard before a three Judge bench of Justices Mumbua Matheka, Ngaah Jairus, and Anthony Ndung'u.

The gains?

The three Judge Bench delivered judgment on 11th December 2020 in favour of the KHRC and declared that CS in tabling the budget policy statement and legislative proposals on 13th June 2019 in the absence of DORA acted illegally and unconstitutionally, and such budget highlights in future can only be presented after the enactment of DORA. The disbursement of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund in 2019 without the passing and enactment of DORA was illegal, unconstitutional, and contrary to Section 4 of the National Government Constituencies Development. The decision was a major win for devolution, the people of Kenya and the rule of law since it protects counties and ensures that allocations and disbursements to counties are not delayed ensuring proper planning, functioning and development of counties.

J SUCCESSFULLY LITIGATED ON PIL MATTERS

STRATEGIC PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION CASES

The KHRC filed numerous strategic litigation cases for and on behalf of victims of systemic human rights violations.

Some of the key cases that have been litigated successfully are as follows:

- Okiya Omtata, KHRC V Ag (Gender Case Pet No 41 of 2018)
 - The petition challenges the nominations by the president o 26th January 2018 of persons appointed to the cabinet positions of Cabinet Secretaries, Chief Adminstrative Secretary and Principal Secretary without considering the 2/3 gender rule, Persons with Disabilities, and inclusion of youth, minority and marginalized groups.
 - The high court issued judgement on 19th April 2021 and held the office of the Chief Administrative Secretaries to be unconstitutional and that Cabinet Secretaries and Permanent Secretaries who continue to serve without vetting in 2017 were illegaly in office.
- KHRC and others V Hon Attoney General & Others (Nairobi Petition 232 and 277 of 2019)

 The Petition sought to declare the presentation of the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2019-2020 on Thursday 13th June 2019 as unconstitutional for reasons that the same was done in the absence of the Division of Revenue Act 2019 (DORA). It also sought to declare that allocations under section 4 of the National Constituency Development Fund can only be made after the passing and enactment of DORA.
- R- versus- Perry Mansukh Kansagara & 8 Others (Naivasha Criminal 977 of 2018)
 - This is a case arising from the Solai Dam Tragedy which left 49 persons dead and hundreds of others displaced. The accused persons are the proprietor, manager and government officials. The accused are charged with 48 counts of manslaughter contrary to sec 202 of the Penal Code; official neglect of duty contrary to sec 28 and 36 of the Penal Code; and s. 138 of EMCA.
 - The matter was heard for an application by the DPP for the accused persons to take plea afresh after the matter was remitted for hearing following the judgement of Mwongo J. on 9th April 2020.
- DPP V Perry Mansukh Kansagara & 8 Others (Naivasha High Court Criminal Revision 4 of 2020)
 Following the acquittal of the accused persons by Hon. Kennedy Bidali on 3rd Feb 2020 on account of delay by the Prosecution to prosecute the case, the ODPP and the victims filed a review at the High Court of the case for it to be remitted back for hearing and determination before a different trial.

 Judgement delivered by Hon. Justic Mwongo in favour of the ODPP and the victims on 9th April 2020.

• Republic Vs Peter Mbae & Others (Nakuru Criminal 468 Of 2019)

KHRC came to the aid of 8 accused victims of the Solai dam tragedy. The accused persons were charged with arson and damage to property belonging to Solai Coffee Estates which occurred when the victims had planned a meeting to discuss issues of trial and compensation. A meeting was held between the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (Head of County Affairs and Prosecution Services) and KHRC representatives which resulted in the withdrawal of charges against Peter Mbae and 8 solai victims.

Perry Mansukh & others v ODDP & Others (Nairobi Court of Appeal Criminal Application No. 2 of 2020)

Dissatisfied with the judgment of Mwongo J delivered on 9th April 2020 the accused persons approached the Court of Appeal under Rule 5(2)(b) of the Court of Appeal Rules 2010 seeking the stay of proceedings in Naivasha Cr 977 of 2018 pending the hearing and determination of an intended appeal. The court of appeal dismissed the application and failed to grant stay of the lower court proceedings.

• George Matiko Chacha-versus- Gati Wambua and Land Registrar (MIGORI ELC 792 OF 2017)

The suit entails a boundary dispute between the Plaintiff and the Defendant over parcels of land L.R NO BUGUMBE/MABERA/1173 and L.R NO BUGUMBE/MABERA/1174 Suit dismissed on 22nd October 2020, the Court upholding the report of the Land Registrar- Kehancha on the position of the boundary but the respondent filed an appeal over the said matter.

• Republic versus Elias Ndambiri and Joseph Kimundu (CR. CASE NO. 503 OF 2019)

Accused persons who are residents of Kakuzi were arrested and charged with creating the disturbance. KHRC supported the accused persons. The matter has been concluded and the two accused acquitted.

Nairobi Constitutional Petition 255 Of 2018 Kakuzi PLC vs. Hon. Attorney General

This is a Petition challenging section 15 of the National Land Commission Act specifically on the power of the NLC to hear and determine historical land injustices. On 13th March 2020, the Petitioner filed an application to transfer the matter to Malindi on account that there is a similar matter in Malindi specifically Malindi ELC Petition No. 19 of 2016 which inter alia; deals with the Constitutionality of Section 15 of the NLC Act.

Matter transferred to Malindi ELC vide a Ruling delivered by Hon. Justice James Makau on 1st October 2020.

The KHRC is in this matter as an interested party.

N/B: The KHRC has also instituted 19 other Public Interest Litigation cases that are pending hearing in court.

SUPPORTING HUMAN RESOURCE TO PUSH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

In order to support its staff and ensure continuity of operation during the COVID-19 pandemic, KHRC reached out to its funding partners and received support to modify planned activities to suit the environment and in some cases additional funding to support staff to work from home. This funding and support went a long way in ensuring that KHRC retained its staff at 75% with a turnover of staff at 25%. KHRC further sought to enhance its work environment to maintain the rules and regulations as instituted by the Ministry of Health. This was done by instituting measures such as sanitization points at all points of entry, monitoring of staff temperature, committing to establishing a covid-19 fund to support testing of staff and enhancing its medical cover to support extreme cases of infection among staff. These additions and benefits went a long way in easing anxiety among staff especially in the wake of a disease that was unknown.

In terms of productivity, KHRC encouraged its staff to work with human rights networks on the grounds and reduce field activities to minimal. This saw many activities such as meetings and conferences modified to run as webinars online. This was a new way of working for all involved at the KHRC from staff to board members, and many activities were conducted on time with great results as mentioned in this report. It is with great support from funders and donor partners that all these was accomplished.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

The efficiency and continued successes of KHRC's information and technology systems has majorly contributed to the implementations and achievement of all KHRC's programmatic work. The efficacy of Google cloud email has made it resourceful and quicker conduit of internal and external communications. We have upgraded the Microsoft Dynamics NAV 2017 Enterprise Resource Planning Software(ERP) that has enhanced financial operations, formative monitoring and evaluation of all KHRC's projects while supporting transparent auditing process. Upgraded the KHRC's digital repository and moved it to cloud, this has improved ease of access to the organizations digital publications, policy papers and journals to the researchers and other external stakeholders.

Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization procured licenses for different virtual conferencing software to ensure that staff are able to work remotely with minimum disruptions. To ensure information security of all Information Technology (IT) systems, the organization's firewall has been patched with the latest policies and security protocols in accordance with regional and international guidelines.

ENHANCED MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS AND VISIBILITY

The Kenya Human Rights Commission champions free access to information and disseminates our research, findings and publications to as a wide a section of our audiences as possible. In 2020, the KHRC released 19 publications documenting, exposing and advocating against human rights violations for public information diffusion. We have recorded 28,374 online downloads of our publications. We distribute our publications widely to local and international audiences, as well as our 160,000 social media followers worldwide enhancing free access to often difficult to access government reports and other topical human rights and governance reports. For a detailed information, visit our publications page: https://www.khrc.or.ke/publications.html?limit=5&limitstart=0

The KHRC released 27 press statements in 2020 resulting in 120 media mentions on international, regional, national and online media outlets. For a detailed information on our media appearances, visit our media page: https://www.khrc.or.ke/2015-03-04-10-37-01/press-releases.html

KHRC continues to demonstrate leadership and recognition on human rights issues by strategically utilizing the most accessible medium of exchange such as social media for information diffusion and advocacy to advance human rights issues at local and national level. Through online human rights advocacy KHRC mobilizes the public to join us to call for the respect of human rights and resultantly we attained 100,000 and 45,000 digital human rights followers who act as KHRC's brand ambassadors on Twitter and Facebook respectively. Some of the remarkable online conversation include;

#UkweliMtaani Campaign: In June 2020, KHRC conducted a campaign to document human rights related issues arising from COVID-19 restrictions that exposed vulnerable groups especially those in informal settlements to police brutality, arbitrary arrests, forced quarantines, sexual and gender based violence, decreased access to healthcare and unemployment. Through this campaign the KHRC was able to share over 100 stories on the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable people in informal settlements & government responses and abuses on social media under the hashtag #UkweliMtaani.

Through the public diffusion of this information, we were able to activate audiences on social media to pressurize state officials to protect human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic

Additionally, from stories shared, we linked deserving beneficiaries to benefactors as Kenyans rallied to support those affected to get new descent houses, healthcare, and secured an education scholarship for a young boy whose story we highlighted.

At the same time, the campaign also served to supplement public information and education on how to prevent and manage COVID-19 infections.

K FINANCIAL REPORT

Our annual report will be added once our audit is compeleted in July 2021.

K OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

We wish to acknowledge the following development partners for their gracious financial and remarkable political supports.

- 1) Wellsprings Philanthropic Foundation in New York;
- 2) Open Society Foundations(Open Society Initiative of East Africa-OSIEA; Regional Office for Africa-Afro and the International Office in New York);
- 3) Ford Foundation(both the Regional Office for East Africa and International Office in New York
- 4) Sigrid Rausing Trust;
- 5) Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kenya;
- 6) Royal Danish Embassy in Kenya(through a basket fund managed by Uraia Trust);
- 7) The Swedish Embassy in Kenya(through a basket fund managed by Diakonia Kenya);
- 8) Swedish Government(through a basket fund managed by CIPESA) in Uganda;
- 9) Swiss Embassy in Kenya;
- 10) Diakonia Kenya(Haki Madini Project);
- 11) The European Union (through a basket fund managed by MRG)
- 12) HIVOS Office for Eastern Africa;
- 13) UNHCR Kenya Office;
- 14) The International Federation on Human Rights (FIDH);
- 15) All the county based, national, regional and international state and non-state actors.



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