PRESS STATEMENT

FORIMMEDIATERELEASE

STATEMENTONABDUCTIONSOFCITIZENSSUSPECTEDOFINVOLVEMENTIN#REJECTFINANCEBILL2024PROTESTS.

Nairobi, 25thJune2024.

The Police Reforms Working Group Kenya (PRWG-K) unequivocally condemns therecent wave of abductions of citizens suspected of involvement in the #RejectFinanceBill2024 protests. These 12 abductions, which occurred over the last five days and intensified last night, are a gross violation of human rights and amount to arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearance as prohibited under Article 29 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Enforced disappearance, as defined by Article 29 of the Constitution, involves the arrest, detention, or abduction of an individual by state agents or persons acting with state authorization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the person’s fate or whereabouts. Such practices are a grave violation of human rights and international law. It is unacceptable that individuals exercising their democratic rights to peaceful assembly and expression are being forcibly disappeared. These actions not only undermine the rule of law but also instill fear and uncertainty among the populace. We urge the government to immediately cease these unlawful practices and release all individuals who have been arbitrarily detained.

We strongly call on President WilliamSamoeiRuto to uphold the oath he took during his swearing-in ceremony: "I, William Samoei Ruto, in full realization of the high calling I assume as President of Kenya, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Kenya, that I will obey, preserve, and protect this Constitution of Kenya." It is imperative that the government honors its promise to protect the rights of its citizens and ensures that such violations are not repeated.

PRWG-K reaffirms its commitment to advocating for justice and accountability. We stand ready to support the victims of these abductions and their families through legal assistance, medical care, and psychological support. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and document any further human rights abuses.
We remind the government that the Constitution of Kenya guarantees the right to liberty and security, and prohibits any form of arbitrary arrest and detention. It is the duty of the state to protect these rights and ensure that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.


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