



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAIROBI, Kenya, June 24, 2025

## Civic Freedoms Forum Condemns Deployment of State-Sponsored Goons Against Planned Gen-Z Memorial Protest

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The Civic Freedoms Forum's attention has been drawn to the media reports of possibility of state hired goons to disrupt the peaceful demonstrations for Gen-Z memorial. We strongly condemn these plans. These commemorations are a solemn occasion to honour the lives lost during recent protests and to reaffirm the constitutional right of every Kenyan to assemble, demonstrate, and express themselves freely.

We are gravely alarmed by credible reports, including a recent expose' by KTN News, which names individuals allegedly involved in orchestrating violent disruptions through hired criminal elements. These revelations point to an informal repression and dangerous pattern of state complicity in undermining civic space, inciting violence, and intimidating peaceful citizens.

We make the following demands:

1. **Personal Liability and Accountability:** Those named in the KTN expose', including state operatives and political actors, must be held personally liable for any injuries, deaths, or destruction of property that may arise from their involvement in mobilising goons to infiltrate and attack peaceful demonstrators.
2. **Immediate Independent Investigations:** We call for urgent, transparent, and independent investigations into the allegations raised in the KTN report. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and relevant parliamentary committees must take swift action to ensure justice is served. The named persons should be summoned and record statements of their involvement.
3. **Public Clarification from Inspector General Douglas Kanja Kirocho Kanja:** We demand that Inspector General Kanja immediately clarify the National Police Service's position and provide public assurance that police officers will protect, not target, peaceful protesters. Silence or ambiguity from the IG only emboldens impunity and erodes public trust in law enforcement.

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The constitution of Kenya, under Article 37, guarantees the right to peacefully assemble and protest. Any attempt to suppress this right through violence, intimidation, or illegal proxy actors is a betrayal of our democratic foundations.

We call on all Kenyans of goodwill, civil society organizations, religious institutions, and international partners to stand in solidarity with the youth and demand accountability, justice, and protection of civil liberties.

### Signed by

ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa	Kenya Human Rights Commission - KHRC
Constitution and Reform Education Consortium - CRECO	Muslims for Human Rights - MUHURI
Defenders Coalition	Partnerships 4 Empowerment and Networking in Kenya (PEN KENYA)
Independent Medico-Legal Unit - IMLU	Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi!
InformAction Tv	Haki Yetu Organization
Initiative for Inclusive Empowerment - IIE	Transparency International - Kenya

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