

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Civic Freedoms Forum Condemns Weaponization of Communications Authority by the Executive Against Media Freedom.

The Civic Freedoms Forum (CFF) unequivocally condemns the directive issued by the Communications Authority of Kenya instructing all media houses to cease live coverage of ongoing public protests. This directive constitutes a grave violation of press freedom, freedom of expression, and the public's right to information as guaranteed under **Articles 33, 34, and 35** of the Constitution of Kenya. It is not only unconstitutional but also politically reckless. It is an unjustified and unconstitutional attempt to suppress transparency and conceal the realities of peaceful public dissent.

We remind the state that **Article 24(1)** of the Constitution clearly defines when freedoms may be limited. We also remind the Authority of the decision of Justice Chacha in the landmark case of *Kenya Editors Guild & Others v. Communications Authority of Kenya & Others (2023)*, where the court issued conservatory orders barring the CA from interfering with live media broadcasts. Court held that such threats were unconstitutional and posed a serious danger to press freedom contrary to article 34 and 35 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010

The Communications Authority has neither demonstrated the necessity nor the proportionality of this action. This move is part of the ongoing weaponization of state agencies against freedoms and rights. It undermines the very foundations of democracy and emboldens impunity, especially during a time when Kenyans are bravely exercising their constitutional right to protest and demand accountability.

We call for the **immediate withdrawal** of this directive and **urge all media houses to stand firm** in upholding journalistic integrity and the right of the public to know. Civic space must be protected, not restricted.

Signed by



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