



National Integrity Alliance

Leadership With Integrity

## Statement by the National Integrity Alliance (NIA)

**Date: 1st July 2025**

### **A Crisis of Leadership and Integrity - Incessant Brutality, Collapse of Accountability, and Betrayal of the Constitution**

The National Integrity Alliance (NIA) strongly condemns the alarming escalation of state-sponsored brutality witnessed during the peaceful protests on 25th June 2025. NIA decries arbitrary arrests, abductions, and the use of armed goons, some seen walking side by side with the police, as well as incidents of sexual violence and destruction of property carried out under the guise of law enforcement. While also condemning attacks on police officers by a few civilians, NIA urges all demonstrators to adhere to the principle of non-violence in exercising their constitutional rights.

Of particular concern are recent remarks by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, which appear to justify excessive police force and delegitimize youth-led protests. Such statements dangerously normalize state violence and expose a troubling failure of leadership. By defending acts of police brutality and remaining silent on violations by the security forces, Murkomen undermines his constitutional mandate and erodes public trust. These actions reflect the failure of meaningful police reform, from a repressive “police force” to a rights-based “police service” and betray the constitutional vision of *Utumishi kwa Wote*: service and protection for all citizens.

Recent report of the Independent Medico-Legal Unit titled “*Silenced but Unbowed*” reveals a grim picture: at least 63 people have been killed, 63 abducted, 26 are missing, and over 600 injured between 2023 and 2025, mostly during protests for justice and reform. These numbers reflect a deepening democratic crisis and an entrenched culture of impunity. The brutal murder of schoolteacher Albert Ojwang’ and the performative “stepping aside” of Deputy IG Eliud Lagat underscore the systemic failures in holding security forces accountable. This act, lacking legal basis, offers no real justice or assurance of reform.

Furthermore, the killing of unarmed civilian Boniface Kariuki during peaceful protests, captured on video, exemplifies the unchecked police violence facing Kenyans. NIA calls for immediate, transparent investigations and structural reforms. These abuses point to a broader governance crisis marked by impunity, disregard for constitutional values, and erosion of human rights and public accountability.

We are deeply alarmed by the enforced disappearance of blogger and activist Ndiangui Kinyagia, whose whereabouts remain unknown since a raid on his home in Kinoo on June 21. His disappearance is emblematic of the growing trend of targeting digital dissent and civic voices. The High Court has now ordered the Inspector General of Police to produce Ndiangui Kinyagia in court or offer a credible explanation. We demand that authorities immediately locate and safely return him and hold those responsible for his disappearance to account.

The courts have issued critical rulings on police brutality, holding senior police leaders personally liable for the actions of their juniors, banning the use of balaclavas and plainclothes to conceal identities, and outlawing excessive force. However, these orders continue to be ignored, with officers acting with impunity. The Inspector General's failure to enforce the rulings signals a serious leadership and accountability crisis within the police service.

These violations blatantly contravene key constitutional provisions, including the right to life, dignity, expression, peaceful assembly, and national values under Articles 10, 19, 20, 26, 33, 37, 238, 239, and 244. The Bill of Rights is not optional, it is the bedrock of Kenya's constitutional democracy. Instead of safeguarding citizens, state agencies are weaponizing fear through abductions and lethal force to suppress dissent. A dangerous culture of repression now threatens Kenyans for exercising their fundamental freedoms.

We also raise grave concern over the arbitrary arrests and persecution of human rights defenders, including John Mulingwa Nzau (Garang), Mark Amiani (Generali), and Francis Mutunge Mwangi (Chebukati). These individuals have been targeted with frivolous and politically motivated charges aimed at silencing dissent and criminalizing civic activism. Their continued harassment reflects a broader pattern of repression against voices demanding justice and accountability. We demand the immediate dropping of all charges against them and an end to the abuse of the criminal justice system to intimidate and punish activists. The right to protest, organize, and speak out is protected under the Constitution and must be upheld without compromise.

We, therefore, demand:

1. An end to the criminalization of dissent, and guarantees for youth, activists, journalists, and all citizens to organize and express themselves freely;
2. Urgent institutional reforms within the National Police Service to align operations with constitutional values and human rights standards;
3. The Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and other constitutionally mandated oversight bodies should be held accountable for failing to uphold their mandate. The glaring lack of timely investigations, public reporting, and meaningful interventions in the face of police brutality and enforced disappearances is a betrayal of public trust;
4. Full and transparent prosecution of all perpetrators of protest-related killings, abductions, torture, and enforced disappearances, regardless of their rank or office. This includes those who gave the orders and sanctioned violence; they must also face the full force of the law. We further demand that all implicated officers vacate offices

immediately to allow independent, credible investigations to be conducted without interference. These investigations must be thorough, time-bound, and their findings made public;

5. Independent, transparent investigations into the killings of Albert Ojwang', Boniface Kariuki, and all victims of police brutality and abductions;
6. The immediate resignation of Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat for failing to uphold the law and protect human rights. Section 20(b) of the National Police Service Act and Chapter Six of the Constitution require all officers to act with integrity and safeguard fundamental freedoms, standards he has clearly violated. His continued stay in office undermines public trust and accountability;
7. Immediate and written resignation of Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja, for failure to uphold the Constitution and protect citizens;
8. We demand a public retraction and formal apology from the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Kipchumba Murkomen, for his statements that appeared to justify abductions, delegitimize youth-led protests, and excuse police brutality. Such rhetoric is not only irresponsible but unbefitting of a public official entrusted with safeguarding internal security. In light of these remarks and the ongoing crisis under his leadership, we further demand that CS Murkomen vacate office. His actions violate the spirit and letter of Chapter Six of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity. We also call upon the President and Parliament to hold all Cabinet Secretaries to account, ensuring their conduct and public statements uphold human rights, constitutionalism, and the highest standards of ethical governance.

## **THE NATIONAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE (NIA)**

The National Integrity Alliance (NIA) is a citizen-centered integrity and anti-corruption coalition comprising Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya), Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi! The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA). NIA seeks to breathe life into the constitutional promise on Integrity by catalysing frontline ethics and anti-corruption institutions, and active citizens to Detect, Deter, Disrupt and Defeat corruption at all levels of society.

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