



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

KMA HOUSE, CHYULU ROAD, P.O. BOX 48502 – 00100 GPO, NAIROBI-KENYA

TEL: +254 - 20-2714991, 2716811, 2712010; TELEFAX: 2717170

Email: nec@kma.co.ke

PRESS STATEMENT

PUBLIC SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Kenya Medical Association (KMA) wishes to thank the press both local and international for exposing Police Brutality against the citizens of Kenya. As doctors, we can confirm to the country that gunshot wounds and other injuries inflicted by the police are real and not a “movie” as alleged by the Police Spokesman. Doctors are eye witnesses to the deaths and injuries sustained from gunshots or any other cause.

CENTRE	CASUALTIES	FIRST AID	IN PATIENT	DEATHS
MUMIAS	26	11	26 (BULLET WOUNDS)	9
BUNGOMA	13	19	13 (BULLET WOUNDS)	5
KAKAMEGA	15	-	15 (BULLET WOUNDS)	11
MALABA	2	7	2 (bullet wounds)	2
MT. ELGON	5	-	-	16

These numbers represent real human beings who have names, relatives and are not just statistics. The Association is collecting countrywide data on all injuries. Once we have the total countrywide figures we shall release them to you.

Besides violation on the right to life, there are many other violations like right to movement, right to healthcare services, right to assemble and right to information.

The psychological trauma experienced during this humanitarian crisis will live with us for a long time to come.

Kenya Medical Association condemns in the strongest terms possible police brutality to unarmed demonstrators in this country. We condemn likening loss of human life to a movie. This is not "Utumishi kwa Wote" as is the Police Motto. The Association condemns senseless killing of innocent Kenyans wherever they may be and from whatever cause.

The police force stands accused for giving "shoot to Kill" orders in some parts of the country. Kenya Medical Association condemns invasion by members of the police force into healthcare facilities as recently witnessed in Homa Bay District hospital and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Eldoret. We demand that the Minister for Internal Security and the Commissioner of Police issue a statement in this regard.

Police Brutality has undermined public confidence. Doctors and healthcare workers generally feel that they are not protected and feel insecure at their places of work. **Public healthcare delivery is therefore at the risk of collapse unless urgent measures of providing security to healthcare workers are put in place.** Public Health Care system is overstretched by victims of gunshots, internally displaced persons, failure of supplies to reach healthcare facilities, feeling of insecurity among the healthcare workers and inter-ethnic tensions and suspicions between and among healthcare givers and their patients.

In the absence of public assurance by the Minister of Internal Security and the Commissioner of Police, Kenya Medical Association shall find it difficult to convince its members to continue providing and rendering healthcare services.

Kenya Medical Association members provide and render healthcare services without any discrimination and political bias of any kind. However, they require a secure work place and a just and peaceful environment. We request the police to stop immediately unnecessary, uncalled for and unwarranted shooting of members of the public. The police should stop invading for whatever reasons both public and private healthcare facilities because this grossly interferes with security and safety of our work place.

Politicians and leaders should urgently address the root cause of the demonstrations being witnessed in our country. The root cause is flawed presidential election results. A fair, transparent and free process must be employed to determine the winner. Until and unless individual's right to determine who their leader should be is respected, peace will be elusive.

Kenya Medical Association wishes to see urgent and complete dismissal and prosecution of the ECK commissioners and offending officials for causing bloodshed in our country by their ineptitude in handling electoral process.

Kenya needs and deserves a new constitution to guarantee equitable distribution of state resources. The country needs and deserves strong important institutions that will serve the people.

The country deserves strong and impartial judiciary, ECK and any other institution involved as referees. These institutions must administer justice equally to all citizens

of the land without fear, favour and bias as a foundation to peaceful co-existence for in the words of our National Anthem, 'Truth and Justice be the Defender of our Land'.



DR. STEPHEN OCHIEL

HON. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

19th January, 2008