

Statement by the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

The Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions expresses its grave concern over information received that relate to threats against the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, Maina Kiai. The source of these threats is not known.

These threats come follow the Kenya Human Rights Commission's open questioning of the validity of the results of the recent disputed presidential elections, and public call for an end to the post election violence and a negotiated settlement to the present impasse. The Commission has also commenced investigations into violations of human rights and concerns about humanitarian assistance, in the wake of the elections.

"We call for the government of Kenya to ensure the security and protection of Maina and other members of the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights" said Margaret Sekaggya, Chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. She added that "there is an urgent need to investigate these threats and bring those responsible before a court of law. The independence and integrity of the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights must be respected and protected, which means that the Commission staff must be able to work in safety and free from threats and intimidation".

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights is mandated by law to further the protection and promotion of human rights in Kenya. At a time of uncertainty and flux, when human rights appear vulnerable, the work of the Commission is especially important. The integrity of its work, and the ability of its staff to operate without harassment or fear, will only serve the long term interest of all Kenyans.

Note: *The Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions was established as an informal and inclusive body of Commonwealth NHRIs and other national accountability mechanisms having a human rights mandate with the objective of, among other things, coordinating and allowing for collective expressions of support, encouragement or concern, in relation to particular events and developments affecting C-NHRIs individually or collectively, for the better defence and promotion of human rights.*



Margaret Sekaggya
Chairperson
Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

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