



## PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **STOP THE MERCILESS KILLINGS OF INNOCENT KENYANS**

We are deeply concerned of the conflicts that have escalated into violence in some parts of the country, leaving behind a trail of destructions, loss of lives and strained social cohesion; a matter of profound importance to our organization and the country at large. Our commitment to ensure peaceful coexistence extends beyond business, and we play an active role in fostering peace and stability within Kenyan communities.

At the onset, I wish to condole with the families who have unfortunately lost their loved ones as a result of banditry attacks as well as ethnic instigated violence. It is very sad to note that even as late as Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, lives of innocent school going children were cut short by the merciless bandits in Yatya Baringo County. Further, the bandits have not spared adults hence the killing of the principal of Kagir primary School Mr Thomas Kibet, Honorable Paul Leshimpiro Angata Nanyiekie Ward Member of County Assembly Samburu. The bandits have attempted to attack security team in the field by spraying live bullets on them. Women and girls have not been spared by the bandits! We have received reports of abduction as well as abuse of the innocent women and young girls. Indeed, humanity is slowly

but surely losing its meaning in a country whose Constitution guarantees the right to life among other rights. This is unacceptable and therefore, we call upon the political leadership in the affected regions to take charge of their counties and convene as soon as possible to stop these criminal attacks. Indeed, no amount of sorry can console the bereaved families.

As the conscience of the nation, we are actively monitoring and assessing the prevailing conditions while condemning conflicts that have escalated not only in the North Rift and Samburu Counties, but also other parts of the country that include Narok- Transmara West, Kisumu-Kericho border, Lamu, Mandera and Kwale counties despite the heavy deployment of security officers. Two people including a minor have been killed in a fresh bandit attack in the insecurity prone Baringo County. Five schools have also been closed and residents have fled with their on-going school children due to the constant attacks.

Since the beginning of the year 2024, 12 people have lost their lives through attacks by armed criminals in the restive Baringo North and Baringo South. This is unacceptable trajectory and we reiterate our stand that no life is worth losing. We call for swift and decisive actions to address these criminal activities, protect innocent lives, and uphold the rule of law. If left unattended these will definitely spread to other vulnerable counties.

We urge the various political leaders both at the National and County Governments to quickly tame these attacks. We also call upon the security

teams on the ground to consider dialogue with communities so as to arrest the perpetrators of the horrific scenes we are witnessing in Kenya.

Dear Kenyans we have just come out of prolonged droughts and are now experiencing heavy rains that have definitely affected the livelihoods of Kenyans on top of the persistent banditry attacks. This has continuously derailed the efforts of the government as well as other peace actors in affected counties. As a Commission, we commit to continue working closely with various stakeholders to restore peace in the regions, as we call upon the bandits to abandon this retrogressive way of handling conflicts and stop abusing the rights of other human beings. Gone are the days of regressive cultural practices. Banditry is a criminal act and the perpetrators should face the full wrath of law.

In conclusion, we encourage all Kenyans to embrace the principles of peace, dialogue, tolerance, and equity. We are confident that, collectively, businesses and individuals can play a transformative role in shaping a future where Kenya thrives as a peaceful, united and cohesive nation.



**Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, CBS**

**Chairman, NCIC**

29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024