

SMSA Africa– Kenya – April 2017--Report 1

Gaza Killing

Video of police shooting an alleged gang member in Eastleigh spread like wildfire. The response to incidents of police violence is usually one of outrage, unless the victim is a criminal. The responses were also predictably partisan, pro- and anti-state activists, held their usual positions. They also revealed that those more likely to encounter the thugs were less sympathetic to the plight of the young man. Those who cheered on the actions of the policeman painted those who were horrified as 'activists' who received donor money.

Kenya Police crack unit, #FlyingSquad, against members of a local gang called Gaza. Many in Facebook comments support the cops (RobertAlai, 2017)

NAIROBI POLICE Commander Japheth Koome dismisses viral video depicting an alleged extrajudicial killing in Eastleigh, says it was 'acted' (TheStarBreaking, 2017)

IPOA launches investigations into the alleged extra-judicial incident in eastleigh on 31st March, 2017. Please see attached statement. ^DD (IPOA_KE, 2017)



Ref. No. IPOA/CEO/PRESS/19 (25)

1 APRIL, 2017

IPOA LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED EXTRA JUDICIAL INCIDENT IN EASTLEIGH

IPOA has noted from social media reports of an incident in which two suspects were allegedly summarily executed by persons said to be police officers on Friday 31st March, 2017 in Eastleigh area in Nairobi.

Upon becoming aware of the incident, through its own motion and in execution of its mandate under Section 5(a, b and c) of the IPOA Act that provides for holding the Police accountable to the public in the performance of their functions; gives effect to the provision of Article 244 of the Constitution that the Police shall strive for the highest standards of professionalism and discipline among its members; shall promote and practice transparency and accountability; shall comply with constitutional standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms; shall train staff to the highest possible standards of competence and integrity and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and dignity; and shall foster and promote relationships with the broader society, IPOA this morning dispatched its Rapid Response Unit to investigate the incident with a view of establishing circumstances of the shooting and if there is culpability ensuring those responsible face the full force of the law.

Upon conclusion, the Authority will make recommendations and forward the investigation file to the ODPF for his attention.

DENNIS DANSON OKETCH
Head, Communications and Outreach Department

END

https://twitter.com/IPOA_KE/status/848129234677706756

Stop wasting the taxpayers money and investigate that which needs investigations. This is justice served and CASE CLOSED!! (B_sktuash, 2017)

----On this one we're behind the police. This gugs needs to be killed in public, pale uhuru park tukiona! [In Uhuru Park, while we watch] (EWambua, 2017)

----I was hijacked by this gangs at gun point. I pleaded with them to live me alive. Let police do there(sic) work (EWambua, 2017)

----On this one I stand with the police. Residents in Embakasi upto Eastleigh have been suffering under these thugs. Kudos to Kilo Papa good job (ZaRealPablo, 2017)

----IPOA start by investigating traffic police who collect bribes in Nakuru nairobi highway next to hyrax hill...hio ndio [that is the] real social evil (Frankayub, 2017)

----The system is broken & needs proper mending. I have been robbed at gun point in Eastleigh trust me it's the most scary thing on earth (BoniMuthoni, 2017)

The question is not if the kids in #Eastleigh were guilty, it's what stops the same policeman from executing you or your child ? (SamGichuru, 2017)

---get out of your high pedestal,I pray you one day encounter these trigger happy kids then we can exchange notes (TekeMonday, 2017)

If you decide to live by the gun killing us, I don't see why our taxes should again be used to feed you in jail as you sleep all day (GicheruGicheru, 2017)

Extrajudicial killings ni wewe. Thugs and MRC used to terrorize mombasa residents until Marwa happened. Walikula risasi tukapata Amani [They got the gun and we got peace] (Masaku_, 2017)

I really would urge you to do some reading if you think Kenyan pollce do not kill innocent people. (Gathara, 2017)

---We are talking about today's incident,you're just trying to divert attention to other issues...have you ever been a victim of violent crime? (Nyaki_EN, 2017)

The "hero" Eastleigh #KillerCop is just another Kenyan extortionist thug with a gun (WanjikuRevolt, 2017)

----The so called"activists" want the cop to be guilty so damn bad (JKamasch, 2017)

---@IPOA_Kewhat if they killed a cop, any way donors pay you for such (Githua751, 2017)



Tracy Wairimu

I came from rave one night with some friends and we decided to pass through Eastleigh since we knew we could find well cooked pilau. Andrew our friend was driving and he stopped at one of the restaurants near Marie Stoppes clinic. We could see him enter hotel and when he was coming out, there he met these gaza boys who demanded for his phone and money. He gave them all plus food. Since we were 3 girls only, we feared coming out. After they took all that he had, one of them shot him on the head as we watched and they laughed. They did not even run.they just walked. We could hear Andrew saying "why why why" as he bled to death. That was the most horrifying thing i ever saw in my life. Andrew died a painful death even after giving out everything without resisting. The police officer who shot the guy jana i wish i married u. Good job. Thanx for giving Andrew justice.

<https://www.facebook.com/PopcornMovement/photos/a.316940048414413.68665.315697418538676/1148541771920899/?type=3&theater>

It turns out that the Pangani 9 squad were well known in the area and had committed similar acts in the past and cheered on by residents.

In march:

PANGANI 9 special police squad shoot dead a wanted armed mpesa serial thief in Kamkunji. A stray bullet also killed a dog (Suemc_phee, 2017)

----So you know about Pangani 9?? (JarvisNguyo, 2017)

Pangani 9 Special Police Squad shoot dead a gunman who was behind a series of Mpesa robberies in Eastleigh , In the shootout thug ran into bushes but the fearless Cops followed him nevertheless, a stray bullet hit a dog .The Pangani 9 is doing a commendable task to ensure Kamakunji residents are safe and secured, They have thwarted a large number of robberies and today Kamakunji is largely safe due to them (Mpwanihalisnews, 2017)

pangani 9 and kayole 8 those officers wanafaa kupongezwa kabisa [deserve praise]... (AntoneyOgallo, 2017)

A picture of the undercover policeman allegedly behind the shooting in Eastleigh was released, much to the chagrin of those who support his actions. When other gang members seemed to threaten his life, those threats were shared on social media.

Here is the cop that killed two youths yesterday in Eastleigh in broad day light. The cop's name is Ahmed Rashid (InsecurityKE, 2016)

Meantime back at Eastleigh 7 th Street Threats galore @NatashaMurigu (Suemc_phee, 2017)



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1223005254414722&set=pcb.1223005337748047&type=3&theater>

Soon after, other reports of gang members being killed by police and mobs appeared to increase in prominence.

Vikundi haramu vya wakali kwanza na wakali wao wamempoteza jamaa wao sugu ambaye baada ya kuibia akina mama asubuhi leo, amejaribu kuwanyang'anya maafisa wa usalama bunduki alipokamatwa muda mfupi uliopita. Kioja kilipoendelea, mtukutu huyo aliwajeruhi maafisa wawili ambao hawakuwa na lingine ila kujilinda. Mkali huyo alimalizwa ukali alipolishwa risasi tatu ya moja kichwani na mawili kifuani.#HeshimuSerikali

[Illegal gangs, Wakali Kwanza and Wakali Wao have lost one of their hard core youths, who after robbing some women this morning, tried to take a gun from security agents when he was arrested a little while ago. At that event, the delinquent wounded two officers who had no choice but to protect themselves. The fearsome rogue was ended with three shots; one in his head and two in his chest] (Philemon Kipkoech Kandie, 2017)

#CRIME Wakali Kwanza Gang Member Killed by Irate Mob in Likoni (CTNSIS, 2017)

Amnesty International arranged to have a Twitter dialogue on the issue of what they saw as public support for executions. As far as social media conversations go, it not that “well attended”. Those who did participate also leaned towards a perspective that interpreted the execution as justice. There was an underlying narrative that the judicial system was incapable of taming the threat posed by these gangs.

Why is #ExecutionKE gaining acceptance in the country? Let's engage today on Twitter from 11am (AmnestyEARO, 2017)

----Interested in seeking an end to #ExecutionKE without making the police impotent when faced with armed criminals @SIDKDP (Mohi101, 2017)

----When the criminals rob, kill, we don't see activists, when the police try to clean the criminals, we condemn #ExecutionKE (RonaldRatemo4, 2017)

The unvarnished police perspective was available at Digital Kenya Corps. The support from the public was good for morale.

We shall not relent. No stone will remain unturned. Vijana waokoke ama waume pamba [The youths should embrace salvation or bite cotton (euphemism for death—orifices of corpses are often filled with cotton)] (Evans Osore, 2017)

For the first time Kenyans stands with the police on what happened in Eastleigh, those boys are bad early last month they terminated someone's life my eyesight despite me pleading with them not to do so, let the police do so and they work on intelligence and as per now they have a whole list of those criminals, in a month's time watapunguzwa (they will decrease)... I'm feeling Motivated (Digital Kenya Corps, 2017)

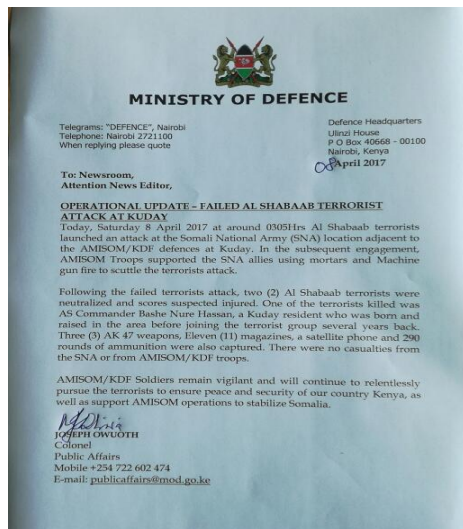
I highly condemn the heinous murder committed by police officers on the would be gang members of Eastleigh. Two wrongs never make a right and no one is above the law. The reason employed by fanatics to justify the cold blooded murder of the crime suspects does not hold water. Police officers are not above the law, theirs is to arrest and prosecute and let the courts decide the fate of criminals... What are jails for if you are going to engage in extra judicial killings?? What if it's a case of mistaken identity would you bring back the life you have taken away. Heshimu maisha [Respect life] (Justin Maina, 2017)

----Nani tunasema wezi wauwawe [Who? We say criminals should be killed]..OK?... In your court they are given bonds and bails ..they get out with a mission ..vengeance... Retribution can never be attained once the victim is removed from the equation... (Ikoni Mwalo, 2017)

----Justin Maina wait until you get robbed at gun point by those boys you are busy supporting it's either you don't know what you are talking about or you are one of them (Diana Mitchell Dee, 2017)

Al Shabaab Updates

The Ministry of Defence has been more prolific with respect to updates on the operation in Somalia. The general response is positive, the public often then asks for photographic evidence.



<https://twitter.com/kdfinfo/status/850673097258803201>

#OpsUpdate Somali National Security Forces supported by #KDF under @amisomsomalia killed Al Shabaab Commander Bashe Nure Hassan in Kuday (Kdfinfo, 2017)

For more details and graphic images CTNSIS is the best source. The public seemed to appreciate these updates and the opportunity to express their support (or lack of it thereof):

#BREAKING KDF Support SNA with Mortar and Machine Gun Fire, Kill Several Al-Shabaab Combatants alongside Two Commanders in Kuday (Check Photos) (CTNSIS, 2017)

----Media, why not talking good about KDF, now you are silent why? (Laban Davis, (2017)

----now why arent i hearing our media and the so called civil society groups advocating for our KDF warriors to exit from Somalia?? our military is highly professional, well trained and equiped to deal with terrorism and bring peace both in Kenya and Somalia (Jimmy Macharia, 2017)

----Wacha kupiga kifua hapa [quit your chest thumping]. if they are not winning hearts and minds in somalia then ultimately they failed the mission (Bishop V. Vincent, 2017)

Pastoralist Wars Update

The case against the MP arrested after the killing of the rancher in Laikipia was dropped due to lack of evidence. He had essentially been charged because he is the area MP but proving culpability was going to be tough from the beginning. I assume it was a symbolic measure. If anything Pokot leaders, e.g. Prof. Lonyangapuo, seem like better candidates for prosecution.

COURT DROPS case against Laikipia MP Mathew Lempurkel 4murder of Tristan Voorspuy after police say no evidence linking him to crime (Suemc_phee, 2017)

myself didn't see any substance in that case. let Lempurkel campaign in peace (Ben_bitok, 2017)

The situation remains volatile with police taking casualties in Operation Dumisha Amani. The vitriol levelled at Pokots after the attacks had one commenter on Digital Kenya Corps-COPS challenging the blanket denunciation of an entire community, given that it allowed for

particularly harsh retaliation. It seems that the current Kenyan appetite for retaliation is rather high.

Police accused of torching homes in Baringo. Tiaty residents claim police burnt down 39 houses #MondaySpecialKE (Citizentvkenya, 2017)

R.I.P PC Odeki. He was shot dead during exchange of fire by suspected pokot raiders in laikipia.. #Pokots, be assured that we won't forget, relent, nor surrender till we revenge this loss! (Digital Kenya Corps, 2017)

Police intensify operation in Chemorogion, Baringo South after 2 officers are ambushed and injured by bandits while patrolling the area (KibisuMulanda, 2017)

RIP sir! Fellow Kenyans it's high time we leave these offensive remarks against the Pokot community. Those who killed our officer are not the whole community, they are goons and criminals and not a community. The goons are synonymous to Mungiki and not Kikuyu community, same to robbers in towns. Any officer who has been to West Pokot county can attest actually that the Pokot are peace loving citizens. (Philip Depay Korcholia, 2017)

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