

SMA Africa Report 1 – Kenya – January 2017

Zero Tolerance

A recent gazette notice listed gangs involved in organised crime, and declared them illegal i.e. the mere act of belonging to said group is illegal, whether or not you participate in whatever capers they get up to. A similar fate befell the Mungiki and the MRC, which translated into ‘open season’ on members.

Government declares 90 groups operating in the country as organized criminal gangs, issues gazette notice outlawing them (Chamgeifm1, 2016)

GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 10690 THE PREVENTION OF ORGANIZED CRIMES ACT (No. 6 of 2010) DECLARATION IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 22 (1) of the Prevention of Organized Crimes Act, 2010, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Co-ordination of National Government hereby, on the advice of the Inspector-General of National Police Service, declares the groups specified in the Schedule hereto to be organized criminal groups for the purposes of the Act.		A GAZETTE 30th December, 2016	
SCHEDULE			
42 brothers	Mafuguli Gogo Team	Gaza Boys	Timboni Mateja
Acrobatic	Marachi Republican Council	Gaza strip	Vietnam
Akapulo	Masaa soo	Islamic State	Vijana wa Labour
Akili za Usiku	Masenari	Jikoni Boys	Vijiweni Boys
American marines	Matakwei	Jimba Lords	Wajukuu wa Bibi
Bad men	Mawaiyo	Kabaridi	Wakali Kwanza
Baragot Boys	Mayakuza	KaduAsili Networks	Wakali Pili
Beasts	Memory/Mbele yao Gang	Kaganalau	Wakali Wao
Black Latino	Mkuki	Karanja road Usalama Youth	Wasasi
Bongo Rongo	Mossad	Group	Watalia
Boston Boys	Ngundu River Boys	Kasumburu Cool Base	Watoto wa Kambete
Bulanda Boys	Nzoia Railway Gang	Kawangware Boys	Ya Moto
Chap Hale	Quick Response Group	KendaKenda	Young Killers
Chifu Kali	Rambo Kanambo	Kisoda Crew	Young Mulas
Chimoi Highway Gang	Rangers FC	Lipa Kwanza	Young Turks
China Squad	Rounder seniors		
Chini ya Mnazi	Sanfit		
Chunga Chunga	Sarogeza		
Colombo	Seven Lions		
Confirm Group	Sikujini		
Cool Base	Sixty Four		
Corner Stars	Smart		
Culture Boys	Smarter		
Egypt Boys	Spanish Boys		
Eleven Crazy (Mjt Mkubwa)	Super power		
Elite	SWAT		
Eminants of mungiki	Taliban Boys		
Five Fingers	Tek Mateko		
G 15	Temeke		
Gaza	Tiacha Group		

Source: <https://twitter.com/Chamgeifm1/status/814853253364072450>

Some on the list are reputed to have used social media to boast about their exploits. My attempts to find traces of their social media existence bore no fruit, although they have generated awed discussions around their activities.

The Killer Gangs operating in Kisumu are spreading their tentacles all the way to Maseno University (Teeaitteou, 2016)

---- Which killer gangs? Maseno University (GrayMarwa, 2016)

---- @GrayMarwa If you think Nairobi is not safe, try the 42 brothers in Kisumu (Teeaitteou, 2016)

After what I presume was a police raid where a number of gang-linked individuals died, popular musician Juliani posted a message of regret which was met primarily with the opposite sentiment. Juliani ended up having to defend what was interpreted as sympathy for irredeemable delinquents.

Am not defending bro, Am just saying 22 young guys in two days. Ina hurt [it hurts]. I don't blame the cops either but we shouldn't be comfortable (JulianiKenya, 2016)

----@JulianiKenya @ImperfectShi Eradicate poverty...but please..lets not defend these kids for their ruthless acts...(SirAlexas, 2016)

----@JulianiKenya @SirAlexas the short term solution to the cops is eradicating the menace, getting them out of the society. ½ (JICHODaDOG, 2016)

----@JulianiKenya @SirAlexas 2/2 case in point the Gaza Gang from Kayole, these teenagers were not okay in the head. It was deeper than poverty. (JICHODaDOG, 2016)

----@JulianiKenya @SirAlexas they wanted to create the Kingston Jamaica they see in music videos in Kayole. They wanted to be lawless. (JICHODaDOG, 2016)

In general, crime alerts continue to be a large proportion of security related social media content. A steady stream of news about armed robberies, pick-pockets, kidnappings, carjacking, etc. is readily available.

14 killed in robbery incidents in Nairobi since December 25 (_hozint, 2016)

1 thug shot dead in botched robbery in Kariobangi, Nairobi as 2 others escape; a pistol and mobile phones recovered (Suemc_phee, 2017)

The attitude expressed after such reports is that criminals deserve whatever comes to them. Only the 'innocent victim' elicits compassion when they fall afoul of the police. Kenyans are hard-bitten when it comes to crime.

A trending tag, #ShauriMoyoPolice that alleged that residents of Eastleigh, ethnic Somalis in particular, were targeted by police for bribes generated similar testimonies and commiserations from the inhabitants of Twitter. These are clear victims.

Eastleigh residents are fed up by the actions of the police from #ShauriMoyoPolice Station who arbitrarily arrest them and harass them (InsecurityKE, 2017)

Who's eating all the bribes paid every night at #ShauriMoyoPolice? Pple of Somali community are coughing up to 10k when arrested (InteriorKE, 2017)

Shauri moyo station cases 1. Hawo muhumad was arrested on 31/12/2016 at around 5pm paid ksh 20k #ShauriMoyoPolice @asmali77 (InsecurityKE, 2017)

The work of policemen is protect the citizens of Kenya, not harass them. #ShauriMoyoPolice are harassing residents of eastleigh which is bad (Theinitiativeke,(2017)

When a woman posted a video of herself having an altercation with a policewoman during a traffic stop in Kericho, she may have expected to stimulate public indignation over police harassment. While she did receive this response from some quarters, another significant segment deemed her own behaviour inappropriate and thus, deserving of whatever treatment was meted on her. It seems that citizens are expected by their fellows to exhibit pristine behaviour. This suggests that even though the public seems primed to have an anti-police bias, what they are is anti-crime, where police crime is an

abhorrent variety of a broader issue. They respond on a case-by-case basis, making individual, yet seemingly collective judgements and your behaviour had better be beyond reproach if you expect support.

This happened to me today. #PoliceBrutality (Marieobara, 2017)

---- @marieobara so sorry you had to go through that...thats complete violation of your rights (Leah_Luseno, 2017)

---- @marieobara @solo_ambuku Don't resisit the arrest first next time. Otherwise there is a way you can make a difference (Mwemaonesmus, 2017)

---- @marieobara you were resisting arrest , lucky you were not shot. Respect police , if not then u would not have seen 2017. #policebrutality (Kundgwen, 2017)

The immediate, official police response was to announce the launch of an inquiry. Given the usual tenor of past outcry, they may have been surprised by the amount of support that they received:

ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF A FEMALE MOTORIST BY A FEMALE POLICE OFFICER. The attention of the Nation Police Service has been drawn to a Social Media clip showing a lady motorist in a scuffle with a female Police Officer. The matter is under investigation and whoever will be found to have breached the law, whether the motorist or the officer, will be held to account. Kinoti G (AIG) For: INSPECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE (Nationalpoliceke, 2017)

----That is great assurance, good work,sir (Joab Mwanza, 2017)

----[T]He officer has clearly breached the law, that's not how to handle speeding motorists...its sad how some few people tarnish the uniform (Joao O. John, 2017)

----There was no harassment in that video clip. Kenyans should not exaggerate small issues. Let the officers do their work. It's even possible the motorist to be drunk (Haikal M Abdow, 2017)

----I stand with the police woman, some Kenya are very rude and arrogant to police officers, a good example is that case on hand (Richard Obwoye, 2017)

----@NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet it's sad u have let social media to bully u to act. The lady was rude to ur officer n reasonable force used (LennyMaweu, 2017)

----@NPSOfficial_KE Most cops don't know how to lawfully arrest, but resistance must never be encouraged, raise the harassment with the courts (Notribal, 2017)

Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS let us in on how IG Boinnet felt about the matter in what seemed to be an internal message:

FROM IG ((It's important for all commanders that whenever they speak to the press following any outcry about alleged misconduct of any officer, remain balanced and not biased against our officer(s) in favour of the civilian. Not unless the available evidence is irrefutable. This is especially in cases involving social media postings that could be edited hence failing to give the true picture of the material incident and wrongly depicting the officer as the offending party. Let's be mindful of the welfare and morale of the majority of our officers, who always do a good job despite the difficult circumstances. Deal firmly with the wrongdoers)) (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Twitter Cachet

The story of Fatuo Hassan's plight at the hands of Karen police (and his neighbour) spread far and wide. This may be because Hassan's circle has social media cachet especially within the social justice realm. This endorsement also circumvented any circumspection of his own behaviour:

Woke up to this post by my dearest friend @FatuoHassan #Kenya's finest makeup artist. Unacceptable!!! @bonifacemwangi @Johngithongo (Ngeleali, 2017)



----Big shame @NPSOfficial_KE! @FatuoHassan should report the matter to @IPOA_KE (Bonifacemwangi, 2017)

----Agreed @GacheneK Usipotea moyo @FatuoHassan Individual officers do not define citizenship, our constitution does. If violated, seek redress (Irunguhoughton, 2017)

----@irunguhoughton @GacheneK @FatuoHassan @ngeleali @bonifacemwangi @NPSOfficial_KE Thank you for the civic education. ^DD (IPOA_KE, 2017)

The sway of the social media personality cannot be overstated. Xtiandela a popular Twitter user, announced that he had been arrested for filming at Sarit Center. Perhaps, an ordinary person would have received the same scolding as the 'rude' woman in Kericho: 1) Sarit Center is a mall, after Westagte filming in a mall is asking for trouble and 2) one generally needs a permit to film in Nairobi because the law is quite vague. After his announcement invoked the wrath of his followers, he found it necessary to absolve the government of wrongdoing. He is thought to blog for the opposition and his followers attributed his arrest to his political allegiances. His clarification revealed how much some view the country as being run as somewhat of a police state:

Just got arrested at Sarit Center because of Vlogging! (Xtiandela, 2017)

Point of Clarity: My arrest has nothing to do with CORD or JUBILEE. It's NOT a Political thing. The Govt actually helped me #FreeXtianDela (Xtiandela, 2017)

----@xtiandela am sure you have really irked the #Kot Anti-Govt brigade by absolving the gov't from ur arrest #FreeXtianDela #GainWithXtianDela (Bawse17, 2017)

----@xtiandela why are you flip flopping it's the Jubilee gov't who arrested you wacha uwoga [stop being a coward] bwana (JoshMwajassy, 2017)

----@xtiandela hehehe.. Maisha ni muhimu bwana. Umefanya vizuri kupost. I'm sure this dangerous regime threatened you. Don't worry. Kenyans know (EllyCliffelly, 2017)

----@xtiandela why are some people so,angry that the government wasnt involved.....glad that you are free (Watiri_tesh, 2017)

----PiusMuturi, (2017), @xtiandela taking pictures and video needs special permit, I knew this through @Benogola #FreeXtianDela

As this is an election year, such feeling is somewhat troubling.

KDF Remains Discreet

The anniversary of the battle at El Adde was this January. The official KDF account did not make a direct reference but posted a promotional video with the following caption:

Kdfinfo, (2017), #UlinziDaima [Eternal Protection] #NgaoYaTaifa [Nation's Shield]
#TukolmaraAngani [Solid in the Air] #OnTimeOnTarget #ThisIsKDF #WeAreKDF
#WeAreBecauseYouAre #KenyaArmy #KenyaAirForce #KenyaNavy KDF

Others were more explicit about their remembrance. Gathara who has long crusaded for more details regarding the attack reiterated his wish:

Today marks one year since the #ElAdde attack. No word from GoK/KDF on casualties, on troops taken captive or on high-level accountability (Gathara, 2017)

----@gathara Why fixation with NUMBERS. You don't handle National security the same way you do with FOOD security. Good you do Vikaragosi [emoticons] (iGICHUKIj, 2017)

----@gathara don't worry we are under no obligation to explain to you or whoever what happened,if families were briefed who r u @scheafferoo (Erickogi, 2017)

How many #KDF killed in El-Adde? 210 killed/captured - Survivor 180-200 killed - #Somalia Govt 150 killed, 11 captured - #UN #Kenya Govt ?? (Daudoo, 2017)

---- @daudoo @ahmednasirlaw what does it benefit you if the whole platoon paid the ultimate price? (Muteithiack, 2017)

Had they been paying attention to the social media accounts of Strategic Intelligence Services they might have received some closure. SIS posted a photograph with the accompanying message:

El-Adde KDF Heroes. Today we remember 86 gallant men, all our brothers, friends, & comrades who we had endured the training days with. Forever admiring your valor & courage (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----That video was Terrible and I wonder why you are still using their images - - in the name of remembrance? Are you going to bring them back? Don't you think you have done enough torture to us? So darn unethical (Kiomoro Mwangi Wanjiku 2017)

----I did know who this soldier on the pic was. But I know he was a Kenyan Soldier. Fighting for his country on foreign land. My eyes got tearly when i saw him dying. I took a moment of silence to celebrate him.He died a hero. They all died heroes. Wish their families understands that they did their best and their death was for a worthy cause. Rest to eternity corps. Simper fi (Steve Love, 2017)

----May they continue Resting In Peace but displaying the image of Maj Obwoye not a good idea. Pliz bare with us who know him very well (Morris Maurice Mu, 2017)

-----U mean it was true ooh my i thot it was acooked video i can't imagine this guy who died unbelievable death may the almighty God take care of him wherever he is. (Stano Barasa, 2017)

----Finally a figure we can work with. 86. What about the POWs held by Alshaabab in Somalia? (Daniel Waitere, 2017)

----so sad my husband was among them.i feel very devastated but all in all RIP my love (Josphine Wanyoike, 2017)

----You should not use this picture of fallen soldier,as you know the enemy used to make a video with it!nkt, (Kimly Kim, 2017)

For the most part the number went by almost unnoticed. Commenters were more concerned about the still photograph used in the remembrance message. Apparently it was taken from the footage of the battle that was released by Al Shabaab.

The official KDF account did share information about troops on their way back from Somalia.

#KDF @amisomsomalia Contingent V soldiers being briefed upon arrival @ JKIA from Kismayu.We are proud of the sacrifices you made in Somalia (Kdfinfo, 2017)

#KDF @amisomsomalia Contingent VI peacekeepers board a UN plane @ JKIA enroute to Kismayu.Our aim is safe, secure &stable Somalia.#WeAreKDF (Kdfinfo, 2017)

----Hey! @kdfinfo dont be bringing our soldiers quietly frm @amisomsomalia they're our heroes,nxt time i will line up to welcome them #weAreKdf (Lawrencecrispus, 2017)

The KDF continue to be very reserved in their communications, even as there is a hunger for information. Perhaps there is wisdom in remaining an enigma, familiarity breeds contempt.

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