

SMA Africa Report 1 – Kenya – October 2016

Police and People

Police often trump up charges in order to extort money, but most often they ask for bribes in order to allow people to escape from more inconvenient penalties. People often prefer to pay the ‘toll’ to avoid the rigmarole of paying fines or appearing in court the following day. Police are shamed for this behaviour, but the other party in the transaction does now receive the same censure. It is deemed logical to wish to avoid hefty fines and appearing at the courts in the wee hours of the morning. Bribing the police is wrong, but not as wrong as the police asking for and accepting the bribe.

@NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet a group of traffic officers around kca are illegally detaining people telling them they can let them go at 5pm (Matundura78, 2016)

----@matundura78 @NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet being detained for what? (JesseKenya, 2016)

----@JesseKenya for minor traffic violation (Matundura78, 2016)

----@matundura78. But when taken through judicial process, you are guaranteed a hefty fine. Where do we go? @gathara @NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet (SpryVoice, 2016)

----@SpryVoice @gathara @NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet incase not well treated by officers report to either @IPOA_KE or NPS internal affairs (Matundura78, 2016)

----It has become a toll station. @JBoinnet must be part of the problem. These are toll stations he must be aware about @NPSOfficial_KE @IPOA_KE (Mkamau07, 2016)

----Action of few officers, majority of officers do their work properly & we all must weed out the few bad ones (Matundura78, 2016)

----@matundura78 Agree. A majority @PoliceKE officers are diligent. But @JBoinnet is unable or unwilling to deal with rogue cops. Incompetence (Mkamau07, 2016)

----@mkamau07 @matundura78 I have experience & can testify that @PoliceKE @JBoinnet are really trying their best and are responsive (Ahmed Ibrahim Ali, 2016)

Aside from corruption, the police have also developed a reputation for arbitrary or extra judicial killing, particularly of powerless young men. In a televised debate, Boniface Mwangi, an activist for all seasons, challenged Police Spokesperson, Charles Owino on the issue, which then ignited a discussion on *Twitter*.

I'm not here to demonise the police. I want the police to serve us the way they serve Members of Parliament - @bonifacemwangi. #AMLiveNTV (Ntvkenya, 2016)

----@ntvkenya Didnt he say muchai and juma were killed by police? Forgive me but i dont recall them being poor (Mbayeye_, 2016)

RIGHT NOW LIVE @ntvkenya Police Spokesman Charles Owino clashing with activist @bonifacemwangi over 'police killings'. #AMLiveNTV (LinusKaikai, 2016)

#AMLiveNTV Police only execute the poor when they commit crime but protect the rich when they loot millions from Kenyans - Boniface Mwangi (Ntvkenya, 2016)

@ntvkenya Didnt he say muchai and juma were killed by police? Forgive me but i dont recall them being poor (Mbayeye_, 2016)

Most opinions on this, and almost any subject, are divided along partisan lines. This also correlates with tribal lines, but not neatly. The *Jicho Pevu* television show continues to produce programming that investigates the security services and generates a furore on social media. This time the programme was named *Kifo cha Mende* [Death of Cockroaches], alluding to the perception of the victims held by the powers-that-be. The tag-line wondered whether Kenyans could be certain of the safety “of their sons”.

The Police are now using the gun AGAINST the innocent and not FOR the citizens. It's no longer safe being around the cops #KifoChaMende (Muneneofficial, 2016)

The partisans interpreted the conversation thusly: the pro-ODM faction cheered on the reportage, they see the police as an extension of the Jubilee government. In previous weeks they (i.e. Robert Alai) had come up with a list of thirty-six social media influencers “the 36 bloggers”, who they identified as shills for Jubilee. They expected them to be the vanguard of the opposing perspective. Team Jubilee saw the programme as anti-government propaganda, thus also sharing the attitude that the police are an extension of the Jubilee government. They feel that anti-police killing sentiments give succour to the enemy—Al Shabaab. In their view, the police only kill out of necessity, and only ‘terrorists’ count among the dead.

How will the 36 Bloggers counter these #KifoChaMende facts tomorrow? Probably with another silly hashtag blaming Raila Odinga (Muneneofficial, 2016)

@MuneneOfficial @nyandiga001 they've started already using the photo of Moha and Raila and telling us to join the dots (Lavenda_, 2016)

It's so ironical for a media house like KTN to air, a documentary that Demonizes our Kenyan police and Sympathise TERRORISTS #KifoChaMende (Atanasi_, 2016)

----@atanasi_ Are you on the side of the people or the police? The Kenyan victims of these killings need someone to speak for them (Jumasteve, 2016)

----@atanasi_ And what makes them terrorists? (BEAYAHUS, 2016)

@johnallannamu and @MohaJichoPevu are ready to auction the country to terrorists under the guise of human rights. Shameful! #KifoChaMende (Hykic, 2016)

----It's not @KTNNews job to fight terrorism. I @MohaJichoPevu & @johnallannamu are keeping GOVT in check #KifoChaMende (BEAYAHUS, 2016)

Never seen Allan Namu or Mohammed Ali airing documentary that criminalises Radicalism in Kenya. They're worse than TERRORISTS #KifoChaMende (Atanasi_, 2016)

----I would i've believed what you said but then i remembered you are one of the 36 bloggers @atanasi_ (Travinchi_1, 2016)

----@atanasi_ that's bull crap, Police kill more innocent Kenyans than the terrorist yet we pay them to protect us (Khamadi_moses, 2016)

----@atanasi_ what is your definition of 'terrorist' and explain to us how you are not one (Phil_owe, 2016)

Being an Alshababa and ODM sympathizer, @MohaJichoPevu will always demonize our forces and sanitize terrorists, case in point #KifoChaMende (PolycarpHinga, 2016)

---@polycarphinga Facts are stubborn. Rogue cops exist. They are a law unto themselves. And they don't ask if your son is CORD or Jubilee (TerryGianna_, 2016)

"Media is really an awesome tool this ninjas investigate more than CID but we look as if it a movie for entertainment #KifoChaMende (Hamadiyussuf, 2016)

There are those who feel that the media should spare a moment for the good news. Social media gives them the opportunity to share their 'wins'.

Last couple of weeks has seen convictions in relation to corruption. The press is not giving the convictions prominence @ODPP_KE @EACCKenya (Matundura78, 2016)

---@matundura78 @ODPP_KE @EACCKenya just continue with your work till it causes 'alarm' in the right places. Media in Kenya never a partner (Disembe, 2016)

---@matundura78 @MarthaKarua @ODPP_KE @EACCKenya Our press is such a gone case. Keep posting, we are noticing the good work (Omuonyotieno, (2016)

Legislating speech

The ODPP is indeed increasing its success rate at prosecuting those in government and positions of power. They are yet to imprison the kind of 'big fish' that would draw big headlines but given Kenya's track record on (not) prosecuting 'elites', their baby steps are worth noting. For instance, the progress of their case against Moses Kuria, Jubilee mouthpiece and friend to Uhuru Kenyatta, for online hate speech is precedent setting---given his stature as well as the platform used.

Court rules that #MosesKuria has a case to answer over inciting facebook postings in 2014. Defence hearing Friday 7th #Hatespeech_ODPP (ODPP_KE, 2016)

The current showdown between Boniface Mwangi and Deputy President, William Ruto is another precedent setting situation. In this case, it is online libel rather than hate speech, and it pits the political stature of one against the people power of the other. Boniface Mwangi would not be who he is without his *Twitter* account. This time he used it to accuse the Deputy President of the murder of another popular *Twitter* personality—Jacob Juma.

I hope Deputy President has no plans of killing me the way he killed his old friend, Jacob Juma a fellow thief who became a whistle blower. (bonifacemwangi, 2016)

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Your Ref: Our Ref: **KK/GEN/DP/006/2016** Date: **30/09/2016**

Boniface Mwangi
Team Leader / Founder
Pawa254
Africa Alliance of YMCAs Building - 2nd floor
State House Crescent Road
Nairobi - Kenya
Dear Sir,

"Advanced Copy via Email"
boniface@pawa254.org

RE: LIBELOUS TWEET CONCERNING H.E. WILLIAM RUTO

We act for H.E. William Samoei Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya herein referred to as our client.

Our instructions are that on 28th September, 2016 through a social media platform (twitter) using your personal twitter handle with the name Boniface Mwangi (@bonifacemwangi) at 11:58am, posted the following defamatory words against our client:

"I hope Deputy President has no plans of killing me the way he killed his old friend, Jacob Juma a fellow thief who became a whistle blower."

Our instructions are that this tweet is false and malicious. The words in their ordinary and plain meaning are defamatory and they have severely injured our client's reputation. The defamatory words attracted 556 retweets and 476 likes as of today at 9:30 am 21 hours and 42 minutes after the tweet was posted as well as numerous comments from different people who now view our client as a murderer and a thief. His reputation as a national leader has been gravely undermined by the said tweet.

It is common knowledge that all digital activity is public and permanent. Once posted online a tweet is there forever. It receives a worldwide view and anyone who googles the said tweet can retrieve it. This leaves a permanent damage on our client's reputation as he has been exposed to shame, hatred, contempt, anguish and animosity. He has as a result been injured and continues to be injured in his political career.

Our instructions are therefore to demand, as we hereby do, your immediate publication of a suitable retraction, correction and apology, the same to be given a prominent coverage as the tweet complained of above.

kk.DP.def.BMwangi

I will not retract, correct, withdraw or apologize for the said tweet.
<https://www.facebook.com/BonifaceMwangiBM/posts/1312112745475287:0> ...
(bonifacemwangi, 2016)

My legal team led by @Gitobulmanyara have replied to the Deputy President's lawyer threat to sue. @MboyaApollo (Bonifacemwangi, 2016)

The case for libel seems clear, unless Mwangi can prove that Ruto killed Juma or had Juma killed, the case seems open and shut. However, the social media element means that the court of public opinion is also in session. Oddly, no one seems to dispute that Ruto can and is likely harm Mwangi, and they speak freely about the probability. Whether one thinks that this would be a troubling event breaks down according to the usual party lines:

@bonifacemwangi knows who killed @kabetes. Has the @ODPP_KE paid him a visit or perhaps the IG @Josephboinet interviewed him? #HaTukoPamoja [#IAmNotWithYou] (Mwemsjo, 2016)

@bonifacemwangi I wouldn't shed a tear if boni you are killed, you deserves it. (Kibuchimzito, 2016)

---- @mkibuchis_Mzito @bonifacemwangi @nyandiga001 thts y mount Kenya mafias wil rule UA brains n colonize u forever cz of UA cowardice (AmakanjiThomas, 2016)

@bonifacemwangi watch your back, there are names you don't mention @WilliamsRuto you may end up like JacobJuma. Kenya is not worth dying for. (Ndutagee, 2016)

Everyone thinks DP Ruto is untouchable but Boniface Mwangi thinks otherwise. No one should be untouchable, we should not normalise impunity (Nyandiga001, 2016)

----@nyandiga001 your name says it all, prosecuting on social media ain't assisting Kenyans, we fight corruption n murder in our courts (Pterkips, 2016)

----@pterkips sawa N'GETICH [Okay Ng'etich] (Ng'etich is an identifiably Kalenjin name— DP Ruto is Kalenjin) (Nyandiga001, 2016)

So Boniface Mwangi wants to die so that he can blame DP William Ruto like Jacob Juma? Can someone tell this boy their are no donors in the after life, ukikufa umekufa na unasahaulika tu

hivyo [when you die, you die and you are forgotten]. That boy has more guts than brains (Mithamo, 2016)

Will @WilliamsRuto sue @bonifacemwangi ? If Ruto cares for his presidency ambitions, I hope he leaves Mwangi alone...or else... (SokoAnalyst, 2016)

If you don't approve of Boniface Mwangi's ways of fighting impunity in Kenya come up with your own "nice ways" or sit down and be quiet! (OB8th, (2016)

Boniface mwangi this blogger weeeh!!...i like his way though... (DeejayGakuz, (2016)

How the defamation suit against Boniface Mwangi by Ruto could turn into a trial of Ruto himself (IFortknox, 2016)

Messaging for the military

The fifth anniversary of Kenya's military operation in Somalia, Operation Linda Nchi, was observed as KDF Day—a day of remembrance of fallen soldiers and expressing gratitude for their work. All the social media mouthpieces, both official and unofficial, relayed messages of support, which were echoed by the *wananchi*. There were also calls to bring the soldiers home.

A dedication to our @kdinfo Heroes & Heroines, Happy #KDFDay. Watch full video via this link (EpukaUgaidi, 2016)

On this #KDFDAY we honour and commemorate our fallen heroes and extend our gratitude to their families and Kenyans (Kdinfo, 2016)

The valor & courage of our men & women at @kdinfo are a shining example to the world. On this #KDFDay we owe them our deepest respect (CTNSIS, 2016)



Source: <https://twitter.com/CTNSIS/status/786885670807728128>

Today is MY Day. I celebrate my brothers and sisters who brave the rain, stay out all night and fight to their deaths. #KDFDay (PrivateMboya, 2016)

The terrain, rough. The days, long. The weather, terrible. But we do it with a smile #KDFDay (PrivateMboya, 2016)

S/o to all the gallant soldiers who have paid the ultimate price to make this country safe. My country. My life #KDFDay (PrivateMboya, 2016)

@kdinfo Hongera SANA wanajeshi wetu kwa kujitolea kutulinda. (BonnieMcCool2, 2016)

@kdinfo If they fell while in Somalia know that we shldnt have been there in the first place. #BringOurSoldiersBackHome (Agavament, 2016)

@ctnsis @kdinfo tunawashukuru sana kwa kuulinda nchi yetu tunayoipenda #kdfday (AminaOmar__1, 2016)

@Oleltumbi @InteriorKE Soldiers captured in the el adde attack living deplorably in Somalia. Stop the hypocrisy @UKenyatta #HappyKDFDay (OMAKOLuoch, 2016)

---Otieno, there is always that one time if not all the time that being grateful for what you have goes a long way. Today enjoy the #KDFDay (InteriorKE, 2016)

Today marks the 5th year since #Kenya #Defense #Forces went into #Somalia. #KDFDay (BarkhadKaariye, 2016)

Serikali ya Kenya haitaondoa majeshi yake nchini Somalia hadi pale vita dhidi ya adui vitakapokwisha #KDFDay #DiraYaWiki @zubeidahkananu [The government of Kenya will not remove its forces from Somalia until the fight against the enemy is over] (KTNNews, 2016)

@KTNNews @zubeidahkananu vita dhidi ya waadui haitawai isha [the fight against the enemy will never end] #plz bring our soldiers back like others did (Abdirah26213136,2016)

In the previous month, social media remembrances about the attack on the Westgate Mall had provided an opportunity to remind Kenyans of the rationale behind anti-terror efforts.

As we commemorate the 3rd anniversary of #WestgateMall, let's SALUTE the security officers who put their lives on line to save fellow Kenyans (EpukaUgaidi, 2016)

Today marks the 3rd Anniversary of the Westgate Attack that left at least 67 people dead. #RememberingWestgate

@K24Tv to the affected u are in our prayers, to the hero's who placed their lives at risk to rescue others we salute you #RememberingWestgate (IamKibe, 2016)

they were our sisters and brothers #rememberingwestgate (KapedoKadima, 2016)

#RememberingWestgate The surreal feel I first had when it re-opened has gone. Now back to the almost daily visits. Resilience against terror (MilcahC, 2016)

I haven't been back to Westgate. I don't know if I can. I keep wondering how the victims feel. Peace & Blessings to all #RememberingWestGate (ZawadiNyongo, 2016)

Amnesty, a CVE strategy?

The tenor of the official rhetoric against Al Shabaab is not as 'zero tolerance' as one might expect, given the reports of extra-judicial killing and forced disappearances. In fact, it has sought to promote the perspective of Al Shabaab recruits as opportunists rather than ideologues i.e. they join out of livelihood concerns. It is a perspective that leaves room for rehabilitation. Citizens are divided in their opinions.

Muslims are NOT Terrorists, Terrorists are Killers, Criminals Hiding behind the Religion: Kills other Muslims as well Terrorist Attack Targets Shia Muslim Worshipers in Afghanistan, 14 killed, 36 Wounded (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2016)

"The Govt has extended amnesty to Al Shabaab returnees" Coastal Regional Coordinator Nelson Marwa #EpukaUgaidi (EpukaUgaidi, 2016)

Kenya extends amnesty period for al-Shabaab recruits (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2016)

----That is the best thing the government has done but the government should also try to keep this boys busy I mean employment. ..NYS and monitor them (Kins Ibra, 2016)

----Nothing like that. How? Why? Sympathy or compromise? What a nonsense! Kill all of them (John Gituura, 2016)

----kill them...dont extend anything....be like His Majesty Shimon Peres who fought his enemies with vigour to establish a terrorists free states surrounded by more enemies., (Peter Muiruri, 2016)

----Well said brooh, may Peres rip , no enemy country can dare Israel. Let Kenya learn from Israel how to fight terrorism (Bren Almwegah Felipe, 2016)

----Is this good or bad, am confused! (Raymond Kariuki, 2016)

----Kenyans should remain patriotic to this nation no matter what! Alshababs and the likes are not soldiers but a crap of cowards always targeting innocent and unarmed people despite gender and age!! Its the most illiterate, uncouth and stupid organization of idiots !! (Roy Abuga, 2016)

Terror News

There was another attack on Mandera. A few weeks prior, Strategic Intelligence Services had reported a troop surge along the border on their website:

Kenya's Security Forces Countering Al-Shabaab Militancy in Mandera NEP (Strategic Intelligence Service (2016)

As reported by Governor Ali Roba, six people were killed.

We have suffered another Sad attack in MDR where six 6 have been confirmed killed one seriously injured. We grieve with our families (Aliiroba, 2016)

Thanks to the timely response by our security teams, 27 out of 33 occupants of a plot were saved unhurt. Sadly 6 lives are too many to lose (Aliiroba, 2016)

6 killed, 27 others rescued by police in an attack targeting non locals in Mandera near the Somali border security operation launched (Suemc_phee, 2016)

NIS officials have confirmed that they had shared intelligence on impending attack in #Mandera where 6 were killed (PatrickSafariR, 2016)

Perhaps, the intelligence had led to the deployment of troops and the quick response time; one can only speculate.

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