

## SMS Africa – Kenya – September 2015\_2

Over these last few weeks there has not been one security story that has prompted a broad discussion on social media. The news cycle and public concern has been dominated by the month long teacher's strike. The Ministry of the Interior was preoccupied with alleged 'hate speech' by an opposition MP, Johnstone Muthama who had alleged that Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru enjoyed special protection from President Uhuru, and did so in somewhat crude language. Updates on Operation Linda Boni and other security stories that previously made the headlines have dried up. During this 'down time', accounts associated with offices of the security apparatus offer bromides on security and safety. For example:

Good morning. As we police the nation, I urge all to remain vigilant and to work closely with police officers for a secure nation. ^JB (JBoinett, 2015).

This was an exhortation by the Inspector General of Police after a few days of social media silence.

This relative quiet has provided an opportunity to monitor accounts dedicated to security related matters on various platforms and gather a one-off reports that are representative of what typically appears on those feeds. In what can ultimately be interpreted as good news, infamous Chief Kariuki of Lanet Umoja, Nakuru North District continues to tweet mostly about lost and found items and offer life advice.

A black goat. If found call 0718444842. It got lost from Kangema (Chiefkariuki, 2015).

Your time is too valuable to go through life letting people control you and put you on a guilt trip. Take control of your happiness (Chiefkariuki, 2015).

Nairobi is much more perilous than Lanet Umoja. A robbery on Lusaka Road was reported on two monitored accounts. Crime Alert Kenya on *Facebook*:

Shell Petrol Station along Lusaka Rd has been attacked by five armed suspects with pistols. They have robbed the day's collection and some valuables from clients and staff. Apparently they had what looked like grenades and threatened to hurl them during the robbery (Hirani, 2015)

And on *Twitter* by Crime Watch Nairobi:

Shell Petrol Station along Lusaka Rd has been attacked by 5 armed suspects with pistols (Suemc\_phee, 2015)

Cont...They robbed t days collection and some valuables from clients and staff, they had what looked like grenades & threatened to hurl them (Suemc\_phee, 2015)

Other than reporting on incidents, users also warn each other about crime hotspots and criminal *modus operandi*.

Be careful as you drive through Waiyaki Way (near Kangemi Bridge). Last evening I saw some men preying on motorists who leave their cars unlocked. They were 3 men, positioned at different places. 2 moving around and one standing in one place. They noticed me looking at them and they pointed at me (as if to warn me). BE CAREFUL. Roll up your windows and lock your doors (Jumba, 2015)

This is in regard to a post about a gang on Waiyaki Way-same thugs are also targeting vehicles starting triangle market Westlands up to MP Shah turning between 4pm and 6pm their(sic) not afraid. What happened to anti mugging squad? I also encourage anyone to post such as this helps all coz we all have loved ones (Sumra, 2015)

Be weary(sic) of some big vehicles along the roads pretending 2 be concerned of ur car 'leakage' or 'tyre flat' they're robbers via @tobbymesso (Ma3Route, 2015)

Two armed boda boda thuggery incidences reported in Karen by the same crew. One arrested in Loresho. Investigation on going (Suemc\_phee, 2015)

If a motorcycle carrying like 3 men on it are riding close to your car. Just be cautious. Those are just robbers/carjackers (Ma3Route, 2015)

Passengers in a vehicle robbed at gunpoint by thugs on a motorbike at the university way round about at approximately 8.30 pm. No injuries reported. Matter reported to pps (Hirani, 2015)

With respect to security concerns related to the threat by Al-Shabaab, reports of incidences outside the capital and with few casualties are reported, but do not register much alarm.

Four Al-Shabaab suspects arrested at refugee camp in Dadaab, weapons recovered. A combined team of security officers over the weekend arrested the four and seized assorted arms in a sting operation. The officers seized three AK-47 rifles, 92 rounds of ammunitions, seven magazines, eight magazine pouches, four first aid kits, six mobile phones and over 200 mobile phone motherboards believed to be used in making improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (Hirani, 2015)

Reports of Explosion at Mandera customs office, Al Shabaab may have claimed responsibility. Casualties still unknown (Suemc\_phee, 2015)

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