

SMA Africa Report 2 – Kenya – September 2016

Social Media as a Public Service

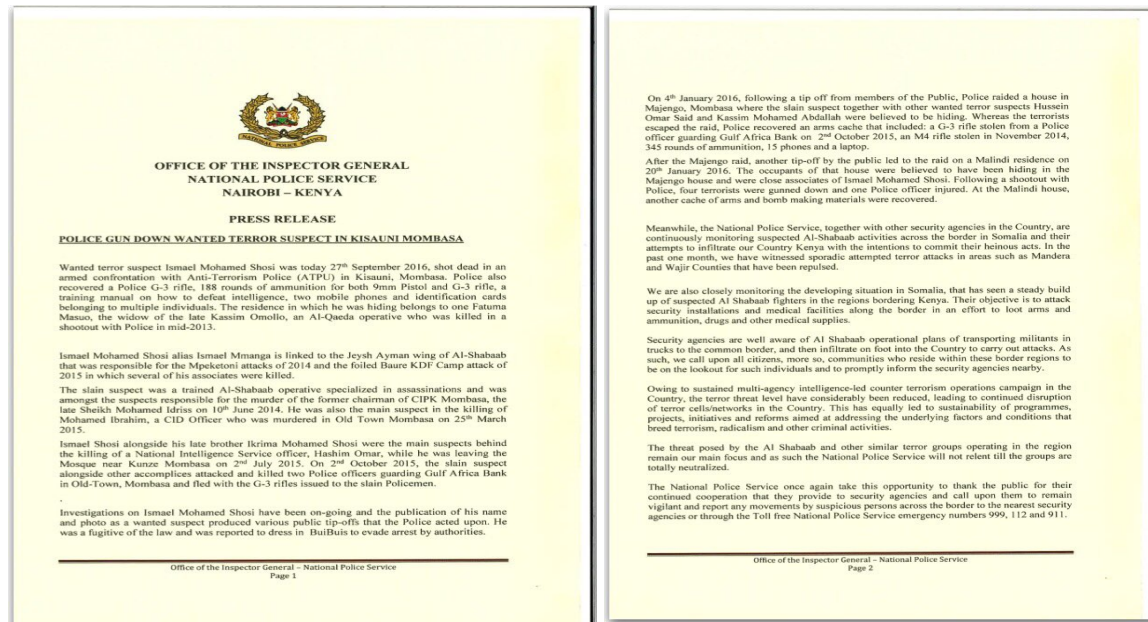
The police services' social media efforts were acknowledged with a nomination to win a SOMA Award for 'Most Social State Corporation Award'.

Vote for @PoliceKE for 2016 Soma awards. Your security is our priority! @NPSOfficial_KE
@JBoinnet @GenNkaisserry (InteriorKE, 2016)

In the coming years they should have stiff competition as the government's social media strategy appears to be expanding, and become more strategic, with certain accounts becoming specialised with respect to the topics that they take on. Gone are the days *when Operation Linda Nchi* was the only project that seemed to have a public information strategy. Take the 'Run, Hide, Fight' campaign that aims to prepare people for a prospective terrorist attack:

PUBLIC NOTICE: Run, Hide or Fight. Call 999, 112. This is part of Govt Public Service Awareness Messaging.
@NCTC_Kenya #SecureKE #RHF

Or the 'person of interest' posts which encourage the feeling that the public is an ally of the agencies:



Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/778901569718906880

SECURITY ALERT: Ramadhan is wanted in connection with the Baure <http://attack.info> on his whereabouts can be shared thro 999, 112 or SA (InteriorKE, 2016)

SECURITY ALERT: Fatuma is on the run & is wanted for hiding Ismael M. Shosi. She is the widow to late Kasim Omollo an Al-Qaeda operative (InteriorKE, 2016)

**MOST WANTED CRIMINAL
ARMED AND DANGEROUS
KSH 2 MILLION**



Fatuma Mohamed Musuo

CALL OR SMS IMMEDIATELY!
NPS HOTLINE: 020 - 219 91 51
NPS HQ HOTLINE: 0702 432 677 / 999 OR 112



We thank the public for their continued support in info sharing. Fugitive Shosi was killed in armed confrontation with police in Kisauni, Msa (InteriorKE, 2016)

Not all social media is created equal, it is evident that platform matters. CTNSIS's tweets barely receive any acknowledgement but their *Facebook* page is a hotbed of activity. The same message elicit different reactions on *Twitter* and *Facebook*—apathy on *Twitter* and outpourings of sentiment on *Facebook*.

DEAR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: Bruno Mars may catch a grenade for you, but we catch hundreds of them. Sincerely The Army. (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

To Our Military: Thank You For Your Service God be with you, and Protect your Families (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Many are times we don't get to know what these heroes go through or how hard they work to protect our country, yes it's a job but don't forget it's also a big sacrifice. GOD BLESS ALL of us serving our country (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

A strong military means peace and peace means prosperity. Watch the nitty gritty of the men who sacrifice their all to keep us safe. video courtesy of Take-2 Africa Media (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Facebook allows one to provide more information but does not have the same ability to fire up large groups that *Twitter* does. *Facebook* has a more leisurely feel, one can consume information at a more languid pace. *Twitter* is the embodiment of blink-and-you'll-miss-it.

The Deputy President has gone on record with the view that the government viewed social media as beneficial. Although, these comments elicited an ornery response from the KOT crowd:

We cannot imagine shutting down social media since it's a pillar of the transformative technological innovations of our time. #Ablikenya2016 (WilliamsRuto, 2016)

---@williamsruto We will still air our views through sites like <http://livescores.com> <http://goal.com>

---@WilliamsRuto you have no powers to shut down social media, Can't wait to see you kesho [tomorrow] tweeting "we cannot imagine taking away oxygen..."

A centre to control social media in 2017 is already being set up at Embakasi barracks (PatrickSafariR, 2016)

Providing more information does open up the opportunity for dialogue as well as critique:

Today, 22/3/2016 at about 00:15 hrs ,Hamey Police Camp,within Garrisa County was attacked by suspected Al Shabaab terrorists.

Over 50 terrorists attacked the Police patrol Base in two Landcruisers but the officers in the camp managed to repulse them amid fierce exchange of fire.

The attackers retreated and later returned in a bigger number in a lorry and fired 3 bombs into the camp destroying some tents thus forcing our officers to withdraw for cover.

Following subsequent reinforcement, all officers have been accounted for except two. One has been airlifted to Nairobi for specialized treatment after suffering gun shots.

Three were taken to Dadaab hospital with minor injuries. It was brave of our officers to have managed such a big number of heavily armed attackers.The operations to pursue the attackers is on going .

More information will follow as we monitor the operation.

Kinoti George (AIG)

NPS Spokesman

For: Inspector General

Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/780799223705010177

@NPSOfficial_KE Yaani they had time & foresight to retreat, reinforce & return for a 2nd assault but we did not even get back up from KDF? InteriorCNG Ministry @InteriorKE Sep 21 (Okolowaka, 2016)

War on Terror: Domestic

A good example of engaging with social media is no longer a choice but a necessity, is what has occurred in the aftermath of the September 11th, 2016 Mombasa police station incident. The entire story has become contested.

For some background, the Government of Kenya (GoK) has long held that there are Civil Society organisations a.k.a NGOs in Mombasa harbour terrorist sympathies. On the other hand, the NGO community has accused the government of using the war on terror as a cover for extra-judicial killings. Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), in particular, is vocal in its view that some individuals implicated by the government as terrorists are in fact innocent. With respect to the police station incident, MUHURI claims that the women that the GoK insists were conducting an attack on the station, were actually retroactively framed as terrorists and thus, killed either by mistake or for other reasons.

Why the hell would 3 girls attack a police station with a knife! People are not that stupid. The @MUHURIkenya story makes moooooore sense (Swahiligal, 2016)

Muhuri NGO Claims 3-Female ISIS Terrorists Killed in Mombasa were Innocent; A Ploy to Protect Al-Shabaab...(CTNSIS, 2016)

Apparently, a video later released by a ‘jihadists’ indicated that the aim of the women was indeed to attack the police station. [Recall from the previous report, there was information that one of the women was allegedly wearing a suicide vest that had failed to detonate].

#BREAKING Jihadists have published Mombasa Police Station attackers video. Video confirms female terrorists... (CTNSIS, 2016)

---- @CTNSIS alafu hapa @MUHURIkenya wanasema aje....? (Then what are @MUHURIkenya claiming here...? (SandeZack, 2016)

---- @SandeZack these @MUHURIkenya aren't clean (CTNSIS, 2016)

We call upon all sensible #Kenyans to join in this debate and decide for themselves. The state have clearly made its stand and said the three Girls shot at #CentralPoliceAttack were terrorist. Was that the true picture? This has now become a National debate and we have poked critical questions on this issue. We DEMAND answers and we will not sit back until the truth is said openly without canvassing anyone. Take a look at the video and connect to the statement given out by the police and measure the two... (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

---- Being a sensible Kenyan i'll join the debate and say that its clearly a fact that this women had ill motives when visiting the station however I feel that the police used excessive force to neutralize the ladies they were in a much better position of taking them to hospital and once healed seek intelligence from them to prevent future fatal attacks remember recently US arrested a terror suspect who detonated explosions and engaged the police in Gun fights the US did not kill him precisely because they want to milk him for info (Mwenda Macharia, 2016)

---- There is no difference between you and the terrorists. The lady dying is heard saying "you are Kafirs, run for your lives". Some people should be deported to mars. These terrorists are enemies to Muslims more than they are to Christians. Look at Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, Somalia etc. They are bombing mosques. (Amos Korir, 2016)

In the aftermath of the police station situation, other women, friends of the deceased, were arrested, let go for lack of evidence and then re-arrested.

3 Mombasa terror suspects released unconditionally for lack of evidence. @IPOA_KE should investigate rogue cops who frame innocent people. (Bonifacemwangi, 2016)

The truth Shall always set us free. After public humiliation and mere harassment by @PoliceKe, The Courts in Mombasa, Kenya today unconditional acquitted three young girls linked with #CentralPoliceAttack. Soon and very soon we shall know what really transpired (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

There is little doubt that MUHURI is an NGO. Its social media accounts demonstrate a variety of programs and engagement with a variety of actors, including the state.

#Ongoing..Malindi sub county court users committee paralegal training at Rafiki Hotel Malindi..Among those present are the Probation Department, Kenya Prisons, Malindi Children remand, Pope Francis Rescue Home, Child Protection Centre, Catholic Justice Peace Commission, Omari project ,Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission and the Civil Society representative (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

MUHURI currently sits in the National Child Rights and protection Platform where this week had national stakeholders workshop at Kenya Institute of Curriculum Nairobi, Kenya. This workshop brought together many practitioners in this field including The Judiciary, Parents and Teachers Unions and the CSO's. A national Child Care and Protection programme was Launched where later next it will be shared in all the Counties for proper operations. (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

They are also on record for denouncing acts of terror and attacks on police stations, elsewhere.

The threat to terrorism is real, as an organization we condemn in the strongest words possible the attack on a police station in Garissa on Thursday (22nd Sept, 2016) allegedly by Alshabab led militias. Our condolences goes to the families and friends of the bereaved men in uniform as we pray for a quick recovery to the injured ones. No amount of intimidation and/ or threat is going to break us as a Nation, our unity and perseverance to challenges will always rise us above our enemies. We hope the search for the missing police officers bare fruits and those who found to be involved in this heinous act are brought to justice through our strong instruments in the judiciary. May we dwell in unity, peace and liberty. (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

This situation illustrates the danger of a ‘simple’ story. The temptation is to create a cast of players that embody simple characterisations. Head of the counter terrorism unit and the CVE program, Martin Kimani defines a terrorist as:

Terrorist: a deliberately programmed individual progressively socialized into hatred, and triggered into cruel violence & self destruction (AmbMKimani, 2016)

It is not inconceivable that MUHURI can be an NGO, and have sympathies for actors that they view as an oppressed resistance (rather than terrorist) group.

#BreakingNews: We have received disturbing information that widow to the late #SamirKhan (extra judicially Killed in 2012) has been arrested at her house in #KwaleCounty this afternoon and is being detained at UKUNDA Police station for questioning. #TeamMUHURI is on the ground collecting information and we will keep you posted. (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

Further, the government can both be right about the activities of these individuals and heavy-handed and paranoid in its response—doing the best it knows how, while simultaneously failing to act within the human rights rubric. At the end of the day, right and wrong are predicated on whose standards of morality are in effect.

Even if we are termed as the voice of minorities, we will surely have our say. As usual we will not relent in demystifying the narrative of countering violence extremism and pointing out the gaps as they are. (Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), 2016)

One commenter on MUHURI's *Facebook* page writes:

I come to believe that you'r not like those who preaching peace while hiding there (sic) pangas [machetes] (Mwafumbiri Bakari, 2016)

Thus, letting us in on the fact that there are those who do, and that they are not easily identified.

War on Terror: Abroad

The increase in information also applies to Kenya's activities in Somalia. While the @kdfinfo account continues to generate mundane, staid information about KDF activities (in fact, one would not know that they were at war based off of that account) other mouthpieces have increased the amount of information that they generate. This suggests to me that there are rules about what the KDF can report, and they may be able to circumvent those rules by having other organisations say it for them. Obviously, this would need official confirmation but perhaps even that is not possible.

Strategic Intelligence Services (CTNSIS on *Twitter*), continues to be the best source for KDF-Somalia news. So much so, that they are easily mistaken as the government agency.

KDF Airstrike Killed 18 Al-Shabaab Terrorists & Destroyed 2 Technical Vehicles in South-Western Somalia... <http://fb.me/5BLvJEZsk> (CTNSIS, 2016)

KDF has done a commendable job in Somalia", residents say. "Al Shabaab have no good intentions for Somalia, they have no humanity and have misinterpreted the Holy Qur'an", said Sheikh Mohammud Warsame. (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

----What is the difference between your Government and al-Shabaab, they BOTH kill innocent Somalis (Ahmed Ibrahim Ali, 2016)

One cannot be blamed for the confusion given the framing of the messages that they put out:

DEAR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: Bruno Mars may catch a grenade for you, but we catch hundreds of them. Sincerely The Army. (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

To Our Military: Thank You For Your Service God be with you, and Protect your Families (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

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@SandeZack these @MUHURIkenya aren't clean (CTNSIS, 2016)

A look at the other information that they provide, shows an interest and knowledge of all the global theatres of the war against terror. Incidentally, one of the debates that they frequently get into with their Kenyan followers on *Facebook* is on whether the PKK is a terrorist organisation. *Strategic Intelligence Services* thinks so, while Kenyans tend to disagree.

Message from Al Shabaab

Just as Kenya has a mouthpiece in CTNSIS, Al Shabaab has its new outlets. I prefer to avoid them as I do not want to end up on a watchlist, so it was with some trepidation that I followed Daudoo who seemed to have a lot of information about a video released by Al Shabaab that showed a POW from El Wak.

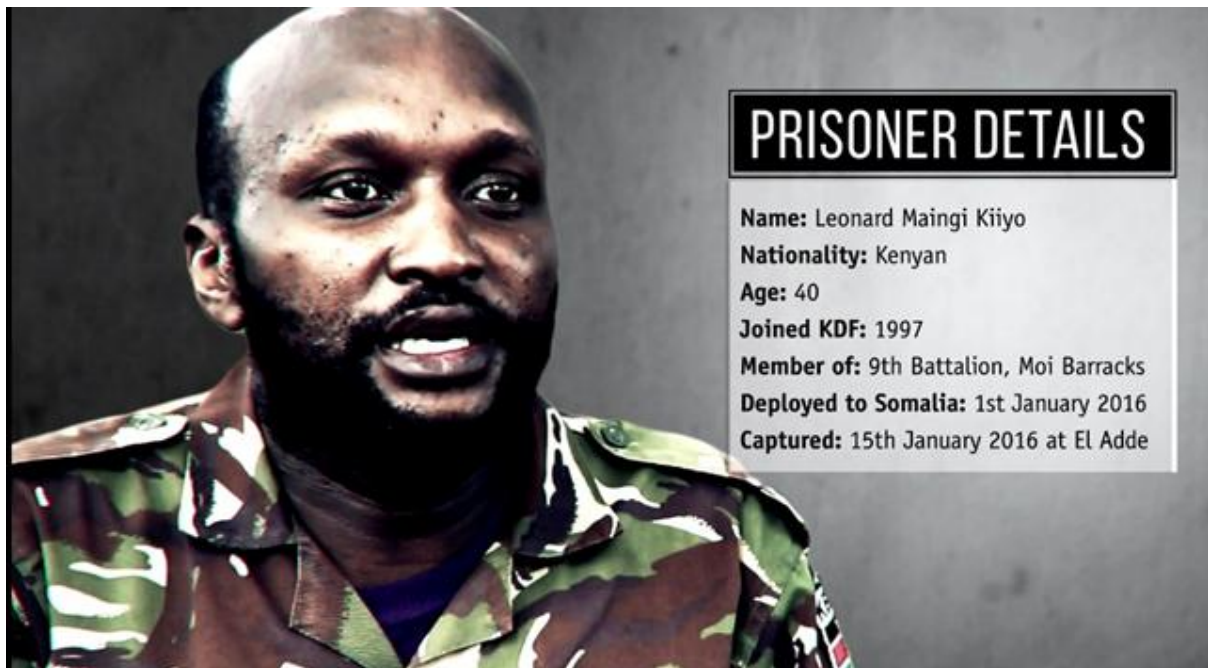
BREAKING: #AlShabaab releases new video message from #Kenya PoW, Leonard Maingi Kiiyo, who was captured during El-Adde attack. #Somalia #KDF (Daudoo, 2016)

#AlShabaab are holding 12 #Kenya soldiers captured alive during El-Adde attack in Jan 15, at least 3 of them had wounds - Source. #Somalia (Daudoo, 2016)

#Kenya PoW, Leonard Maingi Kiiyo, says he was deployed to #Somalia on 1st of Jan 2016 & captured by #AlShabaab during El-Adde attack. #KDF (Daudoo, 2016)

#Kenya PoW, Leonard Kiiyo, to Uhuru Kenyatta " I'm begging u Mr Pres, Plz negotiate with #AlShabaab so that my comrades & I can be released" (Daudoo, 2016)

Speaking in Swahili, #Kenya PoW, Leonard Kiiyo, says he was a doctor in the nursing section of #KDF's 9th battalion based in #Moi barracks (Daudoo, 2016)



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