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CHAIRMAN'S NOTE



Dear ICJ Kenya Members, Partners and Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the second edition of ICJ Kenya's Newsletter 2024, providing you with updates on our recent endeavours in advancing justice, human rights, and the rule of law in Kenya.

During the second quarter of the year, ICJ Kenya has actively participated in various activities aimed at promoting and strengthening judicial independence, constitutionalism and the rule of law. We have also actively advocated for police reforms while condemning incidents of arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial Killings during the recent nationwide protests by youth demanding good

governance and accountability. Notably, we have devoted substantial efforts to producing knowledge products such as, the simplified version of a publication titled: Promoting Inclusion and Responding to Justice Needs for persons with Mental Disabilities: An access to Justice Manual for persons with mental disabilities, the 2023 paralegal report and an analysis of the Public Benefits Organizations Act 2013.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our devoted team, partners, and ICJ members, whose invaluable contributions have been fundamental in the success of these initiatives. Together, we are effecting positive change and fostering a more equitable and rights oriented Kenya.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I encourage you to delve into this year's second newsletter to gain further insights into our recent activities and accomplishments.

Yours sincerely,

Protas Saende,

ICJ Kenya Chairman.





DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Constitutional Reforms and Implementation

NCAJ Council Meeting

ICJ Kenya being a member of NCAJ, attended NCAJ Council meeting whose objective was to discuss the role NCAJ can play in advancing initiatives to green Kenya's justice system. The meeting led to the adoption of a comprehensive plan for the period (2020-2025) outlining actionable strategies for integrating environmental sustainability into judicial processes and setting specific goals to enhance the ecological responsibility of the justice sector.

Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition

Unwanted Witness, Uganda and ICJ Kenya organized a virtual Boot Camp themed "The Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition", The boot camp brought together participants from both Kenya and Uganda. The Boot camp's objective was to enable participants to engage with experienced facilitators on how to best prepare for the moot court, including drafting proper memorials and making proper oral presentations. The facilitators of this session were two ICJ Kenya members, Ms. Lilian Mahiri-Zaja and Dr. Victor Lando. As a result, participants reported gaining critical skills and valuable knowledge, enhancing their readiness for the moot court competition.







ICJ Kenya ,OSF Partnership Meeting

ICJ Kenya led by our Ag. Executive Kiprono Director Demas delighted to host a delegation from the Open Society Foundations at the ICJ Kenya House on April 5th 2024. The Director Public Safety and Authoritarianism Hugo Tovar led led his delegation that included Ana Clara, Program Manager Public Safety and Authoritarianism and Loiuse Ehlers, Associate Director OSF. The meeting explored among others how to counter authoritarianism in Kenya and across Africa.











Proposed Assembly and Demonstration

Bill article

As an authority in legal and policy issues, ICJ Kenya critically examined the Assembly and Demonstration Bill through an article that highlighted the proposed Bill's provisions which are aimed at balancing public order and the right to protest, including measures to prevent disruption to non-participants and penalize disobedience to police orders or organizing unlawful assemblies. The article understood



the necessity of investigating the root causes of protest violence, particularly the excessive use of force by police, thereby contributing to the ongoing discourse on enhancing peaceful assembly and protest regulations in Kenya.

NOREC Partner Training

In the reporting period, ICJ Kenya participated in a three-day partner training in Johannesburg, South Africa, organized by the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) under the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF). The training equipped partners with essential skills in project planning, financial management, recruitment, and leadership through diverse modules and practical exercises. ICJ Kenya representatives in the training gained valuable insights and formed strategic collaborations, enhancing their capacity to effectively implement the NOREC exchange program and enter a new phase of the grant.





Police Reforms Working Group on Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions

Under the umbrella of the Police Reforms Working Group-Kenya, ICJ Kenya and other members of the group drafted and issued a joint statement condemning the arbitrary arrest and detention of peaceful protesters opposing the punitive Finance Bill, 2024. The statement demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees and reminded the police to uphold Article 37 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly. It also criticized the excessive force used by the police against unarmed and non-violent individuals, reinforcing the call for respect for civil liberties and human rights.

Police heads bear burden of underlings' misconduct



The doctrine of command responsibility mandates that ... supervisors are accountable for the actions of their subordinates.

Memorandum to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of the Senate

In enhancing our work on supporting legal a policy reforms in the country, ICJ Kenya submitted a Memorandum to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of the Senate on the proposed amendments to the IEBC (Amendments) Bill, 2024. Among the salient issues in the proposed Bill is a proposal to amend the composition of the IEBC selection panel and add a provision that in the absence of the chairperson of the commission, the vice chairperson cannot act in that capacity, rather a new chairperson is appointed. ICJ Kenya in the Memorandum stated



that no amendments should be made to the IEBC Act as it would undermine the electoral process in the country. It was emphasized that there is a need to preserve the democracy and electoral integrity in the country.



Court of Appeal Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) Debrief

As a follow up to the training offered to the court of appeal judges on EDR in 2022, ICJ Kenya supported the Court of Appeal EDR Debrief and Learning sessions held from May 29 to June 1, 2024, in Nakuru, which facilitated knowledge exchange among sixteen Court of Appeal Judges and over fifteen Senior Legal Researchers and Judicial Officers. The sessions provided a platform for discussing election appeal handling, addressing emerging issues

such as timelines and interlocutory applications. Presentations from senior counsels on evolving jurisprudence and comparative insights from the Chief Justice of Zimbabwe and a Malawian Supreme Court Justice enriched the discourse.

The sessions successfully enhanced the judges' and legal researchers' understanding of best practices and emerging legal trends in election dispute resolution.





Media Coverage

The Standard: https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/opinion/article/2001493500/all-our-constitutional-reform-initiatives-have-been-on-roller-coaster

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/election-dispute-resolution-court-of-appeal-judg-es-reflect-on-lessons/

Nation Africa: https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/passing-cherargei-bill-will-be-death-by-democracide-4608696



Judicial Strengthening and Reforms

Memorandum before the Judicial Service Commission

To ensure a fair and inclusive approach to judicial appointments. aligning with principles of equity and representation, ICJ Kenya presented a memorandum before the Judicial service commission advocating for a transparent and legally compliant recruitment process for Court of Appeal Judges. The memorandum emphasized the importance of enhancing diversity on the Appellate Court, including the consideration of candidates from the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) and the Environment and Land Court (ELC), among others.





Heighten judicial officers' security in court

ICJ Kenya issued a statement in response to a tragic incident at the Makadara Law

Courts, where a Principal Magistrate was shot and fatally injured while presiding over proceedings. The statement urgently called for heightened security measures to safeguard judicial officers, court staff, and visitors, aiming to prevent future occurrences of such violence within court premises. In the statement, ICJ Kenya reiterated its commitment to collaborating closely with the Judiciary to address security issues and ensure the safety of all involved in the judicial process.





Access to Justice Toolkit

To support establishment and strengthening of justice institutions and actors, ICJ Kenya participated in a four-day workshop hosted by the Kenya Judiciary Academy in Naivasha to review and enhance the development of an access to justice toolkit. The workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to provide input and recommendations aimed at improving the toolkit's efficacy.



Following the workshop, the next steps include incorporating the suggestions and recommendations into the toolkit and sharing it with stakeholders for further refinement, ensuring input from all relevant parties to optimize its utility in promoting access to justice.



Media Coverage

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.
org/news/why-elite-driven-reforms-pose-threat-to-transformative-constitution/

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/
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Nation Africa: https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/jsc-was-wrong-to-vet-applicants-for-registrar-post-in-camera-4568326



Security Sector Strengthening and Reforms

Briefing Meeting on Police Reforms

Under the umbrella of the Police Reforms Working Group, ICJ Kenya actively participated in the Stakeholders Technical Briefing Meeting on Police Reforms held at the National Police Leadership Academy in Ngong.

The meeting provided a platform for the National Police Service, National Police Service Commission, and IPOA to present their implementation plan for recommendations from the Maraga-led



Taskforce report, operationalizing the National Coroners Services Act, establishing a victims' fund for survivors of police violations, and enhancing police oversight and accountability. The two-day event facilitated in-depth engagement through panel discussions and plenary sessions, enabled stakeholders to address critical issues surrounding police reforms and accountability.

National Policing Conference

Kenya ICJactively participated in the National Policing Conference themed 'strengthening accountability and oversight within the policing sector in *Kenya*', which convened diverse stakeholders including state agencies, civil society organizations, social justice centers, and development partners. Key discussions centered on implerecommendations menting from the Maraga-led Taskforce report. operationalizing National Coroners Services Act.







CSO Meeting on Enforced Disappearances

or Involuntary Disappearances



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South African Justice and Constitutional Development Deputy Minister Meeting

The ICJ Kenya team led by our Ag. Executive Director Demas Kiprono met the South African Deputy Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development, John Jeffries to discuss various areas of cooperation including the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) exchange program, Justice & Human Rights issues. During a courtesy visit at the Southern Africa Litigation Cente our Ag. Executive Director Demas Kiprono participated in discussions steered towards areas of cooperation such as regional litigation. Further discussions centered on economic, social and cultural rights, gender, judicial strengthening and digital rights.







establishing a victims' fund for survivors of police violations, and enhancing police oversight and accountability. The two-day event facilitated in-depth engagement through panel discussions and plenary sessions, enabled stakeholders to address critical issues surrounding police reforms and accountability.

Media Coverage

Nation Africa: https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/-utumishi-kwa-wote-is-not-just-a-slogan-4597666

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/
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<a href="news-time-to-enact-law-that-criminal-izes

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=LAig7EcVwOY&t=183s

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzlUeZb0emY&t=4s

Regional Consultation on Enforced Disappearances

ICJ Kenya participated as a panelist in an online regional consultation on enforced disappearance. The session aimed to facilitate interactive discussions and gather insights for the upcoming World Congress against Enforced Disappearances.

Participants from across Africa addressed specific topics, with ICJ Kenya focusing on criminalizing enforced disappearances and advocating for Kenya's ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. One of the primary goals of the online consultation was to define key priorities for the World Congress scheduled for January 2025, ensuring critical issues are addressed comprehensively.





Criminal Justice

Scorecard on Decriminalisation of Petty Offenses

ICJ Kenya participated and contributed at the In-country training for the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) on Data Collection and Analysis for the completion of the Scorecard on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences, held on April 11-12, 2024.

ICJ Kenya delivered a presentation outlining its ongoing efforts in the decriminalization campaign within Kenya. The training aimed to enhance data collection and analysis to assess Kenya's progress in implementing the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa. The scorecard questionnaire served as a tool to measure and document the country's advancements and challenges in this area, fostering informed decision-making and advocacy for human rights reforms.



Guide for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law on the Decriminalisation of Poverty, Homelessness, and Status



ICJ Kenya participated at the consultation on a Practitioners' Guide for a human rights-based approach to criminal law on the decriminalisation of poverty, homelessness, and status in the Africa region.





The event convened diverse stakeholders from across Africa to discuss and enhance the practitioner's guide, focusing on international and regional criminal law and human rights standards applicable to decriminalizing conduct associated with poverty, homelessness, and legal status. Participants also shared best practices from their respective countries, aiming to advance efforts towards decriminalizing poverty and status offenses in Africa.

Media Coverage

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/julie-wayua-matheka-spear-heading-kenyas-decriminalisa-tion-of-petty-offences-campaign/

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/establish-an-international-court-to-boost-fight-against-grand-corruption/











HUMAN RIGHTS

Accountability for Human Rights Violations and Atrocity Crimes.

Role of Regional Mechanisms in curbing the rise of Atrocity crimes in Africa.

To inform our planned work at the regional level we conducted desktop research on the role of the available regional mechanisms in curbing the increasing atrocity crimes in Africa. Amongst the recommendations of the research was the need to increase the number of times that States report and make it mandatory noting that State reporting process is a fundamental component in monitoring the implementation of a treaty or human rights instrument. The research will form our advocacy strategy at the regional mechanism for example at the African Commission.



National Mechanisms to Prevent Atrocity Crimes in Kenya

We conducted desktop research highlighting the available national legal framework in kenya on preventing atrocity crimes in Africa. From the research we were able to establish that Kenya has domestic mechanisms to curb the occurrence of atrocity crimes within its borders.

These various tools have managed to assist citizens in appreciating what constitutes the crime of atrocity as well as providing remedies for victims of these crimes. From this research we intend to approach The Kenya National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the



Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination (KNC) which is made up of representatives of various organizations, government and non-government, that deal with the prevention of atrocity crimes in Kenya with an intention to join.



CSOs Report on Kenya's Compliance with ICCPR

As part of a consortium and to continue our regional work, we participated in drafting and submission of a CSO report to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which is an assessment of the follow-up actions of the State party in implementing UN Human Rights Committee's recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee during Kenya's fourth review periodic report on its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) during its 131st session in March 2021.



Monitoring of the Rwanda Genocide Transfer Cases



We conducted three visits to Rwanda with the intention to monitor the Rwanda genocide transfer cases and submitted a report to the embassy of Netherlands. During the visits the monitor held a series of meetings with interlocutors both the defense and prosecution, conducted prison visits to the inmates and held meetings with the Dutch embassy in Kigali Rwanda.





Coalition of the International Criminal Court Meeting.

As a member of the coalition of the International Criminal Court, we have continued to attend various online meetings organised by the coalition of the International Criminal Court where we gave our contributions with respect to access to justice for victims of atrocity crimes at the International Criminal Court. We have registered and plan to attend the online International Criminal Court Civil Society roundtable scheduled to happen from the 24th to 28th June 2024.





Implementation of the Judgment in Petition 122 of 2013.

As a member of the consortium that was involved in Petition 122 of 2013, in the reporting period, we have attended a series of meetings to discuss the progress of the appeal of the judgement in the subject judgement to ensure that all victims are compensated and pushing for the government to adhere to the judgement and compensate the victims. Due to our meetings, the Appeal is now scheduled for hearing, and members have strategized an advocacy plan around the judgement's implementation.



Equality Rights and Inclusion

Simplified Version of the Access to Justice Manual

ICJ Kenya developed a simplified version of the publication titled; "Promoting Inclusion and Responding to Justice Needs for persons with Mental Disabilities: An access to Justice Manual for persons with mental disabilities." The simplified easy to read version summarizes the policy framework, challenges in the criminal justice system and the recommendations to various duty bearers to afford persons with mental



disabilities reasonable accommodation in the judicial process. The purpose of developing the simplified version is to advance our advocacy efforts through our sensitization workshops on the publication.

Access To Justice Manual For Persons With Mental Disabilities

ICJ Kenya conducted a two-day workshop with Prison Officers from Nairobi county between April 3rd and 4th, 2024.

The aim of the workshop was to sensitize prison officers on our publication titled: Promoting Inclusion and Responding to Justice Needs for persons with Mental Disabilities: An access to Justice Manual for persons with mental disabilities.











Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya (PLEAD)

Appearing before the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya (PLEAD) steering committee, our Programme manager Vincent Kimathi made a presentation on Paralegalism and the Alternative Justice System (AJS). Mr. Muthaura reiterated the importance of these mechanisms and how they contribute to the enhancement of access to justice particularly for the most vulnerable in our communities. During the course of the presentation, he also highlighted some of the work ICJ Kenya is doing on PLEAD II.





International Disability Rights and Accessibility

ICJ Kenya Ag. Executive Director Demas Kiprono engaged in a forum with the USA Advisor on International Disability Rights and Accessibility, Sara Minkara. Mr. Kiprono spoke about Persons With Disabilities (PWD) representation across legislative bodies and addressed crucial access to financial services amidst widespread digitisation.



3rd Annual Alternative Justice Systems Conference

ICJ Kenya attended and participated in the 3rd Annual Alternative Justice Systems Conference themed 'Accelerating People-Centered Justice in Kenya: Engaging, Expanding and Retooling AJS'. The conference attracted over 200 participants consisting of judicial actors, policy makers, AJS practitioners, academia among others with an aim to rally all sectors of Kenyan social, religious, judiciary and cultural life to continuously and emphatically support the AJS mechanism and expand the pool of individuals and groups accessing justice in Kenya.

The coordinators of the six ICJ Kenya paralegal networks benefited from the conference which interrogated







mechanisms to entrench AJS within the tradition and logic of Social Transformation Through Access to Justice (STAJ), the Judiciary's blueprint, of expanding organic, people-centered approaches to access to justice. It further explored the interlinkages among all mechanisms for multiple justice methods, including critical issues relating to enhancing county-based actions and collaborations.







ICJ Kenya 2023 Paralegal Report

ICJ Kenya authored the 2023 paralegal report, themed "Accelerating Access to Justice for the Poor and Marginalized Through Promoting Alternative Justice Systems." The theme was informed by the series of paralegal trainings on AJS carried out by ICJ Kenya throughout 2023 across the six networks. The report further analyzes the nature and number of cases reported to the six networks in 2023, including a summary of the success stories reported. The reports inform ICJ Kenya programming in terms of the situation on access to justice for the marginalised at the grassroot level.



Media Coverage

Nation Africa: https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/alternative-justice-system-will-end-backlog-of-cases-4647802

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGPYOoOzGII



International Commission of Jurists



International Disability Rights and Accessibility



The ICJ Kenya Human Rights Programme held a consultative meeting ON June 3rd, 2024 with Lorenzo Wakefield from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to discuss our continued areas of partnership on Access to Justice among others.















Civic Space, Digital Rights and Independent Media Kenya and Artificial Intelligence

ICJ Kenya authored an opinion piece titled *Embrace AI but take action to protect data and privacy*. The article analyses the efficiency poised using AI in countries such as China, USA and the big tech companies. It reveals that, when an AI system is well designed, it enhances convenience and accuracy, with the capability of solving a wide range of problems, including climate crisis.

It further reveals that African countries are progressively gearing up to harness the potential of AI at national and regional levels such as the African Union white paper for the development of AI. The article recommends that, while leveraging on AI, there is a need for robust institutional and legal safeguards for data privacy and protection.

LAW & ORDER

Embrace artificial intelligence but take action to protect data, privacy

over the last few years, the most powerful countries in the world and the largest tech companies have been preparing to harness the potential of the artificial intelligence (AD revolution.

China, the USA, and other countries, alongside big tech companies, are heavily invested in developing AI that can perform tasks previously considered capable only by human beings.

The rapid advancement of technology, combined with the increasing availability of large datasets, improved algorithms, computer hardware, and substantial corporate investment is poised to accelerate progress and bring significant economic benefits.

When an AI system is well-designed and has the advantage of learning from a good and extensive dataset, it enhances convenience, accuracy and, consequently, utility. This leads to an expansion in the user base, generating richer datasets that, in turn, refine the AI system.

As a result, a positive feedback loop flourishes between AI systems and data, each bolstering the other's efficacy. Consequently, computing is moving beyond structured, predictable environments such as recognising images, translating languages, predicting speech, and diagnosing diseases.

It is poised to be capable of a broader range of applications such as solving the climate crisis.

Countries are not just recognising but embracing the fact that AI will be the driving force behind the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

With its potential to generate a lot of money for the prepared countries, this revolution is a



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topic of great interest and engagement for global policymakers, business leaders, and individuals interested in technology and global economics.

According to the AI Media Group '2022 State of AI in Africa Report', the AI market is projected to be \$387 billion dollars in 2022 and will expand to \$1,394 billion by 2029. According to some estimates, it will contribute \$15.7 trillion USD to the global economy by 2030 with a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 20.1 per cent.

Despite the challenges, African countries are gearing up to harness the potential of AI at the national and regional levels such as the African Union white paper for the development of AI. This strategic move, from a governance, technology, data, and infrastructure perspective, is a testament

to the growing relevance of AI in these regions.

While African nations are leveraging AI for crucial applications such as disease surveillance, control and diagnosis, agriculture and land survey, and national security, there is an urgent need for robust institutional and legal safeguards.

These measures are essential to protect data and privacy and foster an environment that encourages responsible design and innovation.

Since the launch of ChatGPT by OpenAI in November 2022, there has been a growing awareness of generative AI and its capabilities to create diverse forms of content such as text, images, and audio.

Researchers and analysts are actively exploring the potential impact of these technologies on various aspects of society, including education, media, and legal proceedings.

Incidents have been reported where students have utilised large language models for academic dishonesty, and judges have turned to such tools for case research and to draft judgments.

Another concern is that as the tools become better and more realistic, it may become easier to create deep fakes that have the potential to spread disinformation and misinformation, thus threatening democracy and the integrity of information.

This is especially concerning since 64 countries, including the European Union, will go to the polls this year, 19 of which are in Africa. Preliminary information from those watching these polls is that AI can also be used for good such as to better reach voters by putting out campaign information.



Digital Rights Security

ICJ Kenya authored an article analyzing the challenges of digitizing personal information in Kenya. It raises concerns on the storage and accessibility of digitized personal information which is mostly susceptible to identity theft, financial fraud and other forms of cybercrimes. It however acknowledges the efficiency in service delivery, associated with digitizing personal information in Kenya and calls for the state to invest in digital security measures to enhance the protection of digitized data.



Analysis of the Public Benefits Organizations Act 2013

ICJ Kenya, through its advocacy strategies, developed an analysis of the PBO Act 2013 whose commencement date was gazette for 14th May 2024. ICJ Kenya welcomed the gazettement of the Act as it seeks to ensure meaningful protection of fundamental rights and freedoms especially the freedom of association, expression and assembly. To achieve this, the Act has provided for an elaborate framework for PBOs to join and participate in self-regulating forums and establishing a national PBO federation to coordinate the self-regulating forums.







The Assembly and Demonstrations Bill. 2024

ICJ Kenya in its article recognizes that since the colonial era, the right to protest, assemble and picket has been contentious. It reveals that the supporters of the right to assemble view it as a vital means for the public to voice their opinions while those in power perceive it as a potential threat.

In April 2024, the Assembly and Demonstrations Bill was published, and it recognizes that assemblies can be spontaneous and unplanned. It also ensures that nonparticipating members of the public can enjoy their environment and conduct their business without interference. Moreover, it mandates the creation of a public register of notifications, which should be open for inspection. While the bill is timely, it misses the historical nuances in of protest in Kenya more so striking a balance between public order and the right to assemble.

How public demonstrations will change if proposed new law is passed

Since the colonial era, the right to protest, assemble, picket, or meet as a group advocating or expressing grievances has been contentious. Protesting in the streets has been a significant aspect of Reynars fight for justice and rights, from Harry Thukus arrest in 1922 for advocuting for Affaira rights to the fight for multi-drought of the Harry Thukus arrest in 1922 for Protests have band missed outcomes. Often, they we been marred by violence, leading to inharv.

have been marred by violence, leading to injury.

have been marred by violence, leading to injury death, and distruction of property Different actors. Including protestors, counter-protestors, propertunsite: criminals, and have reforement, have been blamed for these incidents. Supporters of the right to assemble view it as a vital means for the public to voice their opinions. Conversely, those in power frequently perceive it as a potential threat. Others argue that protests unjustifiably disrappt dady life, affecting access to public broildings, treads, and businesses. This persective has agained traction, especially among specific has agained traction, especially among specific has agained traction. Some protests are inherently inconvenient for hose not britowice. They are design and to make the mainstream gause and consider the issues missed, particulated vower marginalisate or under-

raised, particularly when marginalised or under-

represented groups protest. In 1997, the law was amended to remove the notion that police could allow or disallow assemblies. The requirement was changed to merely notifying the police of the intention to assemble or protest, enabling the law enforcers to prepare accordingly. Importantly, the law allows police to issue a written notice if there is a legitimate rea-



Demas Kiprono, ICJ-Kenya Ag Executive Director

In April, the Assembly and Demonstrations Bill, was published. The private member's Bill recognises that assemblies can be spontaneous and unplanned. It distinguishes between various types of gatherings and demonstrations, defining the later as acts intended to influence public option or overprower It. A public gathering is defined as any assembly or procession of more than one hundred

persons on a public road.

The Bill aims to ensure that non-participating members of the public can enjoy their environme members of the public can eight their environment and conduct their business without interference. It requires individuals planning an assembly to notify and their business the content and a second their contents are content and assemble or the event. Disobelience to police orders or organising an unhard assembly sic inimialised, with penalles including imprisonment for up to how were

The Bill also mandates the creation of a public register of notifications, open for impection during working hours. It grants regulating officers the power to impect on during working hours. It grants regulating officers the interest of public safety, order, and the protection of others' rights. These conditions may include payments for clean-up costs and considerations of environmental or cultural sensitivities. Any special conditions or prohibitions can be appealed to the Bigh Court.
Furthermore, the Bill prohibits in cleaned to a proper supplies the properties of the Bill prohibits in cleaned to a prohibit singular continuing their faces, wearing clothing resembling those of discipline forces or currying weapons. Organisers and participants are jointly balled for property dumage unless they can prove it was beyond their control of they attempted to prevent it. The Bill also mandates the creation of a public

However the Bill misses the historical nuance of protest in Kenya, particularly in light of the violent 2023 'Maandamano'. Protests have been a critical aspect of Kenvan history, and any legal framework governing them must consider their historical context and the balance between public order and the right to assemble, expreself and participate in public life, which may only be limited under the guidance of Article 24 of the



Media Coverage

Standard Media: https://www. standardmedia.co.ke/opinion/ article/2001494343/why-kenyamust-move-fast-to-invest- in-digital-rights-security

Standard Media: https://www. standardmedia.co.ke/opinion/ article/2001492291/court-ruling-recognises-freedom-of- expression-as-an-instrumental-right

Kenva: https://icj-kenya.org/ news/why-kenva-needs-to-invest-indigital-rights-protection/

Shahidi News: https://shahidinews. co.ke/2024/05/06/how-kenyas-legallandscape-safeguards-civic-spacesand-protects-human-rights/

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/ news/embrace-ai-but-take-action-toprotect-data-and-privacy/





ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Corporate and Public Sector Accountability

IDA21 Forum for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region

ICJ Kenya participated in the IDA21 Forum for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region as part of the Okoa Uchumi Coalition. Civil society organizations convened to strategize their engagement with the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) delegation, focusing on aligning the coalition's positions and priorities. ICJ Kenya highlighted



the importance of access to information as a critical tool for ensuring transparency and accountability. Our proposals emphasized empowering citizens with information to promote informed participation in governance and development processes, aiming to foster greater accountability in the implementation of IDA-funded projects.

Convening on Finance Bill 2024 Submission

On 22 May 2024, ICJ Kenya, as a member of the OKoa Uchumi Coalition, collaborated with other civil society organizations (CSOs) to scrutinize the Finance Bill and prepare a joint submission to Parliament. The bill proposed several tax measures that could unduly burden Kenyans.

This meeting aligned with ICJ Kenya's mission to foster citizen-driven social



accountability. Emphasizing transparency and accountability in taxation, ICJ Kenya advocates for an equitable tax system where citizens are informed and involved in fiscal decisions, ensuring that taxation policies are fair and just, and government spending is transparent and accountable to the public.



Convening on Finance Bill 2024 Submission

ICJ Kenya published an article titled "Taxation: Demand for Accountability" on various digital platforms, addressing the aggressive taxation measures adopted by the Kenyan government. The article aimed to enhance public engagement in the planning, utilization, and accountability of public financial resources.

It highlighted concerns about the burden of excessive taxation on citizens and called for greater transparency and accountability in how tax revenues are managed and spent. By raising awareness and encouraging public discourse, ICJ Kenya sought to empower citizens to demand fair and responsible fiscal policies that reflect their needs and priorities.



Media Coverage

Citizen Digital: https://www.citizen.dig-ital/opinion-blogs/opinion-new-wave-of-taxes-will-hurt-kenyans-n343131

Common Wealth Human Rights Initiative

ICJ Kenya held an exploratory meeting with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) to discuss access to information and digital rights, particularly focusing on misinformation and disinformation. The meeting concluded with several action points, including the decision to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative regional efforts in these thematic areas. Additionally,



both organizations committed to seeking opportunities for resource mobilization to support their joint initiatives. This partnership aims to enhance the public's right to accurate information and strengthen digital rights, ensuring accountability and transparency in information dissemination.



Anti-Corruption Court Users Committee

ICJ Kenya participated in the Anti-Corruption Court Users Committee (CUC) on 28 May 2024, collaborating with other institutions to engage in robust discussions on managing corruption cases and developing an action plan for the CUC. The meeting underscored the vital role of the judiciary and other key actors in combating corruption.

Key topics included streamlining case management, enhancing interagency coordination, and ensuring timely justice. The action plan aims to



strengthen institutional capacities, improve case handling efficiency, and foster greater public trust in the judicial process in tackling corruption.

Kenya-Zambia Learning Visit on Anti-Corruption and Human Rights

The Zambian delegation, including representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission. Human Rights Commission. National Prosecution Authority, Office of the Public Protector, and the GIZ EnACT Programme, visited Kenya to exchange best practices and experiences in combating corruption and promoting human rights. ICJ Kenya was invited to participate in the meeting, contributing insights on effective anti-corruption strategies. Discussions focused on transparency, accountability, and legal frameworks essential for curbing corruption. ICJ Kenya shared its





experiences and methodologies, emphasizing the importance of robust legal institutions, active civil society involvement, and public access to information as key components in the fight against corruption.



ECOSOC RIGHTS

Right to Health



In commemoration of World Health Day on 7th April 2024, ICJ Kenya published a poster and video on its social media platforms aimed at creating awareness of the right to health and advocating for the urgent resolution of the health crisis owing to the doctors' strike and NHIF cash crunch.



Women's Health Rights

To create public awareness on the legal and policy challenges to implementing the free maternal health policy in Kenya, ICJ Kenya published an opinion piece titled, "Kenya's Uncertain Path to Free Maternal Health," was published on the Citizen Digital platform on April 26th, 2024.

Also, an opinion piece titled, "Reducing Free Maternal Health Care Budget Big Blow to Women," was published on The Standard Newspaper on 18th June 2024. The article aimed at creating public awareness on why government needs to prioritize

maternal health financing.







Media Coverage

Citizen Digital: https://www.citizen.digital/opinion-blogs/opinion-kenyas-uncertain-path-to-free-maternal-health-n341099?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echo-box=1714153381



Parliamentary Engagement on the Finance Bill 2024

ICJ Kenya under the Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network (CSPEN) participated in the review of the Finance Bill 2024 spearheaded by Mzalendo Trust on 24th May 2024 in Nairobi. The review's aim was to delve into the details of the Bill and develop a memorandum to parliament. The analysis identified the implications of the Bill to service delivery. A memorandum highlighting key concerns was developed and submitted to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.



Land, Environment & Climate Justice KCCWG Monthly Meetings

To inform our planned work at the regional level we conducted desktop research on the role of the available regional mechanisms in curbing the increasing atrocity crimes in Africa. Amongst the recommendations of the research was the need to increase the number of times that States report and make it mandatory noting that State reporting process is a fundamental component in monitoring the implementation of a treaty or human rights instrument. The research will form our advocacy strategy at the regional mechanism for example at the African Commission.





World Environment Day

On June 5, 2024, ICJ Kenya commemorated World Environment Day through an extensive online advocacy campaign. The organization developed and disseminated online messages and an article emphasizing the significance of the day. The content highlighted pressing environmental issues, the importance of sustainable practices, and the need for collective action to protect the environment. By leveraging digital platforms, ICJ Kenya aimed to raise awareness, inspire community involvement, and



reinforced the organization's commitment to environmental advocacy and its role in fostering a culture of sustainability in Kenya.

Climate Change/Climate Justice

promote policies that support environ-

mental conservation. This initative

ICJ Kenya published a series of articles addressing various climate change issues, emphasizing the importance of climate justice. Through these articles, ICJ Kenya aimed to raise awareness, promote informed public discourse, and advocate for fair and just climate policies that address both environmental and social dimensions of the climate crisis.



Media Coverage

Citizen Digital: https://www.citizen.digital/opinion-blogs/opinion-why-climate-justice-matters-in-kenya-unpacking-the-fairness-of-the-climate-crisis-n341437

Citizen Digital: https://www.citizen.digital/opinion-blogs/opinion-climate-change-and-the-right-to-health-n340898



Media Coverage

Standard Media: https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/health/health-opinion/article/2001494045/climate-justice-and-conservation-are-undeniably-interconnected

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/world-environment-day-restoring-our-land-securing-our-future/

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/the-need-for-climate-justice-amid-ravaging-floods-nationwide/

ICJ Kenya: https://icj-kenya.org/news/climate-change-crisis-and-what-govt-must-do/



Partnerships with Academic Institutions

ICJ Kenya has maintained and strengthened its collaborations with academic institutions, effectively implementing existing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) during the reporting period.

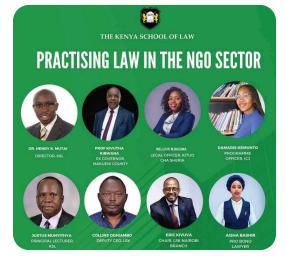








On May 31, 2024, ICJ Kenya was invited to participate in a mentorship workshop organized by the Kenya School of Law. At this event, ICJ Kenya provided perspectives on the legal profession, offering guidance to aspiring legal professionals.



Additionally, during the AJS conference, ICJ Kenya visited the Kabarak University Press to donate publications, including a joint publication with Kabarak University Law School focusing on "Women and the Death Penalty." This effort supports academic discourse and highlights ICJ Kenya's commitment to promoting human rights and legal education through collaborative efforts with academic partners.

These engagements highlight ICJ Kenya's proactive role in fostering knowledge-sharing and advancing critical discussions on legal and human rights issues within academic and professional circles.













ICJ Kenya Secretariat Newspaper Profiles

In an ongoing profile feature across the dailies, we continue to feature our programme officers, in turn highlighting their work and their lasting impact within their respective programmes.

Take Off ▶Guru

Human rights lawyer driving police



Time to criminalise disappearances



We are reminded that, for this battle to be won, the good of th people is the greatest law

Relatively Speaking Inner circle truth Advocate driving decriminalisation of petty offences campaign



To fight climate change, do more than planting trees



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