

## Horrendous: Brutal Police Attack On School Children Alarming on 20 January 2015.



ICJ Kenya strictly condemns the use of brutal force by Police Officers to repel the pupils of Langa'ta Road Primary who attempted to access their school's playground during class breaks. The overwhelming police response to disrupt and disperse protests by innocent school children, parents and human rights defenders is a chilling reminder of the massive abuse of police powers and a confirmation that the ongoing reforms at the national police service have back peddled.

ICJ Kenya regrets that the inglorious institutional character of the police as a brutal force averse to the Bill of Rights and eager to serve the whims of corrupt and powerful individuals is still intact. It is undeniable that the controversial land has been and remains to be the only playground for the school since 1979.

ICJ Kenya is aware that the school had already deposited evidentiary documents to the National Land Commission indicative of its ownership. It is therefore inconceivable and inexcusable that the police was deployed to protect vested interests of undisclosed persons. ICJ Kenya urges the National Land Commission to conclusively review all land titles of public schools and institutions and revert any public land irregularly transferred to private entities.

ICJ Kenya reiterates that the Constitution protects the weak and defenseless and safeguard their rights and entitlements. ICJ Kenya wishes to remind the government that the justification for constitutional and institutional reforms was the need to re-invent and revigorate key institutions of governance, including especially the coercive

forces to bring them into full compliance with their constitutional obligations and international human rights standards.

ICJ Kenya expresses solidarity with the human rights defenders who came out resist the illegal and irregular take-over of public land and to refuse the brazen transfer to private profiteering cahoots. The freedom of association and assembly is a constitutional guarantee exercisable at all times and not at the pleasure of the government. ICJ Kenya therefore demands the immediate release from police custody human rights defenders illegally detained at Lang'ata Police Station.

ICJ Kenya further demands the immediate arrest and arraignment in court of rogue police officers caught on camera lobbying teargas canisters and assaulting innocent school children.

ICJ Kenya extends its sympathies to the children who were injured during the peaceful protests and wishes them quick recovery and resumption of studies.

Finally, ICJ Kenya urges the people to remain vigilant and strenuously defend the hard earned freedoms, rights and entailments enshrined in the Constitution and which have constantly been threatened with violation and falsification.