

PRESS RELEASE

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ALLEGATIONS OF ASSAULT AGAINST THE ICJ KENYA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ICJ Kenya's attention has been drawn to an article appearing in *The Star* newspaper of February 24, 2017 titled '*Jurists agency chief in hot soup after fighting with wife over phone cover*'.

This article makes grave allegations against ICJ Kenya's Executive Director Mr. Samwel Mohochi who is alleged to have unlawfully assaulted his wife Judy Njugu. The article reports that Mr. Mohochi was arraigned before a Kibera Court and was released on bond.

As one of Kenya's premier human rights organisations, ICJ Kenya takes these allegations very seriously.

ICJ Kenya wishes to make the following observations;

Firstly, that Mr. Mohochi is entitled to a fair trial, which includes the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty. He also has a right to a speedy trial.

Secondly, ICJ Kenya strongly and unequivocally condemns all forms of human rights violations and notably gender-based violence. It strongly supports accountability measures for such violations. ICJ Kenya has long upheld these ideals and will continue to do so in word and in deed.

Thirdly, given the grievous nature of the allegations against Mr. Mohochi, and ICJ Kenya's mandate on the promotion of human rights, the Council of ICJ Kenya has immediately initiated an inquiry into the circumstances that led to criminal charges being instituted against

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International Commission of Jurists - Kenyan Section, Vihiga Road, Off Othaya Rd, Kileleshwa • P.O. Box 59743-00200 Nairobi
Tel: +254 20 2084836/8, GSM: 0720 491549 / 0733 491549 • Email: info@icj-kenya.org, www.facebook.com/icj.kenya
Twitter: [#icjkenya](https://twitter.com/icjkenya), Website: www.icj-kenya.org • Dropping Zone: Box 101, 2nd Floor, Revlon Plaza, Tubman road

Chairman: Njonjo Mue Vice-Chair: Kelvin Mogeni Secretary: Patrick Ngunjiri Treasurer: Protas Saende
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Executive Director: Samwel Mohochi

Mr Mohochi. ICJ Kenya has therefore established a fact-finding sub-committee of four Council members to inquire into the veracity of these claims, collect necessary and relevant facts from the concerned parties and report back to the Council within 30 days. This inquiry process is not in any way linked to the criminal trial and is not meant to supersede or substitute it.

Fourthly, and in connection with the inquiry process, the ICJ Kenya Council has instructed Mr Sam Mohochi to immediately proceed on one month's leave to allow for an expeditious and fair inquiry process. It is emphasised that this action is not a disciplinary measure.

During Mr Mohochi's absence, Ms Elsy C. Sainna will perform the duties of the Executive Director in acting capacity. Ms. Sainna is the current Deputy Executive Director of ICJ Kenya.

The Council of ICJ Kenya wishes to assure its employees, partners, stakeholders and members of the public that it will at all times adhere to constitutional principles of fair administrative action and will remain true to its core values of promoting and protecting the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

Thank you



Njonjo Mue
CHAIRMAN