



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday, July 31, 2017**

**URGENT: NEWS DESKS AND EDITORS**

### **ON THE MACABRE MURDER OF ACTING INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC) ICT DIRECTOR CHRIS MSANDO**

The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya) is extremely horrified and shocked by reports in both electronic and print media of the disappearance and subsequent macabre murder of the Acting Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) ICT director Chris Msando. Msando had vital information on the digital polling and the digital ballots which will be important when revealing the winner and the result of the votes in the coming August General Election.

We are reliably informed that the Deceased's remains were delivered to the City Mortuary by police officers from Kiambu County who recorded the same as "an unknown person" which appears a standard procedure for most of the extra-judicial killings. Prior to his death, Mr. Msando reported death threats to the central police station and the police did not provide him detailed security.

His killing is a worrying incident and an onslaught to Kenya's democracy and civil and political rights. We note that the August General Election is less than Eight (8) days away and the said killing has a grave direct correlation and implication for the full realization of fundamental individual freedom to political rights<sup>1</sup> and free and fair elections<sup>2</sup>. In addition, ICJ Kenya is concerned that such threats to the staff and operations of independent offices involved in elections management undermines the operations of the IEBC and other independent offices such as the Judiciary

ICJ Kenya is deeply concerned with the continued unexplained insecurity incidents across the country and the extrajudicial killings. There are still no answers to the horrid killings that have been happening in Kenya in the recent past similar to the killing of Chris Msando.

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<sup>1</sup> Art 38 Constitution of Kenya

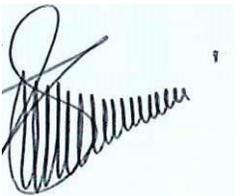
<sup>2</sup> Art 81(e) Constitution of Kenya

In view of the foregoing, we therefore urge and demand:

- a) That the Independent Police Oversight Agency (IPOA) jointly with the Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI) forthwith embark on a thorough investigation with a view of holding to account all criminals involved in the killing including any political actor if any;
- b) The Government must carry out its duty to guarantee security for all Kenyans;
- c) That the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission forthwith assures Kenyan citizens of the security and integrity of the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEMS) and;
- d) That all political actors and activists that have made public pronouncements relating to the disappearance of Chris Msando be summoned forthwith to assist investigators with information relating to his last movements;

ICJ Kenya shall not relent in ensuring that credibility of the election as enshrined in article 81 of the Constitution of Kenya is achieved in this general election and any criminal intimidation to frustrate the electoral outcome shall be resisted with all instruments of the law

**SIGNED**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Samwel Mohochi', written on a light blue background.

**Samwel Mohochi**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
ENDS