

ICJ KENYA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON RACHEL MUTHONI; DEMANDS SWIFT PROSECUTION AND URGENT ACTION AGAINST RISING POLITICAL INTOLERANCE AHEAD OF 2027 ELECTIONS

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The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya) expresses profound shock and condemnation regarding the horrific petrol attack on gospel artiste **Rachel Muthoni**, which occurred in Mwiki, Kasarani. Reports indicate that Muthoni was targeted, doused in petrol, and set ablaze by masked individuals acting on account of her political expression. This heinous act constitutes an egregious violation of human rights and a direct assault on the principles of human dignity and the rule of law.

ICJ Kenya is deeply saddened to learn that Rachel Muthoni has since succumbed to her injuries. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and the wider creative community.

ICJ Kenya wishes to state categorically that this brutal assault must not be treated as an isolated criminal incident. Rather, it represents a terrifying and visible manifestation of a rapidly deteriorating political climate characterised by deep-seated intolerance. As the country steers toward the upcoming General Elections, we are witnessing a dangerous resurgence of political goonism and systematic intimidation designed to silence dissenting views and shrink civic space. Allowing such lawlessness to take root without consequence risks normalising violence as a tool for political conformity, which threatens to plunge the nation into electoral chaos.

This attack strikes at the very heart of the democratic freedoms guaranteed to every citizen under the Constitution of Kenya (2010). ICJ Kenya reminds all State organs, political actors, and the public that Freedom of Expression (Article 33) protects every Kenyan's right to express their opinions and artistic choices without fear of violent retaliation or death. Furthermore, Freedom of Association (Article 36) and Political Rights (Article 38) secure the absolute right of every citizen to align with, support, and manifest affiliation with any political leader or ideology. In a constitutional democracy, physical violence can never be tolerated as a response to political differences or personal associations.

Consequently, ICJ Kenya demands immediate and decisive action from State law enforcement agencies. We call upon the Inspector General of Police and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations to execute a swift, thorough, and transparent investigation. The perpetrators must be urgently apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

ICJ Kenya notes that several cases of political violence in the recent past remain unaddressed. The State must act decisively and demonstrate its commitment to prevent and pursue accountability for all cases of political violence, regardless of the side of the political divide.

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration should take proactive measures to map out and neutralise emerging networks of political violence, thereby securing the electoral environment for all Kenyans, regardless of their political leanings.

ICJ Kenya remains vigilant in monitoring the State's response to crime and reaffirms that the constitutional rights to expression, association, and political choice must be unconditionally protected.

Christine Alai,



Chairperson

ICJ Kenya