



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NAIROBI, Kenya, April 29th, 2025 - Civic Freedoms Forum Strongly Condemns the Unlawful Use of Lethal Force Against Peaceful Protesters in Kilgoris, Narok County.

The Civic Freedoms Forum (CFF) unequivocally condemns the unlawful and disproportionate use of force resulting in the death of five civilians during a peaceful protest held on 28 April 2025 in Angatta Barrikoi, Kilgoris, Narok County. The demonstrators had gathered to oppose the attempted demarcation of a highly contested 6,500-acre parcel of land by government officials.

Initial reports, corroborated by eyewitness accounts and civil society monitors, confirm that the deceased were unarmed and engaging in a constitutionally protected peaceful assembly. The deployment of lethal force by security personnel in this context constitutes a grave violation of multiple human rights and legal protections under both domestic and international law.

The killings represent a direct contravention of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, specifically: Article 26: The right to life; Article 33: The freedom of expression; and Article 37: The right to assemble, demonstrate, and picket peacefully.

These rights are foundational to Kenya's democratic framework and must be upheld without exception. The targeted repression of civic expression not only undermines the rule of law but perpetuates a culture of impunity that threatens public trust in state institutions.

CFF expresses deep concern over the increasing normalization of excessive and militarized policing during public gatherings, particularly where citizens exercise their democratic rights to dissent. This incident is not isolated but rather symptomatic of systemic failings in the regulation and oversight of law enforcement conduct.

We therefore make the following urgent demands:

1. **The Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA)** must initiate an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation into the circumstances leading to the deaths and ensure that all responsible officers are held criminally and administratively accountable.
2. **The Inspector General of National Police Service and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government** must publicly acknowledge its role in the security operation, explain the command structure behind the deployment, and take full responsibility for the conduct of state agents.
3. **The National Land Commission and relevant local authorities** must suspend any further demarcation or administrative action in disputed areas until a rights-based, consultative, and non-violent dispute resolution process is undertaken, in accordance with constitutional and land governance frameworks.



CFF extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and affected communities. We stand in solidarity with all those calling for justice, accountability, and the protection of civic space in Kenya.

CFF reaffirms its commitment to defending democratic freedoms, promoting human rights, and ensuring that state power is exercised with transparency, restraint, and respect for the dignity of all citizens.

**Signed by**

ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa	Kenya Human Rights Commission - KHRC
Constitution and Reform Education Consortium - CRECO	Muslims for Human Rights - MUHURI
Defenders Coalition	Partnerships 4 Empowerment and Networking in Kenya (PEN KENYA)
Independent Medico-Legal Unit - IMLU	Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi!
InformAction Tv	Haki Yetu Organization
Initiative for Inclusive Empowerment - IIE	Transparency International - Kenya