



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 3, 2025

"Silenced Before Sunrise: BBC Documentary Filmmakers Jailed as World Honors Press Freedom".

The Civic Freedoms Forum (CFF) is shocked at the arrest of Nicholas Gichuki, Brian Adagala, Mark Denver Karubiu, and Chris Wamae who are linked to the BBC Documentary, *Blood Parliament*, from their studio in Karen under unclear circumstances. The controversial parliamentary exposé *Blood Parliament* has sparked significant political backlash since its initial airing. Their arrest, believed to be politically motivated, raises grave concerns about the increasing weaponization of law enforcement against independent journalism and documentary filmmaking.

These detentions, carried out without publicly available warrants or formal charges, signal a chilling escalation in the erosion of media freedoms in Kenya. That this blatant act of intimidation occurred **on the eve of World Press Freedom Day** is not just ironic - it is a deliberate affront to the values enshrined in our Constitution and the international conventions Kenya has ratified.

CFF demands the immediate and unconditional release of the four filmmakers. Their arrest constitutes a breach of Article 33 and Article 34 of the Kenyan Constitution, which guarantee freedom of expression and media independence. It also violates Kenya's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

This crackdown is not just about four individuals—it is a warning to all journalists, filmmakers, and truth-tellers in Kenya. We cannot, and must not, allow fear to take the place of facts, or repression to replace reporting.

We call upon:

- The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to publicly disclose the legal basis for the arrests.
- The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and Parliament's Committee on Media and ICT to initiate immediate inquiries.
- All civil society actors, legal professionals, and the international community to speak out and stand in solidarity with the arrested filmmakers and Kenya's broader media community.

Let this World Press Freedom Day not be marked by silence, but by renewed resolve.

CFF remains steadfast in its commitment to defending democratic freedoms, promoting human rights, and ensuring that state authority is exercised with transparency, accountability, and respect for the dignity of all.

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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

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