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CFF Welcomes Landmark Court Ruling on Compensation for Victims of Demonstration


The Civic Freedoms Forum (CFF) welcomes the recent High Court ruling awarding compensation to victims of police brutality during public demonstrations, terming it a significant step toward accountability, justice, and the protection of constitutional rights in Kenya. The Court's decision to award over Ksh 38.6 million to affected individuals and families affirms that state agencies must be held responsible for violations of fundamental rights, including the right to life, dignity, and peaceful assembly.

CFF particularly commends the Court for not only recognizing the harm suffered by victims but also directing the government to institute reforms on the management of public demonstrations and the use of force. This sets an important precedent for strengthening the rule of law and preventing future abuses. This ruling sends a clear message that impunity has no place in a democratic society and that victims of state excesses deserve redress. It also reinforces the critical role of the judiciary as a defender of civic space and constitutional freedoms. The ruling comes at a significant moment when the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights is seeking public reports as it initiates the development of the Framework on Compensation and Reparation of Victims of Human Rights Violations, including victims of protests.

CFF calls on all relevant state agencies to fully implement the Court's directives, ensure timely compensation to victims, and fast-track reforms to policing practices. Additionally, we urge sustained commitment to safeguarding civic freedoms, including the right to peaceful protest, as guaranteed under the Constitution.

We stand in solidarity with all victims and reaffirm our commitment to advocating for justice, accountability, and a safe civic environment for all Kenyans.

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