



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAIROBI, KENYA, MAY 18, 2026

**CIVIC FREEDOMS FORUM CONDEMNS FATAL POLICE EXCESSES DURING
NATIONWIDE FUEL PRICE PROTESTS**

The Civic Freedoms Forum is deeply saddened and outraged by the deaths, injuries, and widespread violations witnessed during today's nationwide protests across Kenya following the sharp increase in fuel prices and the public transport strike that paralyzed movement in several towns and cities.


We mourn the lives of at least four Kenyans who lost their lives during the demonstrations, with dozens more injured amid violent confrontations between protesters and security agencies. Reports from multiple credible media outlets and eyewitness accounts indicate the use of excessive force by police officers, including the firing of tear gas and alleged live ammunition against civilians.

While we acknowledge the obligation of the State to maintain public order and protect lives and property, such responsibility must never be exercised at the expense of constitutional freedoms, human dignity, and the right to peaceful assembly as guaranteed under Article 37 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Today's events once again expose the dangerous and recurring pattern of disproportionate policing during public demonstrations in Kenya. The continued use of force against civilians, particularly during moments of economic frustration and public dissent, undermines public trust in law enforcement institutions and deepens national tensions.

We further take note of the statement by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen confirming the deaths of four Kenyans and injuries to more than 30 others during the protests. While the Cabinet Secretary condemned the violence and announced government engagement with transport stakeholders, the Civic Freedoms Forum maintains that accountability for police conduct cannot be overlooked or diluted through political narratives surrounding the protests.

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The Civic Freedoms Forum therefore calls for:

- An immediate, independent, and transparent investigation into all deaths and injuries recorded during today’s protests.
- Accountability for any police officers found to have used unlawful or excessive force against protesters.
- Respect for the constitutional right to peaceful protest and assembly.
- Urgent government intervention to address the worsening cost-of-living crisis affecting millions of Kenyans.
- Restraint from all actors, including protesters and security agencies, to prevent further loss of life and destruction.

Kenya cannot normalize the loss of life whenever citizens take to the streets to express economic and social grievances. The right to dissent is not a crime, and no Kenyan should lose their life for demanding dignity, accountability, and economic justice.

As a nation, we must choose dialogue over violence, accountability over impunity, and human rights over repression.

Issued by:

Civic Freedoms Forum

Signed by:



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