



Press Statement.

Date: 18th June 2025

CRIME SI POA STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

The reckless and blatant shooting yesterday, at point blank range of Boniface Kariuki, an unarmed young Kenyan going about his business of selling masks to demonstrators, is a troubling sign of the lurking danger of a clique of trigger happy, rogue officers within the ranks of the Kenya Police Service.

Viral videos of the incident show that the victim did not pose any threat to the Police or the public and that there was no attempt to arrest him. Thankfully, the power of social media once again came into play, giving the perpetrator little chance of escape from an offence captured real time. Within minutes, his face was splashed all over, his social media accounts uncovered and his name broadcast for the whole world to see.

We commend the Inspector General of Police for ordering the immediate arrest and arraignment in court of the said rogue officer. This sense of urgency should be the norm in identifying, isolating and prosecuting such crimes if the confidence of the public is to be restored in the law enforcement agencies.

It is unfortunate that this latest incident happened in the background of demonstrations called to protest the recent death in Police custody of teacher blogger, Albert Ojwang, demos that were once again hijacked by an organized gang of armed marauding youth who went on a robbery and assault spree in the CBD, in many instances within the full glare or escort of armed policemen, leading the Senate Majority Whip Dr. Boni Khalwale to quip on a video he had posted on his X account:

"How low we have sunk! The Kenyan Police escorting goons armed with crude weapons"

Crime Si Poa has consistently warned against the increasing mobilization of young people into gangs in different parts of the country, a situation that threatens the immediate and future stability of the country as we head to the 2027 elections.

None other than Hon, Kipchumba Murkomen, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior is on record as alluding to politicians being the bankrollers of these criminal enterprises. Despite such loud

pronouncements, no action has been taken to address the situation. It is time to walk the talk and arrest all the godfathers of these gangs. One cheeky commentator was quick to point at the irony of Kenya Police being deployed to fight gangs in Haiti while in Kenya they escort gangs and watch as the gangs commit crimes.

We need to remind all and sundry that our Constitution upholds the principle of servant leadership, and it is on that basis that the Police was changed from ***a force to a service***, a service answerable and accountable to the citizens of the great nation of Kenya.

We seem to be fast digressing from those standards. Our law enforcement agencies risk losing the trust of the people they serve. Sadly, we are also witnessing an increase of attacks against law enforcement in the course of their work. These recent happenings that have cast a dark shadow over law enforcement calls for resolute leadership.

As a nation founded on, and guided by the rule of law, we must all strive towards building a safe and crime free nation for all. We each have a role to play, but that role cannot be played in the absence of trust between law enforcement and the public.

Despite the safeguards underpinned by Articles 25 and 29 (c – f) of the Constitution, many Kenyans have complained of being subjected to violence, torture, inhumane degrading treatment while in the hands of certain law enforcement officers. Many more have also complained of their rights as arrested persons under Article 49 of the Constitution being routinely abrogated at the report desks of police stations.

The IGP and the National Police Service Commission must crack the whip and bring their team to order. Corruption and impunity within the rank and file must be brought to heel and all culpable and rotten eggs in the system weeded out as a matter of course. Human rights, even for suspects, must be upheld.

Crime Si Poa calls for thorough investigations and prosecution of all those culpable. We also call on the Witness Protection Agency to step up and assure willing but scared witnesses of their safety. Let justice be our shield and defender.

Pete Ouko

Executive Director.

About Crime Si Poa

Youth Safety Awareness Initiative (better known by its brand name, Crime Si Poa) is a registered NGO, empowering communities by catalyzing crime prevention, legal empowerment, and social justice. We partner with sector players in the criminal justice system to promote access to justice and the rule of law.