



## PRESS STATEMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** 10th October 2025

**Issued by:** Youth Safety Awareness Initiative (Crime Si Poa®)

**Subject:** Commemorating the World Day Against the Death Penalty Advancing Justice, Dignity, and Community Safety in Kenya

As the world marks the **World Day Against the Death Penalty** today, Crime Si Poa joins global and national partners in reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the **protection of human dignity, justice reform, and the ultimate abolition of the death penalty in Kenya**.

This year's commemoration comes at a critical moment when Kenya, despite being *abolitionist de facto* with no executions since 1987, continues to sentence individuals to death for capital offences. This lingering practice sustains a cycle of fear and uncertainty for those on death row and their families violating their fundamental right to dignity and humane treatment.

Our recent **National Death Penalty Conference**, themed "*The Death Penalty and Community Safety in Kenya: Separating Myth from Reality*," revealed one clear truth: **The Death Penalty does not enhance public safety**. It is a relic of retributive justice that neither deters crime nor addresses the root causes of violence in our communities. Instead, it perpetuates systemic injustice, disproportionately affecting the poor, marginalized, and those with limited access to fair legal representation.

We recognize the progress made through the Supreme Court's judgment in the **Francis Muruatetu case**, which declared the mandatory death sentence in Murder cases unconstitutional and **presidential commutations** by Presidents Mwai Kibaki (2009), Uhuru Kenyatta (2016), and William Ruto (2023) guided by the **Committee on the Power of Mercy (POMAC)** under Article 133 of the Constitution. However, full abolition remains the ultimate expression of Kenya's commitment to **human rights, rehabilitation, and restorative justice**.

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#WorldDayAgainstTheDeathPenalty #CrimeSiPoa #EndTheDeathPenalty #JusticeWithDignity

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