

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA COUNCIL CAUTION ON RISING VIOLATION OF JOURNALISTS' RIGHTS

The Media Council of Kenya is concerned about the increasing incidences of profiling of and threats to individual journalists and media outlets by politicians related to 2022 General Election campaigns.

The Council is disturbed that such threats are likely to incite the public and political supporters against the media and may thus expose journalists and media practitioners to violations of their rights as they go about their rightful duties. Attacks against and intimidation of the media contravenes Articles 34 and 35 of the Constitution on the Freedom of Media and Access to Information.

The Council has since January 2022, documented 45 cases of press freedom violations, most of them related to electioneering and political campaigns.

We particularly take note of the latest verbal attack against Citizen TV by Kapseret Member of Parliament Hon Oscar Sudi vide a social media post meant to intimidate the editorial discretion of the station. Hon Sudi's statement comes after similar threats by South Mugirango Member of Parliament Hon Silvanus Osoro who castigated the media outlet for alleged biased reporting.

We advise politicians and the public that Kenya's media and journalists are guided by a professional code of conduct, with sufficient mechanisms for self-regulation, both as an industry or at personal level.

The Council encourages Kenyans and particularly politicians who feel aggrieved by the conduct of the media to seek redress through the Media Complaints Commission, which is established under the Media Council Act, 213 to address media-related disputes.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council