

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE INDEPENDENT POLICING OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (IPOA) SHOULD ACT TO BRING AN END TO VICIOUS IMPUNITY BY THE POLICE AGAINST JOURNALISTS**

**NAIROBI-** Once again, members of the National Police Service have attacked journalists going about their work, despite being well identified and visibly branded.

The shooting of Catherine Wanjeri Kariuki, a journalist attached to Kameme TV, while in the company of other journalists and the police is shameful and terrifying.

We commend Catherine's fellow Nakuru-based journalists for taking swift action to save her life. We wish her quick recovery and affirm our support.

To bring an end to this impunity, we call on the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to conclude investigations and bring the police terrorising journalists to justice.

Journalists play a critical role in informing the public and holding powerful institutions accountable and must be allowed to carry out their duties freely and safely, as enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution. We urge law enforcement agencies to respect the media and to ensure the safety of journalists at all times.

We at the same time urge journalists and media workers to prioritise their safety, uphold professionalism and to take all necessary precautions while working in hostile environments.

Issued in Nairobi on 16 July 2024

For and on behalf of the Media Council of Kenya

**DAVID OMWOYO OMWOYO, MBS**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL