

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCK CALLS FOR ACTION ON ATTACKS ON KISUMU JOURNALISTS

On Friday 1st May 2020, Mr. Daniel Dembede, a journalist working for TV47 was attacked by unknown persons around Mowlem area in Kisumu. He lost his video camera, hard disk, microphone and stand.

Less than a week later, Mr. Kevin Omollo, a journalist working for Standard Group Kisumu was allegedly confronted and threatened by an MCA allied to the Governor of Kisumu County over a story on the utilization of the COVID-19 fund. Both cases have been reported to Kondele Police Station and Kisumu Central Police under OB numbers 79/04/05/2020 and 73/6/5/20 respectively.

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) is concerned by the attacks on journalists in the course of their duties especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and is therefore calling on the Kisumu Regional Police Commander, Mr. Ranson Lolmoodoni to launch investigations into the two incidents and others raised in the recent past to assure journalists of their safety. A letter has been issued to that effect.

MCK also wishes to remind the perpetrators of these criminal acts, that the rights and privileges of journalists are protected by the Constitution under Article 34(5) and Section 6(1) (c) of the Media Council Act and that, it is therefore unlawful to interfere with and intimidate a journalist in the course of their duty, especially as they deliver an essential service during these uncertain times.

Meanwhile, we continue to monitor and document these attacks and intimidation with a view to escalating these matters in the public interest.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo
Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council

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