



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**Monday, 15 September 2025**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **MEDIA COUNCIL DEMANDS LEGAL ACTION OVER ASSAULT OF JOURNALIST IN HOMA BAY**

**Nairobi** - The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) is appalled by the brutal assault, abduction, and intimidation of journalist Habil Onyango in Homa Bay on 14 September 2025. This heinous act, allegedly orchestrated by a Senior Human Resource Officer at Homa Bay County Government, targeted Mr Onyango for his investigative reporting on a fraudulent employment scandal. This attack is not only an assault on an individual but a grave threat to press freedom, journalistic integrity, and the rule of law in Kenya.

Journalist Onyango (MCK011319) was lured to a Homa Bay hotel, ambushed by thugs, and allegedly assaulted by the county official, causing facial injuries. Forced to inhale bhang, he was abducted, driven around, and humiliated. His devices were confiscated, data deleted, and a fake apology posted online to discredit him.

A doctor from Homa Bay County Hospital later confirmed soft tissue injuries, offering medication Mr Onyango declined. Seizing a moment of distraction, he escaped via a passing *bodaboda* motorcycle. The incident, reported to Homa Bay Police Station (OB 25/14/25), involves serious crimes—assault, abduction, and property interference—that demand urgent action beyond a routine entry.

Mr Onyango's exposé on [westerninsight.co.ke](https://westerninsight.co.ke) revealed how Homa Bay residents are being swindled through fake job schemes. Such thuggery in retaliation undermines truth and public accountability. Aggrieved parties should approach the Media Complaints Commission, not resort to violence.

Kenya's Constitution (Article 34) and international covenants, like the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, protect media freedom. This incident signals a dangerous erosion of democratic norms, fostering fear over facts. The MCK condemns this act and calls on Kenyans, civil society, and global partners to denounce it.

We demand swift, transparent investigations by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The perpetrators, known to Mr Onyango, must face arrest and prosecution. We urge the National Police Service to recover Mr Onyango's devices and ensure his safety.

We stand unwavering in our defence of media freedom and journalists' safety: no voice will be silenced, and the truth will always prevail.

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