

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Media Council of Kenya calls for investigation following attack against journalist Ian Byron

The Media Council of Kenya calls on the police to investigate an attack against Ian Byron, a journalist working for the Nation Media Group who was assaulted by unknown people on Sunday, 10th July 2022 at Kakrao shopping Centre in Migori County.

The Council is concerned that the attack comes a few days after the journalist had reported of harassment by people following a story he had written relating to Suna East Member of Parliament and the Orange Democratic Party (ODM) Minority Leader Honourable Junet Mohammed after the legislator complained about a story.

The Council urges the police to investigate the Sunday incident reported at Migori Police Station under OB No. 28/10/7/2022 with a view to prosecuting the assailants.

The Council has noted with concern the rising cases of assaults targeting journalists and media enterprises from politicians in the recent past. The more than 50 incidences and press freedom violations in the form of profiling, denial of access, harassment and intimidation, both online and offline is a threat to media freedom.

The Council calls upon any party aggrieved by the work of journalists to direct the complaints to the Media Complaints Commission. The safety and security of journalists and media practitioners is a collective responsibility and goes beyond individual media houses and or editors as provided under the UN Action Plan on safety and Impunity Against Journalists.

At the same time, the Council has called upon the media industry to ensure solidarity and support for colleagues in distress. The recently released Inter-Media Safety Charter for media owners, managers and editors by the media industry notes that media enterprises, owners, employers, managers, and editors bear the greatest responsibility to ensure effective and practical protection for free speech as well as the safety of journalists and media practitioners.

Attacks against journalists because of their work violates Articles 33, 34 and 35 of the Constitution.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council