

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION OF *PEOPLE DAILY* CORRESPONDENT IN NYAMIRA COUNTY

On Monday 13th April, 2020, Mr. Evans Nyakundi, the *People Daily* correspondent in Nyamira County survived an attempted abduction by armed individuals thanks to the quick action of the public and police in the area. One of the individuals was arrested by police while others managed to escape.

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) is deeply concerned by this turn of events and that this is the second such attempt to intimidate him in less than a month, ostensibly because of his journalistic work. While we commend the police for their immediate action and arrest of a suspect, we call on them to conduct speedy and thorough investigations and to ensure the safety of Mr. Nyakundi and his family.

These threats and acts of intimidation, are not just an affront to the rights of Mr. Nyakundi, but to the practice of journalism in Kenya and we condemn them in the strongest terms. The rights and privileges of journalists are protected in the Constitution under Article 34(5) and Section 6(1) (c) of the Media Council Act and it is therefore unlawful to interfere with and intimidate a journalist in the course of their duties.

The County Government of Nyamira and all its officials must respect and uphold the law at all times.

Accordingly, action must be seen to be done by the police and prosecutorial agencies, so as to build public confidence and that of the Fourth Estate in application of the law and assurance of their safety.

We will be following this matter closely alongside others reported to these offices.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council

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