



Statement

CLA shocked by murder of Kenyan lawyer Willie Kimani

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association is shocked by news of the murder of Kenyan lawyer Willie Kimani, and his client, whose bodies were discovered in a river in Machakos County.

Law Society of Kenya Chairman Isaac Okero said "It is absolutely intolerable and unacceptable that this [extra judicial killing] situation continues to pertain".

CLA President, Mr Alexander Ward said "We join CLA member the Law Society of Kenya and other international organisations in asserting the need for full investigation into the events leading to the death of Mr Kimani and his client.

It is fundamental to upholding the rule of law and to any sound legal process that lawyers should be free to represent their clients without fear of threat, violence or retribution. Mr Kimani has paid the ultimate price for simply trying to ensure his client receives access to justice and his death is unacceptable"

The Commonwealth Charter states: "We believe in the rule of law as an essential protection for the people of the Commonwealth and as an assurance of limited and accountable government. In particular we support an independent, impartial, honest and competent judiciary and recognise that an independent, effective and competent legal system is integral to upholding the rule of law, engendering public confidence and dispensing justice." - <http://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-charter-section/rule-law#sthash.X3Sed6wE.dpuf>

The CLA calls upon the Government of Kenya to uphold the Commonwealth Charter and to note SDG 16 "Peace, justice, and strong institutions" to ensure that the death of Mr Kimani is fully investigated and that greater measures are put in place to ensure the safety of lawyers representing their clients.

COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
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Notes to the Editor

The CLA is a pan-Commonwealth organisation which seeks to uphold the rule of law in the Commonwealth by encouraging exchange of ideas between legal professionals, academics and students, through projects and by driving improvements in legal education.