

HIGH COURT BLOCKS THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES FROM KAKUMA AND DAADAB CAMPS



Dadaab refugee complex with a population of over 200,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers

The High Court in Nairobi on 8th April 2021 temporarily blocked government from repatriating refugees and asylum seekers dwelling at Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

Justice Anthony Mrima issued the order following a petition filed by Kituo Cha Sheria, challenging Interior Minister Fred Matiang'i's announcement on the government's intention to shut the two refugee camps. The two host more than 400,000 people mainly from Somalia but also from countries such as South Sudan and Ethiopia. The two camps were established in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

The two orders - against closure of the camps and repatriation of the refugees - will remain in force until July 7 when the cases will be mentioned for directions.

Kituo said the proposed closure of the camps and repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin violates their right to human dignity, freedom and security of persons, as stated under articles 27, 28 and 29 of the Constitution of Kenya. They further note that the refugees fled persecution, serious human rights violations, conflict and other serious harm from neighbouring countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea and Uganda.

Kituo wants the court to declare that the government's decision amounts to collective punishment and is illegal, discriminatory, and therefore unconstitutional.

Kituo's Forced Migration Program aims to protect and promote the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. The program seeks to address policy and legal needs of refugees and asylum seekers with the objective of improving welfare of refugees and asylum seekers and ensuring that they have access to justice.



A section of refugee community leaders and key stakeholders being sensitized on mhps issues by Shem Alubala during a breakfast stakeholder's forum for refugees on business rights for refugees at pride in Azure.

KITUO Mourns Founder Member



The late Steve Adere addresses the audience during the 37th anniversary

13th March 2021 was a very sad day for the Kituo Cha Sheria fraternity as senior Steve Adere, founder member of the organisation, passed on. He had been admitted at Nairobi West Hospital.

Mr. Adere was a newly admitted advocate when KITUO was being established. He nurtured and instilled values in the organization and then set it free to soar. He had a heart for KITUO. He continued to faithfully nurture, pour into and contribute towards the vision of a just and equitable society for all through KITUO; even to the very end, he was an active member of the General Assembly. We, at KITUO, knew we could always count on him. His word was his bond. He would never miss an engagement; he always re-organized his schedule to grace us with his presence. We will sincerely miss him. May he Rest In Peace

Senior Adere's Requiem Mass



Kituo's BoD Chairperson Mr. Justus Muniyithya, Kituo's ED Dr. Annette Mbogoh and Mercy Wambua the CEO Law Society of Kenya condole with Mrs. Janet Adere during Mr. Adere's requiem mass held at St. Michael Catholic Church, Lang'ata on 15th March 2021.

The late Adere was laid to rest at his home in Ukwala Siaya County on 17th March 2021.
Rest In Peace

Refresher Training for Community Paralegals in Marereni, Kilifi County



Zedekiah Adika facilitating constitutional law during the refresher training for community paralegals in Marere Kilifi county

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted five-day refresher training for 25 community paralegals in Marere Kilifi county.

The training that was conducted between 19th to 23rd march 2021 saw the Paralegals taken through various topics including introduction to paralegalism; qualities and skills of a community paralegal, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Environment and Land Court and the procedures and alternative Dispute Resolution methods in Kenya i.e. Mediation, Negotiation,

Arbitration and Conciliation. ADR and Traditional Dispute Resolution Methods (TDRM) processes contribute to enhanced access to justice by all, and in particular among the poor people; enhanced access to justice also strengthens the rule of law. Another session undertaken was on land and environmental law with participants being taken through the new land laws, types of ownership in land, and an overview on the National Land Commission.

Meeting with Justice Centres Coordinators



Kituo's AGCP staff together with coordinators of the prison justice centres during a virtual meeting

Kituo Cha Sheria on 15th March 2021 held a virtual consultative meeting with coordinators of the prison justice centres on the 2021 calendar and strategies to improve legal aid services to inmates and remandees.

currently provides administrative support to 6 prison justice centres across the country. Additionally, we also sensitized the inmate paralegals on emerging legal strategies that enable them to in turn support the larger community within the correctional facilities.

Through the support from the Netherlands Embassy, Kituo

Training on Refugee Business Rights

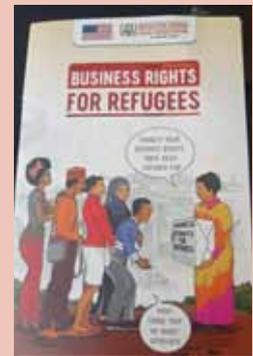


Refugee leaders, refugees in business and representatives from refugee led organization undergoing training on refugee business rights at pride inn Azure Westlands Nairobi.

On 11th march 2021 Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced migration Programme conducted a training of trainers on refugees' business rights at pride inn Azure Westlands Nairobi.

services including work permits, KRA Pin among others.

The one-day training workshop saw 30 participants composing of refugee leaders, refugees in business and representatives from refugee led organization trained on refugee rights, mental health services for refugees as well as the procedures of accessing



Vigil at Likoni Ferry, Mombasa County



Members from the Civil Society Organizations light candles as an act of remembrance or as a prayer for the souls of 157 Kenyans who died from excessive use of force by the police in 2020.

Kituo Cha Sheria on 25th March 2021 participated in a vigil at the Likoni Ferry in honour of 157 Kenyans who died from excessive use of force by the police in 2020.

Audit Report on Police Killings at the Mama Ngina Amphitheatre. Kituo remains steadfast in providing legal aid services to the poor and marginalised in our society. Link to the report: <https://missingvoices.or.ke/.../the-brutal-pandemic-report/>

The vigil came at the backdrop of the launch of the 2020 Missing Voices

Paralegals Refresher Training at Manyani Prison



Prison paralegals and prison officers in Manyani prison undergoing refresher training facilitated by Kituo Cha Sheria officer in Mombasa.

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted one-week training for 30 prison paralegals and 5 prison officers in Manyani prison. The trainings sought to empower the prisoners to enable them access justice with emphasis on fundamental human rights, legal representation and the judicial procedures.

The two facilities house Kituo supported Prison Justice Centres managed and run by trained paralegals to assist other inmates self-represent themselves in court, offer legal advice to the other inmates, educate them on criminal law, give guidance on how to confidently represent themselves in court and empower the entire prison community.

The refresher trainings are activities in support of promoting

access to justice for the poor and marginalized in detention centres through establishment of prison justice centers and are supported by the Royal Dutch Embassy. The training ended with a colorful graduation ceremony that saw the prison paralegals comprising of inmates and prison constables awarded certificates after the one week-long intensive paralegal training.

Kituo has played a big role in supporting and providing technical assistance on legal matters that need the attention of an advocate. The prison justice centre have recorded major milestones since their launch with many petitions of appeal lodged to various High Courts within the Western Kenya region pending hearing and determination.

Mental Health session in Ruiru in Kiambu County



Kituo's Alice Kwenda taking participants through the mental health Support session at Kawangware

Kituo Cha Sheria is sensitizing the refugee communities in Ruiru Eastleigh and Kawangware on Kituo's role with the focus on mental health Support. This activity was lead by the Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MPHSS) team.

Covid-19 pandemic has put pressure and is heavily weighing down on the mental health of the community at large. More so for the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers who

are avulnerable community! It is forthis reason that Kituo MHPSS team decided to visit tto visit the refugee communities residing in Ruiru, Eastleigh and Kawangware regions.

The activity was supported by GIZ Kituo's psychosocial team sensitizing the refugee communities in Ruiru Eastleigh and Kawangware on Kituo's role with focus on mental health Support.

Complaint to EACC on inhuman demolition and destruction of property



Zedekiah Adika programme officer at Mombasa regional office in company of Coast Land Non State Actors addressing the Press at the Mombasa Law Court.

On 10th March 2021, Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with Coast Land Non State Actors shared a formal complaint to EACC on the matter of inhuman demolition and destruction of property by Officers of the County Government of Mombasa. We later on addressed the Press at Mombasa Law Court on the matter.

We have monitored the process of regeneration of County Government of Mombasa ever since we went to court in 2016, in Petition 39 of 2016. Since then, there has been a lot of progress attained in the course. The recent evictions would have been worse if we kept quiet. However, a number of things still remain distasteful despite the progress, some of which include the failure by the County

to share documents as directed by the Court, the inhumane manner in which the evictions were carried out and the question of ownership of part of the land which have been hived out.

As it stands, whether the land in Buxton is converting to private hands is another question. It is only the contract between County and private developer which speaks to this. When we sought for it, we received a response two weeks ago, indicating that the procurement process wasn't complete and hence the County could not share it with us.

All the tenants are merely hopeful to return to the land, however, there was no return to place formula or agreement signed as earlier intended.

Workshop on Legal Aid Act, 2016



Participant during the training on Legal Aid Act at the White Rhino Hotel

On 8th march 2021 Kituo cha sheria participated in a workshop at White Rhino Hotel in Mombasa to take stock of the Legal Aid Act 2016 and its status of implementation.

In attendance were officers from the National Legal Aid

Services, paralegals from Kicodi, Stretchers Youth Organization, Wema Justice Centre and Shimo La Tewa Prisons. Key concerns that were raised in the meeting include the status of the Legal Aid Fund and the establishment of paralegal training curriculum.

Radio talk show at Nam Lolwe FM in Kisumu



Judith Ochanda Paralegal at Nyando justice centre during a radio talk show at Radio Nam Lolwe, 97.3 FM

Kituo Cha Sheria on 13th April conducted an engaging radio talk-show at Radio Nam Lolwe, 97.3 FM. Judith Ochanda Paralegal at Nyando justice centre and Grace Oluoch Kituo's VA led the talk. The conversation revolved around access to justice, legal aid, succession, land rights, labour rights and our M-Haki platform

which incorporates the use of SMS technology to disseminate legal information to clients. Through the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya, the radio talk show is part of a series of county-based talk-shows which seek to enhance access to justice for the poor and marginalised in Kenya.

International Women's Day Webinar

As a follow up to the #InternationalWomensDay 2021, Kituo Cha Sheria organized a panel session on the topic "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a covid-19 world." The panelist highlighted what is needed to foster a world in which women experience equity, support, and inclusiveness in the public and private domains.

Victims of the Terror Attack on US Embassy



Passersby look at damaged buildings in Nairobi, Kenya, after a huge explosion ripped apart a building in the Kenyan capital, heavily damaging the American Embassy and killing at least 40 people and injuring dozens, Aug. 7, 1998. Photo courtesy of Daily Nation

Twenty-two years after they fell victim to a terror attack on the US Embassy in Nairobi, thousands of Kenyans and families of the dead and wounded are still crying for justice. While American victims and their families have been compensated, Kenyans have not. Kituo Cha Sheria and victims filed a suit demanding government responsibility and failure to uphold international humanitarian law, among others

More than 200 people were killed and about 4,000 injured in the 2,00kg truck bomb blast. A bomb also went off simultaneously at the US Embassy at Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The state hasn't helped them. The attack has impacted their lives forever. While some lost their loved ones, others were permanently disabled, yet others carry emotional and psychological scars.

However, their hope for justice is renewed after Kituo Cha Sheria offered to help them file a class action suit against the state. On August 7, 1998, at approximately 10.30am, al Qaeda detonated a massive truck bomb in the rear parking area, near the ramp to the basement garage of the embassy.

A total of 213 people were killed, of whom 44 were embassy employees (12 Americans and 32 Foreign Service National employees). Ten Americans and 11 Foreign Service National

employees were seriously injured. An estimated 200 Kenyan civilians were killed and 4,000 were injured by the blast in the vicinity of the embassy.

On May 18, 2020, the US Supreme Court ruled victims of the bombings and their family members were entitled to Sh465.9 billion in punitive damages. That's part of what had been awarded against the Republic Sudan for assisting terrorist operatives.

Kituo Cha Sheria on behalf of the victims seeks a declaration government compromised or violated rights to life, security of person and the legitimate expectations of petitioners and estates under Constitution Sections 26 and 29.

KITUO wants the Attorney General, within six months of the judgment, to report on steps taken to:

- 1) file an international jurisdiction case for compensation of all victims and their families against the Republics of Sudan and Iran and or steps taken;
- 2) obtain compensation from al Qaeda assets and BNP Paribas SA that provided material support to Sudan;
- 3) seek an acknowledgment of responsibility from Sudan and Iran;
- 4) seek victims' compensation.

Kituo represents the victims pro bono as they are poor and needy.

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