

Kituo Access to Justice Day at Kisumu Maximum Prison



Participants pose for a group photo after the access to justice day celebration

On Thursday, 29th June, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria joined the Kisumu Maximum Prison - Kodiaga Prison Justice Center to commemorate the Access to Justice Day. The Day was not only a celebration but also meant to empower the prisoners to enable them access justice with emphasis on fundamental human rights, legal representation and the judicial procedures.

To celebrate the achievements of Kituo's paralegals and the prison justice centre; members of the prison community were led by prison paralegals in tree planting, song, dance and poetry.

The central activity that took place during the day was a moot court skit meant to aid the prisoners in learning about bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and the judicial procedures.

In attendance at the celebrations were Kituo Cha Sheria's board members Dr. Linda Musumba, the Executive Director Kituo Cha Sheria Ms. Gertrude Angote, program manager Faith Ochieng and Samantha Oswago. Nyando community justice centre paralegals Frank Opande and Judith Ochanda also joined the celebration. Others present were: Officer-in-Charge (OIC), Kisumu Maximum Prison, Mr. Martin Akwany, the Deputy OIC Mr. Philemon Too and the Kodiaga prison human rights officer, Mr. John Ikwenyi.

The special day was set aside for prison facilities to sensitize prisoners on the need to ensure

Justice is not only accessible to the prisoners but is also realized at the Prisons. This is why in attendance were various stakeholders in the justice system in Kisumu including Hon. Joane N. Wambilyanga, the Court of Appeal Registrar-Kisumu; Ms Amelia Otono from the Office of the Ombudsman in Kisumu and Mr. Jacob Opinya from the Probation Office Kisumu Central.

The guests came to interact with inmates as well as to listen to the challenges they come across while lodging appeals against their cases. The Kodiaga prison justice center together with other prison centers have contributed to the decongestion of prisons and at the same time made justice accessible to those who could not afford the services of an advocate.

Giving the keynote address Ms. Angote expressed Kituo's satisfaction in seeing prisoners being able to self-represent and having access to justice within the prison - "the palace of correction".

"Over 10,000 people have been released on appeal directly from the work of prison paralegals countrywide, you just need to know the facts of your case and prepare thoroughly", she said.

She closed the day's events expressing Kituo's gratitude to the Royal Dutch Embassy for their support and passing greetings from Kituo's board of directors and the entire Kituo family. Kituo finally supported the justice centre with administrative materials including stationery.

Kituo Joins the ELRC Walk in Mombasa



Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa Regional office staff march during the Employment and Labour Relations Court Open Day

Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa Regional office on 2nd June, 2017 was represented at the Judiciary's Open Day for the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) held at the Mombasa Law Courts Grounds. The event was held under the theme - "Sustaining judiciary transformation through stakeholder engagement". It kicked off with a procession from the ELRC premises at Bima Towers to the Mombasa Law Courts Grounds on Nkuruma Road.

Kituo continues to pursue social transformation of indigent Kenyans through legal aid and empowerment, advocacy and lobbying for pro-poor policies and commitment to respect for human rights with labour rights being a key pillar.

Stakeholders Meeting on Election Preparedness



Stakeholders engage in a roundtable discussion during the meeting on election preparedness

Kituo cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme convened a stakeholder meeting on election preparedness at Sportsview Hotel, Kasarani on Friday, 9th June 2017. In attendance were refugee and host community leaders, members of the police, media representatives and religious leaders from Kasarani to discuss concrete strategies on how to prevent violence and sensitize the community for peaceful elections.

Vibrant discussions around the three topics "promoting positive messages", "ensuring safety" and "enabling access to services during elections" led to action points which will guide the community on how to prepare for the forthcoming general election.



On 13th May 2017 Kituo Cha Sheria's Haki Blog - <https://kituochasheria.wordpress.com/> was voted as runners-up in the Best Human Rights Blog category at the 6th Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE) Awards 2017 Winners' Gala at Crowne Plaza, Upperhill, Nairobi.



KITUO CHA SHERIA - The 6th Africa Leadership Award Winner 2016

KITUO Celebrates World Refugee Day 2017



Dignitaries led by the late Joseph Ole Nkaiserry, Cabinet Secretary for Internal Security and Coordination of National Government pass by the Kituo station during the celebration

Kituo Cha Sheria on 20th June 2017 joined refugees and the world to celebrate World Refugee Day 2017 at the University of Nairobi grounds. The colorful celebration full of pomp and circumstance was a marvelous opportunity for refugees to showcase their talents and abilities through amazing performances.

Kituo through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) was fully represented as we reaffirmed our commitment to protect the rights of refugees in Kenya. FMP is devoted to the welfare of the poor and marginalized urban refugees and IDPs in Kenya acting as the people's watchdog over the implementation of the Refugees Act of 2006, to ensure the refugees' rights under the law are realized.

The celebration included performances by Ugandan,

South Sudanese, Ethiopian and Burundian refugee performers with the Guest of Honor being Joseph Ole Nkaiserry, the Cabinet Secretary for Internal Security and Coordination of National Government, Nkaiserry said that this year's theme: 'We stand together with Refugees', resonated with Kenya's quest to offer a safe landing to populations displaced by conflicts and natural disasters in the East and Horn of African region.

The ceremony included an exhibition made up of a wide selection of products made by refugees-supported by many UNHCR partner organizations. These included bags, carvings, paintings, jewelry, clothes, fabrics, etc.

The Day's celebrations culminated with a pledge from all stakeholders represented to continue to stand with Refugees.

KITUO Conducts Legal aid clinics in Korogocho, Nairobi



Kituo lawyers Kayere Ephraim and Samantha Oswago screen clients as a community paralegal watches on

Kituo cha Sheria in partnership with the Community Justice Centres within Nairobi conducted FREE legal aid clinics and community outreach forums in Korogocho, Kibera and Kamukunji.

On 26th June 2017 the team was at Glu-Cola Assistant Chief's office grounds to celebrate Idd-ul-Fitr with the community in Baba Dogo ward and offer legal aid and advice to persons in need.

On 27th June, 2017 Kituo was in

Kibera Community Justice centre undertaking the event at the Laini Saba grounds in Kibra sub-county, Nairobi. The activity was the third in a series of 9 legal clinics and community outreach forums to be conducted in conjunction with the Kamukunji, Korogocho and Kibera community Justice Centres.

Radio talk-shows on Human rights issues were also conducted on Kibera's Pamoja FM, Koch FM in Korogocho and Ghetto Radio.

Key Upcoming Activities July - Aug 2017

1. Meru GK Prison Justice Centre - Access to Justice Day commemoration
2. Vihiga Community paralegals training
3. Kamiti Maximum Prison Justice Centre - Access to Justice Day commemoration
4. Eldoret Prison Fact finding mission
5. Kamukunji Community Justice centre Paralegals-led legal aid clinics
6. Kakamega Prison Justice Centre - Access to Justice Day commemoration
7. Kitui Community Justice centre Paralegals-led legal aid clinics
8. Meru GK Prison Justice Centre- Access to Justice Day commemoration
9. Kituo cha Sheria 44th Anniversary celebration-July
10. Kituo cha Sheria 44th Anniversary celebration Legal Aid Clinic-July
11. Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Adjudicators and commissioners identification in Endebeess-July
12. Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Adjudicators and commissioners training in Endebeess-August
13. Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Justice Cup 2017 football tournament
14. NITA Advocates' Training
15. Uchaguzi wa Amani na Usawa county based dialogue in Kakamega and Kisumu counties.
16. Network on Security Reference Group for Coast CSOs Symposium on leadership dialogue in Mombasa

KITUO holds a video screening activity in Kakamega County



Participants engage in a discussion during the video screening activity at Westgate Hotel in Mumias targeting the youth

On 21st May, 2017 Kituo Cha Sheria undertook a video screening activity at Westgate Hotel in Mumias Central Ward; Mumias West Sub-County of Kakamega County.

The video screening was the first event in the 'Uchaguzi wa Amani na Uwazi' campaign by Kituo targeting the youth in both Kisumu and Kakamega Counties ahead of the August, 2017 general elections.

There were a total of 35 participants made up of 29 men and 6 women at the screening hall. In conducting the screening, a clip of past incidences of election violence was played to arouse discussions around incidences of political violence.

Participants were then led through plenary discussions on the content of the video. The discussions delved into the place of peace in matters elections and how members of the public represented at the screening can send out messages of peace to the general public.

The screening session had representatives from the area, ranging from boda boda operators to jobless youths and individuals in the community generally associated with violent conduct. Kituo also called on the local leadership and IEBC representatives for education to share on the electoral body's preparedness towards the upcoming General elections.

Participants raised a point of concern regarding the lack of inclusion of the youth in the public participation process. Suggestions were shared on various ways of ensuring active public participation to ascertain that local youths are able to get involved in governance as espoused in Article 174 of the Constitution.

The 'Uchaguzi wa Amani na Uwazi' campaign by Kituo continues in the counties of Kakamega and Kisumu with radio talk shows and Neighbourhood Conversation sessions taking place in various wards.

UCHAGUZI WA AMANI NA UWAZI



An IIEBC official leads a session on the forthcoming elections during the 'Neighbourhood Conversations' in Lubinu, Kakamega County

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted various awareness activities in Kakamega County with the objective of providing civic and voter education, and to ensure peaceful and credible elections in August this year.

The activities dubbed 'Neighbourhood Conversations' were held in Mumias East, Malaha, Lubinu, Shibale, Ekeru East, Wanga, Lusheya, Lubinu, and Malaha in Kakamega County. Participants had very interesting interactions regarding the forthcoming polls emphasizing the need to respect the law and elect the leadership of the nation in peace.

The Kituo team also held meetings with stakeholders and opinion leaders in Kakamega including government administration officers and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries

Commission officials; players who have roles in the electoral process. This happened as the verification of the register of voters was ongoing. It was noteworthy from the discussions that for the success of credible and peaceful polls, participants should be well sensitized about the processes of elections and dispute resolution mechanisms involved.

Kituo also conducted a Community Video Screening activity and an interactive radio talk show on Elgon Youth Radio mainly targeting the youth in the area to sensitize them on the importance of peaceful and credible polls. Kituo's programme officer Zedekiah Adika is leading the activities in Kakamega ahead of similar activities lined up in Kisumu County.

KITUO conducts Labour Day Free Legal Aid Clinic



Members of the public and lawyers interact during the free legal clinic at Kituo Gardens, Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria held a successful FREE legal aid clinic at the Head Office on 4th May 2017. The annual activity for Kituo corresponding with May Day (Labour Day) celebrations is in line with our overall objectives of assisting the poor and marginalized to access justice.

The legal clinic involved Kituo's legal staff, volunteer advocates and law students all united by the objective of empowering the public through legal aid and education. Members of the public with labour, land, housing and human rights' legal issues among others were assisted.

A total of 113 persons (88 male and 25

female) with various issues were attend to. 45 of these had labor issues, 30 land, 11 civil while the rest had issues ranging from succession, child maintenance, tort, criminal, copyright and business.

The forum offered an opportunity to not only assist clients with legal issues but also create awareness on labour laws and workers' rights for those in attendance. Although Kenya's Constitution has a progressive Bill of Rights, a culture has evolved in Kenya over the decades of unjust relationships between workers with their employers, this will take time to curb but Kituo continues to work hard to stand for the marginalized.

KITUO, PRWG AND KENYA PRISONS DISCUSS PRISONERS' VOTER EDUCATION



Members of the Prisons Reform Working Group (PRWG) in a group photo after the breakfast meeting at the Panafric Hotel, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Prisons Reform Working Group (PRWG) held a breakfast meeting on 5th June, 2017 at Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. The progressive meeting brought together the Prisons Reform Working Group and the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) mainly to highlight steps being put in place on voter education within prison facilities in the run-up to the August 8 elections.

Kituo has been pushing for voting of prisoners in Kenya and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) registered prisoners as voters during the mass voter registration exercise in February this year. As a follow up to this, the PRWG and the KPS held the meeting to discuss the various emerging issues and expected outcomes in the forthcoming general Election.

Kituo was represented by the Executive Director, Gertrude

Angote, Programme Coordinator, Faith Ochieng' and Program officer John Mwariri where the PRWG submitted an update on the sector's work on voter education and electoral observation within the prison facilities. Various other issues were discussed including the data of the registered voters in prison, verification of the register of voters in the prisons, accreditation of the PRWG as election observers and areas of collaboration on civic/voter education in prisons.

KPS represented by Madam Wanini Kiri - [Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons (ACGP); Director- Legal, Human Rights, Research and Statistics] undertook to facilitate the movement of prisoners to their polling centers on 8th August 2017.

Kituo through the Working Group will continue to engage with IEBC to realize the Rights in Article 38 for prisoners in Kenya.

KITUO Staff Trained on Press Release Writing



Mr. Michael Schweres (CPS-GIZ) moderates as Kituo staff listen during the training

Kituo cha Sheria staffs were conducted through a one-day in-house training on press release writing on 17th May 2017 at the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) offices in Nairobi.

The training facilitated by Mr. Michael Schweres, a Peace Building Advisor from GIZ

and a journalist of over 30 years experience was meant to impart Kituo staff with skills to communicate effectively our success to the public. Writing press releases is part of the communication network which offers a standardized way of communicating with journalists for enhanced visibility.

KITUO Celebrates Access to Justice Day at Lang'ata Women's Prison



Ms. Stijn Janssen the first secretary in the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nairobi and other guests sample pastries at the prisons bakery during the access to justice day commemoration

On Friday, 12th May, 2017 Kituo Cha Sheria marked this year's Justice Day at the Lang'ata Women's Prison. Kituo together with the Lang'ata Women's Prison conducted a colorful celebration at the Prison to commemorate milestones and progressive achievements that the Prison Justice Centre has realized since inception in March 2016.

The event brought together volunteer advocates, magistrates, community paralegals and probation officers within Nairobi who interacted with inmates as well as listened to the challenges they face when lodging appeals hence assisting them in accessing justice.

Ms. Stijn Janssen the first secretary in the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nairobi graced the day as the guest of honour. Others in attendance were Kituo's Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote, Wairimu Thangate - Prison Regional Commander, Nairobi County; Makadara Law Courts Magistrate Jacqueline Kibosia; the officer-in-charge Lang'ata Prison Madam Olivia Obell and Martha Nyakoha from the Makadara Probation Office. Community paralegals from various Community Justice Centers in

Nairobi were also present to celebrate the access to justice day.

The day's events kicked off with a courtesy call at the officer-in-charge office before a tree planting and a conducted tour of the prison facility including visits to the prison day care, the prison justice centre and the bakery ahead of the ceremony.

Activities at the ceremony included a moot court presentation by the prison paralegals, poem, music and dance, fashion show and a modeling session.

The main activity was a presentation of achievements and challenges in accessing justice presented by the prison paralegals. Responses to prisoners' presentations were made by the Magistrate Jacqueline Kibosia and volunteer advocates present.

Lang'ata women's prison justice centre has thirty four (34) trained prisons paralegals made up of 30 inmates and 4 prison officers. In the centre's first year of operation; 143 inmates have been discharged from various courts as a direct result of the assistance offered by paralegals at the Justice Center. This includes 103 through bail and bond applications, 15 acquittals and 25 cases withdrawn.

KITUO conducts Legal Aid Clinic in Rongai



A facilitator leads a session to raise awareness on legal and protection needs among the urban refugees during the activity in Rongai

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) conducted a one day free legal aid clinic in Rongai; Kajiado County. The event held at Jesus Harvest Church on 30th May, 2017 saw about 70 clients advised and was held in collaboration with UNHCR Kenya and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS).

The legal aid clinic also served as a forum to raise awareness of legal and protection needs among the urban refugees and asylum seekers and highlight the available referral mechanisms for refugee communities.

Kituo Marks Pre-World Refugee Day 2017



Kituo members of staff led by the Executive Director, Gertrude Angote pose for a group photo during the Refugee Business Forum at Alliance Française, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria joined refugees at Alliance Française, Nairobi on 14th June 2017 as refugee entrepreneurs exhibited and sold their products. The event dubbed Refugee Business Forum was part of World Refugee Day 2017 celebrations revolved around refugee economics and the capacities and contributions of refugees to the local economy.

Activities for the day included performances by refugees, fashion shows and testimonials by refugee entrepreneurs in Kenya. This was in addition to speeches by officials from the UNHC-Kenya, UNHCR partner organizations, refugee representative and a panel discussion on refugee contribution to the Kenyan economy. Kituo's Forced Migration Programme (FMP) officers were also on stand-by to offer legal aid to participants.

Speaking on behalf of UNHCR partner organizations; Kituo's Executive

Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote spoke of refugees as not just numbers but mothers, fathers, daughters and sons. "They are doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers and farmers. They are individuals, and most of all they are survivors; each one with an incredible story that tells of resilience in the face of great loss. They are also the most vulnerable, stripped of home and country", she said.

Ms. Angote acknowledged the invaluable work that many of the partner organizations are doing in the humanitarian space. Being part of the human family should be about doing what all good families do - caring for our less fortunate brothers and sisters and being the shoulder to lean on.

The day's activities ended with the launch of 'Pamoja Collectives' an online market platform in support of handicraft items made by refugees in Kenya.

KITUO Conducts a Refugee Paralegal Training



Participants of the paralegals training at the Heron Hotel in Nairobi pose for a group photo after the training

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) conducted a paralegal training on the 25th and 26th May 2017 at the Heron Portico Hotel in Nairobi. The training attracted 23 participants including nationals from Burundi, Congo DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenyans.

The training sought to increase awareness on legal and protection needs among the urban refugees and asylum seekers; enhance referral mechanisms from the refugee communities and enhance involvement and cooperation

among refugee communities with Kituo.

The trained paralegals will be incorporated to the Kituo pool of refugee community trainers to train other refugees of basic elements of refugee laws and improve linkages between paralegals and relevant government offices especially the police and the provincial administration.

Trainers for the paralegal training were drawn from Kituo cha Sheria, UNHCR, Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the National Legal Aid Service.