

Oral Statement at 56<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council Session  
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue on Summary executions

26/06/2023

I am Perpetua Kariuki, a human rights defender and co-founder of the Kayole Community Justice Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, accompanied by PBI. I document extrajudicial executions. During a protest against the Finance Bill yesterday, police used live bullets, killing allegedly more than thirty protestors. Last week, police allegedly killed two young protestors, Evans Kiratu and Rex Masai.

As part of the Missing Voices civil society coalition, we recorded 118 police killings in 2023 and over 700 in the past five years. Police violence in Kenya often targets young men from low-income areas. Families are sometimes forced to pay for the bullets used in the killings before bodies are released from the morgue. Additionally, police often deny permits for families to collect money for burials.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that every potentially unlawful death must be investigated. Despite the Coroner's Service Act of 2017, Kenya still lacks an independent coroner's service. It is crucial to operationalize this Act immediately.

The rapporteur says that the most detailed protection of the dead under human rights law can be found in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. I call on the Kenyan government to ratify this convention.