



(MSJC)  
**IN DEFENCE  
OF SOCIAL  
JUSTICE**

**THE UNTOLD TERROR**



The protests that began on March 20<sup>th</sup> this year left behind a trail of terror; excessive use of force by the police on citizens was used with reckless abandon at the command of the current regime. **Until now, most of the damage and loss experienced in the informal settlements, where all these protests took place, is yet to be accounted for.** The real number of people affected remains under-reported and unaccounted for. The reasons for under-reporting are that most of the victims fear threats from authorities: being arrested, forcefully disappeared or killed.

None of these protests were witnessed in the leafy suburbs where the selfish politicians from both divides reside. None of their children lay in the cold slabs of the morgue with poor parents unable to give them decent burials. Neither Raila, Ruto or their kin are counting losses from all the looting and massive destruction of property, and neither has to deal with the trauma

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and nightmares of young children who now associate any slight bang or sound with untold terror.

In Mathare, many people lost their livelihoods, homes and sustained many life-threatening injuries that haven't received any form of treatment or attention. Many children were adversely affected by the tear gas smoke from all of the tear gas canisters lodged in their homes, places they associate with safety and tranquility. One known example is the case of Victor Juma, who was arrested while confronting the police who had thrown a tear gas canister into his house, leading to the choking and fainting of his two-year-old daughter.

Mathare is a place where people live from hand to mouth, with significant rates of unemployment, particularly among the youth. Ever since the new regime came into power, peoples' trust was high because of the manifesto of the Hustler Nation, which promised to make a decisive break from the business-as-usual economic policies. This manifesto promised bold economic reforms to accelerate job creation and to leave no one behind. Since Ruto took over power, the cost of living has become unbearable. We the struggling masses feel the pinch and the pain of the tough economy. That is why, when Raila called for demonstrations country wide, which were to start on Fridays, we went to the streets. We didn't go there for Raila, we went there for our hungry children and their broken futures.

Despite Kenya having the most progressive Constitution, we heard, through the mainstream media, the head of state giving orders that anyone caught in the demonstrations will face the law ruthlessly regardless of their status. We are used to this but thought things had changed. Instead of change we saw the police use excessive force on unarmed citizens who were exercising their constitutional right. People were arbitrarily arrested, killed, tear-gassed, detained on trumped-up charges, shot with live bullets, and most of the people were beaten to a point of death. It's very unfortunate that despite all these incidents the government has not offered any help or been remorseful to the people injured or killed during and after the demonstrations. Instead we heard the president applaud the security agents for a job well done, saying: "I want to commend our security agents for being professional in how they have handled all these people. Criminals must be dealt with firmly, decisively, and make sure that everybody respects the rule of law." This paints a clear picture that the president believes he's above the law, yet it is the Constitution that is the supreme law of the nation. Just like in the colonial era where the law only worked for colonists, now it only appears to serve the government.

Since the first protest, Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC) has been documenting and seeking to get justice for those who are affected. Below are some of the cases we have been following up on behalf of Mathare residents. These include two deaths – of a two-month-old

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and a 13 year old, permanent injuries and unconstitutional detentions. While these kinds of oppressions continue against the poor, no one is free until we are all free.



We demand the following:

- 1) The Kenya Kwanza regime should compensate all those who were killed or injured by security forces and waive hospital and mortuary fees for the victims of police violence during the protests.
- 2) The government should release all those who were detained during the protests and stop the malicious and systematic prosecution of human rights defenders and social justice activists who continue to be arrested on spurious charges.
- 3) Disband the police hit squads that roam in Mathare without uniform and prosecute those who are and have been involved in the killings and brutalization in Mathare and other informal settlements.
- 4) Azimio and Kenya Kwanza should create a solidarity fund to compensate the small traders whose businesses have been affected by the protests.
- 5) All victims of police brutality and political violence should be included in a national dialogue towards ensuring state accountability and the development of social justice programs.
- 6) The government should immediately halt the implementation of the Finance Bill that undermines the livelihoods of our people and social justice.
- 7) The President and all citizens should respect the Constitution of Kenya.

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## Maandamano Documentation

Name	Date of Incident	Age	Place of incident in Mathare	Nature of Case	Referred to	Status of Case
Victor Juma	19/07/2023	24	Number 10	Arrested while confronting the police who threw teargas into his house, which affected his 2 year old daughter who fainted	1. IPOA 2. Katiba 3. Pangani police station	
Jeremiah Mwengi	19/07/2023	13	Number 10	Shot in the back of the head and died while being taken to Kenyatta hospital	1. IPOA 2. KNHRC 3. IMLU	
Godwin Omondi Omwandi	19/07/2023	40	Number 10	Shot in the leg during the protests	IPOA	
Kevin Omondi	19/07/2023	16	Number 10	Shot in his private parts	IPOA	
Nijer Oduor	21/07/2023	10	Gumba	Three fingers chopped off by unknown object thrown by the police	IPOA	
Caleb Noah	19/07/2023	31	Number 10	Shot in the leg from behind while going to pick his child from school	IPOA	
Loise Akinyi	20/07/2023	45	Mathare 4A	Bullet scratch on left arm	Not referred	

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Isaac Odhiambo	20/03/2023	19	Mathare 4A	Hit and wounded on the head by a tear gas canister	1. IMLU 2. IPOA	
1)Cornel Fuka 2)Paul Mathius 3)Sarah Fridah 4)Fabrigas Zami	20/03/2023	7 6 10 2 mths	Number 10	A tear gas canister was thrown inside the house where their parents had hid them for safety. The tear gas choked and burned them.		
Francis Oponde	20/03/2023	34	Mathare 4A	Injured on both legs by a tear gas canister	1. IPOA 2. IMLU	IMLU helped him get treatment at Kikuyu hospital
Annette Achewa	20/03/2023	14	Mathare 4A	Was shot in the back of her shoulder	1. IPOA 2. IMLU	Annete received treatment at Kikuyu hospital through IMLU
Isaac Adhiambo	20/03/2023	19	Mathare 4A	Was cut deeply on the head by a teargas canister	1. IPOA 2. IMLU	IMLU helped him get treatment at Kikuyu hospital
Valentine Wairimu		2 mths	Dandora phase 4 (Awendo)	She was affected when teargas was thrown on the roof of their house; she became unconscious	Kinyago police station	Valentine died at Brother Andre hospital while receiving first aid

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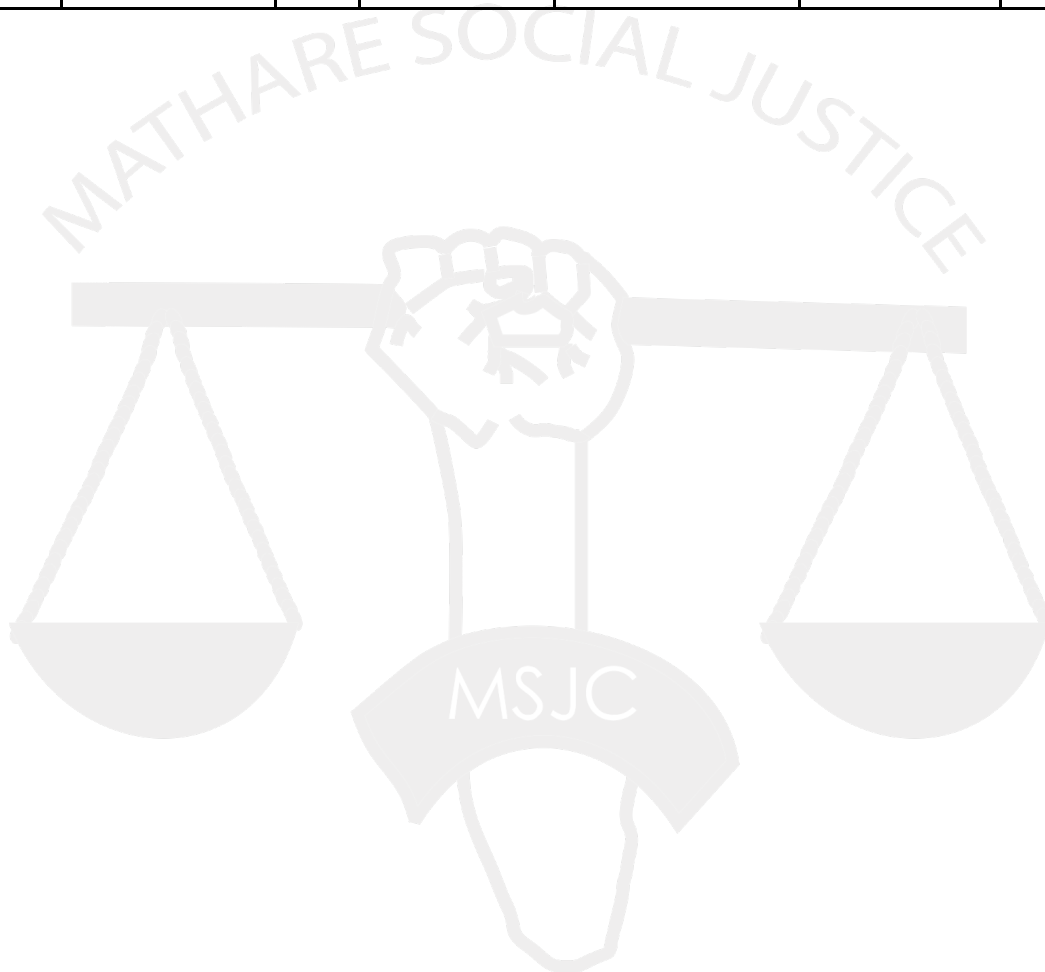
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Alfred Odongo Obura and four others	03/05/2023	40	Mabatini Ward/Gumba	They are all accused of stealing gas cylinders from Shell Petrol Station on Juja Road	1) Ruaraka DCI 2) KNCHR	They are at Industrial Area Prison since they didn't have the 400k bond requested by the court. The hearing is in October.
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