AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL KENYA STATEMENT ON
THE KILLING OF UGANDAN REFUGEE CHRITON “TRINIDAD” ATUHWERA

13 April 2021

Amnesty International Kenya is horrified by the death of Chriton "Trinidad" Atuhwera at Kenyatta National Hospital yesterday. Chriton Atuhwera died from injuries he sustained after a homophobic attack on 15 March 2021 in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Amnesty International Kenya had visited Chriton Atuhwera after his evacuation from Kakuma to Nairobi Kenyatta National Hospital for emergency treatment. We offer our deepest condolences to his family, friends and LGBTIQ+ comrades in Uganda, Kenya, Africa and across the world.

Chriton Atuhwera was 22 years old and had fled into exile after facing homophobic attacks, stigma, discrimination and violence in his home country Uganda. A poet, a volleyball player and a fan of Miriam Makeba, Chriton was forced to abandon his degree in Business Administration in Uganda after he was targeted because of his sexual orientation.

We salute Kenya's commitment to be a sanctuary country for all regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. We call on law enforcement agencies to accelerate their investigations into the fire-bombing of the LGBTQ+ compound in Kakuma refugee camp.

We also call for an independent review of the current and proposed UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) and Refugee Affair Secretariat (RAS) protection and safety measures accorded to all refugees especially sexual monitories. Until the killers of Chriton Atuwera have been placed in a court of law and camp security measures improve, both the Government of Kenya and UNHCR must continue to be held accountable for the safety lapse that has claimed his life. We remind both agencies and the public, that this killing took place after a series of attacks and complaints had been reported by refugees.

We trust that the security agencies, RAS and UNHCR will fully discharge their responsibilities and obligations under national and international laws. We believe that Chriton death was preventable. We ask our members to hold a candle in his honour as we all demand for justice.

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Ends.

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