



WE SHOWED UP

KENYA

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**2025
EDITION**



Rose Njeri stands at the court dock in June 2025, facing charges of interference with computer systems under Kenya's Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act

AT THE SHARP EDGE OF COURAGE

2025 was a year of courage and cruelty, resistance and resilience. Enforced disappearances, police brutality, shrinking civic space, and transnational repression made the threats to human rights blunt and often violent. Even so, Kenyans refused to stay silent. In the streets, in courtrooms, online, and within communities, people organised, protested, documented, litigated, and demanded better. The year showed that rights are never theoretical. They are lived, contested, and defended every day, often at great personal cost.

Throughout the year, our work focused on standing with those most affected. We walked with families searching for loved ones, young people criminalised for dissent, communities denied justice, and activists targeted for their courage. We faced deep frustration as accountability was delayed or weakened. We also saw moments that proved pressure works. Rapid response saved lives. Unlawful charges were dismissed. Data rights were upheld. Voices were amplified. Young people stepped into leadership with confidence. Every action, however small, helped push back against the normalisation of abuse and the erasure of responsibility.

As we look back on 2025, one truth remains. The human rights movement survives through collective resolve, not guaranteed victories. Solidarity carried us through fear. Persistence challenged impunity. Hope, hard-earned and stubborn, kept the movement alive even in moments of grief.

A protestor raises a placard in June 2025 demanding justice for Albert Ojwang, who died while in police custody. © VOCAL Africa



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A protestor holds up a placard during the #EndFemicide march in January 2024. © Amnesty International Kenya

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To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.

Nelson Mandela



Over 2025, we took actions based on our deep belief that all people in Kenya have the right to:

Equality and Anti-Discrimination

Live free from discrimination, exploitation, and unjust laws or practices. Every person is entitled to equal dignity, fair treatment, and protection regardless of their background or identity. Marginalised communities and young people have the right to speak, organise, and demand accountability without fear.

Technology and Human Rights

Privacy, data protection, and freedom from tech-enabled abuse. Everyone is entitled to transparent digital systems, secure online spaces, and full accountability from institutions and companies that use personal data. Young people, researchers, and civic actors have the right to participate safely and meaningfully in digital civic life.

Civil Liberties

Express their opinions, protest and to be protected from unlawful arrest, excessive force, and criminalisation of dissent. Victims and their families have the right to justice, the right to fair trials, and the right to accessible and responsive courts. All people are entitled to timely justice, transparent legal processes, and freedom from impunity.

Movement Building

Organise, assemble, and participate in strong, people-powered movements. Communities, youth, and partners have the right to come together, learn, create solidarity, and influence decisions that affect their lives. Across Kenya and beyond, activists have the freedom to connect, collaborate, and build a vibrant human rights movement from the ground up.



Protesters gather outside Parliament Buildings in Nairobi during the #FreeKizzaBesigye demonstration in February 2025. © Amnesty International Kenya



Members of the Free Kenya Movement embrace Bob Njagi at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in November 2025, welcoming him home after his illegal detention in Uganda © Amnesty International Kenya

AMNESTY AND OUR ALLIES RECORDED HUGE WINS OVER 2025

Sustained legal pressure, public advocacy, and peaceful protest released Billy Mwangi, Peter Muteti, Bernard Kavuli, Boniface Mwangi, Agather Atuhaire, Mwabili Mwangodi, Bob Njagi, and Nicholas Oyoo after several days in unlawful detention.

Rapid emergency mobilisation and international pressure secured the release of Tanzanian activist Maria Sarungi Tsehai within hours of her abduction in Nairobi.

Two Mukuru kwa Njenga youth falsely charged following the 2021 demolitions were acquitted, exposing fabricated prosecutions used to punish resistance to forced evictions.

Kenya's High Court declared Worldcoin's operations illegal and ordered the deletion of unlawfully collected biometric data, marking a major victory for data protection and digital rights.

Bail for five Gen Z protesters detained for over 100 days was reduced after sustained advocacy, affirming that bail is a right and not a punishment for poverty or protest.

The High Court nullified the Communications Authority's directive banning live protest broadcasts, reinforcing media freedom and constitutional limits on state power.

Charges against software engineer Rose Njeri were dismissed in full, affirming that building civic tech tools and facilitating public participation are not crimes. Rose Njeri was named TIMES100: The Most Influential People of 2025

Over 1,000 students from 45 Human Rights Friendly Schools participated in the Digital Rights Essay Competition, signalling a growing generation committed to shaping "The Internet We Want."

Community-led Circles of Conscience strengthened grassroots accountability through radio engagement, GBV campaigns, community policing initiatives, and rapid response advocacy.

The first Regional Human Rights Campaigners Training brought together activists from 22 African countries, building a connected, resilient, Africa-led movement for justice.

SECTION DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS ON 2025

Throughout 2025, we repeatedly rushed to respond to abductions after late-night calls. We showed up in courts and corridors thick with delay and intimidation. We travelled to grieving communities carrying little more than our empathy. Often at great personal risk, our staff, members and allies spoke up in parliament, ministry board rooms, media studios, and digital spaces. This was not performative or reckless. It was driven by our values and a common belief that humanity must be protected at all costs. It was also disciplined.

Our staff, members and allies worked through trauma to professionally and convincingly hold public institutions to account. We publicly exposed violations while privately reassuring our families we would be okay. We refused to look away, even when doing so would have been easier. Our member driven Circles of Conscience proved once again that human rights work is strongest when rooted in communities. From radio studios in Kisumu and Migori, to GBV forums in Nakuru and Nyeri, to rapid response actions in Nandi, Trans Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu, CoC members leveraged outrage into action. They translated complex rights into everyday language and rebuilt expectations where the State had collapsed them. Through these actions they remind us that accountability grows greenest at the grassroots.

That we were able to do so much and increase our funding in 2025 as international funding continued to dip for us and other human rights organisations was remarkable. Much of this is testimony to the strength of our board and secretariat relationship. Leveraging this unity, we will continue to transition our funding and partnerships model in 2026. We will increase our membership and the small number of individual donors that give regularly to our human rights impact. While 0.5 per cent of our budget now comes from these revenue streams, it will increase. Take a moment before you turn the page to register or renew your membership. Members are the blood that runs through our arteries.

While protecting freedoms and the brave people in both society and the state who challenge authoritarian practises remains critical, let's set our sights on disabling the drivers of corruption and impunity. We must continue to innovate. Our human rights education must awaken our national conscience. Let us encourage curiosity and the ability to hold two conflicting thoughts at the same time in all of us. Narrow, binary or closed mindsets will not re-imagine and deliver a rights-respecting society and a state.

Once again, the Staff dedicate this report to all who rose to protect human rights last year. We also memorialise constitutionalist Pheroze Nowrojee, student Bridget Wainaina (12), whistleblower Albert Ojwang, vendor Boniface Kariuki, mourner Vincent Otieno and the man he died mourning, Raila Amolo Oding'a, filmmaker Nick Wambugu and the many more we lit candles for in 2025.

For freedom and justice.



Irungu Houghton

Section Director

CHAIRPERSON'S OUTLOOK FOR 2026



2025 was another year in which state power was repeatedly tested against the lives, bodies, and voices of ordinary people and human rights defenders across Kenya and East Africa. From enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and the violent policing of protests, to the criminalisation of dissent, civic tech, journalism, and creative expression, authoritarian practices crossed county and national borders.

We were also reminded that human rights are not defended by both institutions and people. Kenyans organised with courage and clarity. Families demanded answers. Young people claimed their constitutional right to protest and communities refused to normalise injustice. Courts pushed back against Executive overreach and the Parliament withdrew harmful finance bill provisions.

Through collective online and physical rapid responses our data rights were affirmed and lives were saved. We acted regionally to secure the release of detained activists and expose the dangers of transnational repression. These actions did not erase the harm suffered, but they affirmed one essential truth. When citizens act together, impunity is never guaranteed.

As the Board Chairperson, I speak for our Board when I declare our role is not only to document violations, but to stand firmly with those most at risk as well as to relentlessly insist on accountability. The events of 2025 demand more than reflection in an annual report, they require our rededication to stay vigilant. We must call on all individuals and institutions to respect the Constitution, remind leaders to choose restraint over force and the justice system to centre victims rather than shield perpetrators. In this way, we, you and I, will remain engaged, informed, and unafraid to shape the society we want. Personally, I look forward to 2026 with optimism and renewed resolve. The start of the electioneering period brings immense challenges but as regional leaders have learnt, Kenyans are a force for democracy, open governance and human rights.

On behalf of the Board, I also appreciate our staff individually and collectively. Their interventions to protect and seek redress for protesters, trial observers, domestic workers, women, journalists, refugees, sex workers and others extended beyond Kenya to Tanzania and Uganda. The strategies were innovative and alliance based, the impact was highly visible and unquestionable.

Stay woke and active, Kenya requires it.

Dr. Stellah Bosire

Board Chairperson

MOVEMENT GROWTH

”

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.



Margaret Mead

165

Circles of Conscience

40

Community Chapters

12

University Chapters

113

Human Rights Friendly
Schools

514

Adult
Members

806

Junior
Members

1,320
Members

IN LOVING MEMORY

Joseph
Oduor



**ADC PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
(2024 - 2025)**

We mourn the passing of Joseph Oduor, a committed Amnesty International Kenya member and a valued part of the ADC Preparatory Committee. Joseph's passion, integrity, and belief in a just world shaped our movement in lasting ways.

We are grateful for his service and the light he brought to our work.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and fellow defenders.

Rest in power, Joseph.



A large group of protesters marches along Kiambu Road during the June 2025 demonstrations. © Mumbi Kirigo

DEFENDING FREEDOMS IN A SEASON OF FEAR

The year kicked off with the chilling reminder of the shrinking space for dissent in Kenya. Even before January gathered pace, reports of enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests began to circulate. It was a stark signal. Those who speak truth to power, whether on the streets or online, remain targets of intimidation.

Amnesty International Kenya and allies moved swiftly. When Billy Mwangi, Peter Muteti, Bernard Kavuli, Justus Mtumwa, Martin Mwau, Kalani Mwema and Steven Kavingo were forcibly disappeared and Gabriel Supeet and Naomi (@Jaber_totoo) were arrested, we mobilised our rapid response mechanisms. We joined the Law Society of Kenya and others in urgent court applications, documented violations, amplified citizen alerts, and kept the public informed.

After three relentless weeks of sustained legal pressure, public advocacy, and peaceful protests, Billy, Peter, and Bernard were eventually found alive, disoriented, abandoned kilometres from their homes or where they were abducted. Justus Mtumwa and Martin Mwau were not so lucky. We remain outraged by the discovery of their bodies at the Nairobi Funeral Home. Justice remains to be served in all five cases.

As we pushed for their safe return, another crisis unfolded within our borders. On a quiet Sunday afternoon in Nairobi's Kilimani neighbourhood, prominent Tanzanian activist Maria Sarungi Tsehai was violently seized by four assailants, manhandled, choked, shoved into a vehicle, and driven toward the Kenya–Tanzania border. The operation mirrored the abduction of Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye in Nairobi two months earlier. The cross border abduction was yet another brazen act of transnational repression carried out in broad daylight.

Within minutes of receiving the alert, Amnesty Kenya activated its well rehearsed emergency response. Thousands of online posts and calls to law enforcement agencies and diplomats demanded her safe return. Her physical resistance and the public pressure worked. Within two hours, the abductors were forced to release Maria on the side of the Nairobi–Namanga highway. The Law Society of Kenya, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty received her and coordinated her well-being support, safety and an opportunity to hold international press conference on her ordeal.

These early days of 2025 underscored a truth we now know too well. When rights are blatantly attacked, resistance must be immediate, organised and unafraid.



Maria Sarungi Tsehai speaks during an interview in Nairobi, Kenya, recounting the trauma she endured after an attempted abduction in January 2025. She calls for accountability and stronger protections for activists facing growing threats across the region.

Lest

We

Forget...





Representatives from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, International Justice Mission, and Amnesty International Kenya address the media outside the Directorate of Criminal Investigations Headquarters in January, condemning the abduction of Billy Mwangi and Bernard Kavuli. © Amnesty International Kenya

HOLDING POWER TO ACCOUNT, CASE BY CASE

The struggle for justice continues to be tough and take too long. We must remain firmly committed to stand with survivors, families, the social justice centres and communities demanding accountability for abuses that span nearly a decade. From Baby Pendo to the Gen Z protests, from enforced disappearances to digital rights violations, our work remains anchored in this simple belief, every victim deserves truth, justice, and dignity.

Justice for Baby Samantha Pendo and more than 60 victims of the 2017 Kisumu post-election violence has faced constant obstruction and delays. In February 2025, despite opposition by the ODPP, IPOA, and victim lawyers, including our lawyers, the High Court postponed plea-taking for senior police officers after claims that entering pleas would trigger automatic interdiction. In March, the ODPP dropped charges against eight of the twelve commanders, leaving only four officers to plead to crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, and torture. This amendment to the charge sheet worsened matters, as it publicly exposed the names of victims who had initially been redacted for their protection.



Residents gather in Nairobi, Kenya, during demonstrations sparked by the deadly police response to post-election protests in August 2017, where security forces killed at least 33 people, possibly as many as 50, and injured hundreds more. Opposition supporters have continued to hold protests demanding reforms to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission ahead of the October 26, 2017 presidential re-run.

© Abdelfatah Tiben Abdalla Adam

The High Court later ordered the removal of these names and granted bail to the four accused officers, while also barring them from entering Nyalenda, Nyamasaria, Nyawita, Obunga, and Kondele to safeguard the victims' safety. In September 2025, the court confirmed that the trial would proceed in Kisumu, nearer to the survivors, witnesses, and the crime scenes.

Three years on, the trial has still not substantively begun. Repeated adjournments, shifting judges, ten defence applications, and the DPP's withdrawal of charges have fuelled the victim's families' fears of deliberate delay. These fears are compounded by the state's failure to enforce the arrest warrant for Officer Mohamed Baa, who has evaded court for nearly three years. Refusing to publish his photo or secure his arrest has further undermined survivors' trust.

Justice for Baby Pendo now demands urgent action. The National Police Service must enforce the warrant. The Judiciary must impose firm trial timelines. The ODPP, IPOA, and Witness Protection Agency must guarantee the safety and participation of victims and witnesses as the trial moves to Kisumu.

Our work has extended beyond the 2017 cases. We were enjoined in the Azimio La Umoja petition in the Kisumu High Court, seeking to hold the Inspector General of Police and the Attorney-General accountable for the killing of more than 70 people during the 2023 protests. Hearings have begun, with oral submissions scheduled for 2026. For many organisations and families, this case is a defining test of whether police commanders can finally be held responsible for unlawful killings.



Amnesty International Kenya staff stand in solidarity with the family of Rex Kanyike Masai during the July 2025 inquest into his shooting, renewing their call for truth, accountability, and justice for Rex.
© Amnesty International Kenya.

The inquest into the murder of Rex Kanyike Masai, the first casualty of the 2024 Gen Z protests, also commenced in May. Protesters, police officers, and ballistic experts have testified, with civil society maintaining public pressure to ensure transparency and accountability.

In the Ahmed Rashid case, progress has been obstructed by prosecution witnesses repeatedly failing to appear, leading the court to hold them in contempt. Instead of jail time or fines, the court issued a symbolic sentence requiring them to publicly distribute food and hygiene items to remandees, an unusual remedy that raised serious concerns about the seriousness with which extrajudicial killing cases are treated.

There were, however, rays of hope. The Court acquitted Suleiman and Martin, two young men from Mukuru kwa Njenga falsely charged with robbery with

and offensive conduct. Their charges stemmed from the 2021 Mukuru demolitions, widely viewed as forced evictions carried out without consultation or notice and allegedly enforced through police-developer collusion. The failure of prosecution witnesses to appear exposed the fabricated nature of the accusations and reinforced what residents had long argued: these youths were targeted for standing up against unlawful evictions that trampled on the rights to housing, livelihood, and dignity.

Another major victory came with the High Court decision declaring Worldcoin's operations illegal in Kenya and ordering the deletion of all unlawfully collected biometric data. The ruling is a critical milestone for digital rights and data privacy, reaffirming that innovation cannot be used as an excuse to harvest, commercialise, or exploit the personal data of Kenyans.

Across all these cases, whether in the courtroom, in police stations, or in the streets, our commitment remains unwavering. We stand with victims, we amplify their voices, and we push institutions to uphold the Constitution. The pursuit of justice is long, but we walk it with persistence, solidarity, and hope.



**THE RIGHT TO PROTEST
IS UNDER UNPRECEDENTED AND
GROWING THREAT ACROSS
ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD**

Become a member and Join our Movement

Shujaa (for under 18-year-olds) **Uzalendo** **Utetezi** **Haki** **Ubuntu**
 KES 200 KES 500 KES 1,000 KES 2,000 KES 100,000
(Lifetime Membership)

	Shujaa (for under 18-year-olds) KES 200	Uzalendo KES 500	Utetezi KES 1,000	Haki KES 2,000	Ubuntu (Lifetime Membership) KES 100,000
Students Membership Card	✓				
Join a Human Rights Friendly School Club	✓				
Hold Us Accountable	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Join a Circle of Conscience		✓	✓	✓	✓
Attend Members Specific Events and Trainings		✓	✓	✓	✓
Get a E-membership card			✓	✓	
10% discount on Amnesty Branded Merchandise			✓	✓	✓
Be Eligible to be Selected as a Delegate to the Annual Delegates Conference				✓	✓
Get a Gold Membership Card					✓

Scan the QR Code to Join the Movement



PLUG IN



Membership - *Steer the Ship*

Join the fight for human rights and become an Amnesty member today. Choose from five membership levels, each with unique perks, and annually contribute to power our movement.

Supporter - *Amplify our Voice*

Share our content, sign our petitions, and take action with us to drive change.

Volunteer - *Maximize our Impact*

Use your skills for good. Join like-minded individuals who make change happen. Donate your time, resources and skills to help expand our reach and impact.

Join the Conversation



Amnesty International Kenya



Amnesty International Kenya



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A protestor is manhandled by police during the June 2025 demonstrations in Nairobi, Kenya. © AFP or Licensor

GEN Z PROTESTS, WHEN THE STATE TURNED AGAINST ITS OWN

What began as peaceful, youth-led demonstrations for accountability and better governance quickly descended into chaos, not because of the protesters, but because of the violence unleashed around them. This year's Gen Z protests took a dangerous turn as hundreds of violent agitators infiltrated the marches, attacking demonstrators and sowing fear across Nairobi.



Suspected agitators confront peaceful demonstrators in Nairobi's central business district during the June 2025 protests, heightening tensions and exposing protesters to increased risk of violence as they exercised their right to peaceful assembly. © VOCAL Africa

We documented what many Kenyans had long suspected: the National Police Service failed to stop the organised groups of violent actors who were mobilised, transported, and deployed to patrol streets armed with tyre whips, large wooden batons, and knives. In several cases, we observed police officers consulting with these groups, escorting them through protest zones, and at times directly coordinating their movements.

Some agitators were filmed publicly praising the Nairobi Governor for the support they received, while elected Members of the County Assembly openly defended their unlawful actions. For peaceful protesters seeking to exercise their constitutional rights, this collusion felt like betrayal from the very institutions sworn to protect them.

The situation escalated further with the excessive and unlawful use of force by police officers. We received credible reports of live ammunition fired at civilians, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary arrests. Armed men, suspected to be officers or members of affiliated security units, arrived in unmarked Subaru SUVs without number plates, issuing aggressive commands before indiscriminately shooting at protesters and bystanders.



CITIZEN NEWS

FRIDAY NIGHT

CONFESSIONS OF CITY GOONS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE FEATURE



These actions violated the National Police Service Act, which requires officers to give clear warnings, use less-lethal alternatives, apply force proportionately, and report every use of a firearm to their commanders and to IPOA. Instead, we witnessed a disturbing disregard for both the Constitution and international human rights standards.

As public pressure mounted, a new threat emerged, not on the streets, but in cyberspace. At the height of the 25 June protests, the Communications Authority of Kenya issued a directive to halt live broadcasts of the protests. For 56 million Kenyans, this was an attempt to silence the country in real time. The High Court has since nullified the directive, calling it a misinterpretation of the Constitution and reaffirming that regulating media content is the exclusive mandate of the Media Council of Kenya. The attempt to control information also violated an earlier November 2024 ruling that had declared CA's interference with TV programming unconstitutional.

By 11 July 2025, the human cost was devastating:

- At least 38 deaths, including the killing of unarmed mask vendor Boniface Kariuki, shot at point-blank range.
- Over 500 people injured, both civilians and police.
- Over 500 arrests, with some charged with terrorism-related offences, murder, robbery with violence, malicious damage to property, theft, and unlawful assembly.
- Punitive bail terms, far exceeding what most could afford.
- An economic loss of approximately KES 1.1 billion.

In response, Amnesty International Kenya issued a public advisory outlining the rights of injured protesters and families who lost loved ones. We stood in solidarity with those unjustly detained, including five protesters who were held for 103 days because they could not afford the KES 100,000 bail imposed on them. Through sustained advocacy alongside partners, their bail was eventually reduced to KES 30,000, enabling them to pursue their right to a fair trial.

Under Kenyan law, bail is a right, not a privilege. It cannot be used to punish people for their poverty or their politics. Bail must reflect both the gravity of the alleged offence and the ability of the accused to pay. The treatment of Gen Z protesters laid bare a justice system that too often relies on fear, financial barriers, and intimidation instead of fairness and due process.

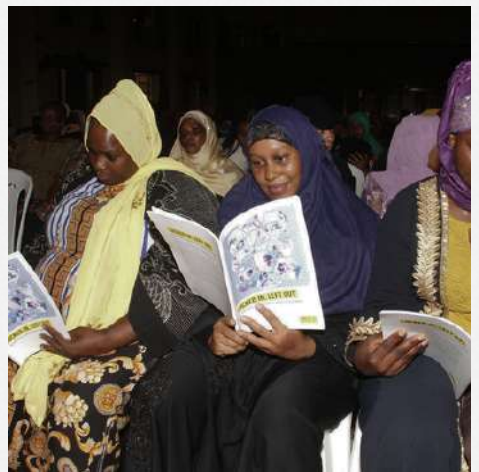
As we continue monitoring the protests and supporting survivors, one message remains clear: the right to protest is not a favour granted by the state, it is a constitutional guarantee. And we will defend it.

FROM TIKTOK TO THE STREETS: KENYA'S DIGITAL ACTIVISM AND GOVERNMENT REPRESSION



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY





2025 IN PHOTOS





Activists and lawyers in court in July 2025, standing in solidarity with protestors arrested and charged with terrorism-related offences. © VOCAL Africa

WHEN THE STATE CRIMINALIZES DISSENT

This year also saw a troubling rise in arbitrary arrests, a reminder that the struggle for freedom of expression and civic participation in Kenya remains far from over. Time and again, ordinary citizens, creatives, technologists, and activists found themselves targeted not for breaking the law, but for daring to question power.

In May, we condemned the arrest of independent film producers Nicholas Gichuki, Brian Adagala, Mark Karubiu, and Chris Wamae, alongside the seizure of their equipment, after they were accused of involvement in the BBC’s Blood Parliament documentary. That this crackdown occurred on the eve of World Press Freedom Day was not only ironic but also alarming. These arrests violated the rights to expression (Article 33), freedom of the media (Article 34), and the protections enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the ICCPR.



Independent film producers Nicholas Wambugu (L), Mark Karubiu (2nd R), Brian Adagala and Chris Wamae (R) stand outside Muthaiga Police Station in Nairobi after being released from custody on May 2025. The four were detained in connection with the BBC “Blood Parliament” documentary, raising concerns about pressure on journalists and filmmakers working on sensitive investigations. © Daily Nation

Even more troubling was that the arrests came only two days after the Attorney-General, speaking before the Human Rights Council in Geneva, had reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to uphold human rights during Kenya’s Universal Periodic Review. The Four producers were later released on free bond, and we continue to accompany them through the legal process as they fight to clear their names.



Rose Njeri appears in court in June 2025, where she was charged under Kenya’s cybercrime laws. Her case has raised renewed concern over the use of digital-related offences to intimidate or silence online expression and dissent. © VOCAL Africa

Another case that underscored the shrinking civic space was the arrest of Rose Njeri, a software engineer whose only “offence” was building Civic Email, a simple digital tool enabling Kenyans to directly communicate their views to lawmakers during public participation on the Finance Bill 2025. Rose used her skills to help citizens push back against punitive tax proposals and the disturbing plan to grant the Kenya Revenue Authority access to private financial data, including M-Pesa transactions.

The State responded with brute force. Her home was raided, her devices seized, and she was arrested on a Friday, then held through the long Madaraka Day weekend. She was denied access to a lawyer, denied bail, and held for more than 88 hours,

despite the Constitution being crystal clear on the rights of arrested persons under Article 49: the right to know the reason for arrest, to communicate with counsel, to access medical care, and to be brought to court within 24 hours.

Under Article 50, she was also entitled to a fair trial, to be presumed innocent, and to counsel of her choice. Yet attempts by her lawyers to reach police officers or their superiors went unanswered.

When she was finally presented in court, the charges were dismissed outright. The magistrate ruled that the allegations did not disclose any offence. Rose walked free and then walked onto the global stage: she was named to the TIME100 Next 2025, becoming the sixth Kenyan to receive this honour. We proudly supported her travel to New York to receive the award. Her recognition is not only a celebration of her brilliance, courage, and civic imagination, it is a victory for every Kenyan who believes that technology can strengthen democracy, not threaten it.

But not every arbitrary arrest ended in freedom. One ended in death.



Protesters gather in Nairobi in June 2025 following the brutal death of Albert Ojwang, who was killed while in police custody at Central Police Station. The demonstrations reflect growing public outrage over police violence and the persistent lack of accountability for deaths in custody. © VOCAL Africa

In June, Kenya mourned Albert Ojwang, who died in police custody at the Central Police Station in Nairobi. Albert had been arrested in Homa Bay for allegedly sharing “false information” about a senior police official on social media. Within days, he was dead. The police attempted to claim suicide. An autopsy told the truth: severe head injuries, neck compression, and multiple soft tissue trauma, clear signs of torture.

Outrage spread across the country under the hashtag #JusticeForAlbertOjwang, demanding accountability. Six officers, including the OCS Samson Talaam, were later charged with murder. They pleaded not guilty and were denied bail. The case remains active in court, and we continue to monitor it closely.

We condemned Albert’s killing in the strongest terms. No Kenyan should lose their life in police custody. To be detained by the State should never be a death sentence. Police officers carry not only legal authority, but a profound moral duty: to protect the lives and dignity of every person in their care.

From filmmakers to coders to everyday citizens, these arrests remind us that dissent is not a crime. And as long as arbitrary arrests continue, so will our resolve to challenge them—fearlessly, publicly, and with unwavering solidarity.

”
Albert Ojwang was a teacher, husband and father of one child. Arrested by DCI officers for publishing “false information”. Dies alone in a cell. Next morning, police claim he committed suicide. His injuries suggest otherwise. Let this sit for a moment and then, demand justice for Albert Ojwang.



Irungu Houghton

2025 Must Reads

Lest We Forget...



We have followed a survivor-centred methodology to document and share the real accounts of police abuses during the 2024 Gen Z protests, just a sample of the many incidents we could capture. Every survivor whose story appears here gave full consent, and we engaged with them in line with the highest ethical standards, ensuring a “do no harm” approach.



The 2024 Annual Report, Still Here, captures a year of resilience, activism, and unwavering commitment to human rights in Kenya. It highlights key human rights violations, the organization’s interventions, and the collective impact of Amnesty Kenya and its partners in advocating for justice and accountability.

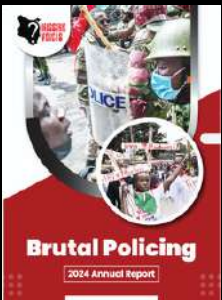


THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN RIGHTS

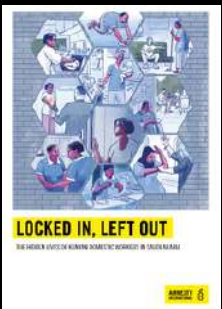
APRIL 2025



The 2025 edition of Amnesty International annual report, The State of the Worlds Human Rights, assesses national, regional and global developments across a wide range of human rights themes. It identifies world trends related to violations in armed conflicts, repression of dissent, discrimination, economic and climate injustice, and the misuse of technology to infringe on human rights.



In 2024, Kenya faced a disturbing resurgence of state-led violence, with enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings reaching alarming levels. As captured in the Missing Voices Annual Report 2024, the crackdown on peaceful protests, particularly those led by Gen Z and Millennial activists against the Finance Bill, revealed a government increasingly willing to silence dissent through unlawful force.



This report is primarily based on in-depth interviews conducted in-person in 2024 with 72 Kenyan women who had recently returned from Saudi Arabia and were being supported by organizations in relation to the abuses they had faced. It also reflects discussions with civil society organizations in Kenya, analysis of Saudi Arabia’s legal framework, literature about the East African slave trade and its legacies, and reviews of reports from UN treaty bodies, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and international, regional and national NGOs.



TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

QUARTER 2 DIGEST



This quarter Technology and Human Rights Index continued to lead bold, rights-based advocacy on digital justice, data protection, and economic fairness. From challenging retrogressive laws to empowering communities and amplifying youth voices, we’re building a digital future rooted in equity, transparency, and inclusion.



2025 Must Reads



Five years after the enactment of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2019, Amnesty International Kenya has published a landmark report assessing how Kenyans understand and experience their right to privacy. The study, conducted across 10 counties through focus group discussions and key informant interviews, reveals that while the Data Protection Act 2019 established a strong legal framework, its real impact is still limited by low awareness, weak enforcement, and insufficient regional presence of the regulator.



**TECHNOLOGY AND
HUMAN RIGHTS
DIGEST:
QUARTER 3, 2025**

In Quarter 3 of 2025, young leaders across Kenya amplified campaigns that challenge coercive consent, push back against cyberbullying, and demand transparent, rights-respecting data governance. This quarterly digest captures our workshops, community dialogues, litigation work, youth campaigns, and the people powering a safer digital future.



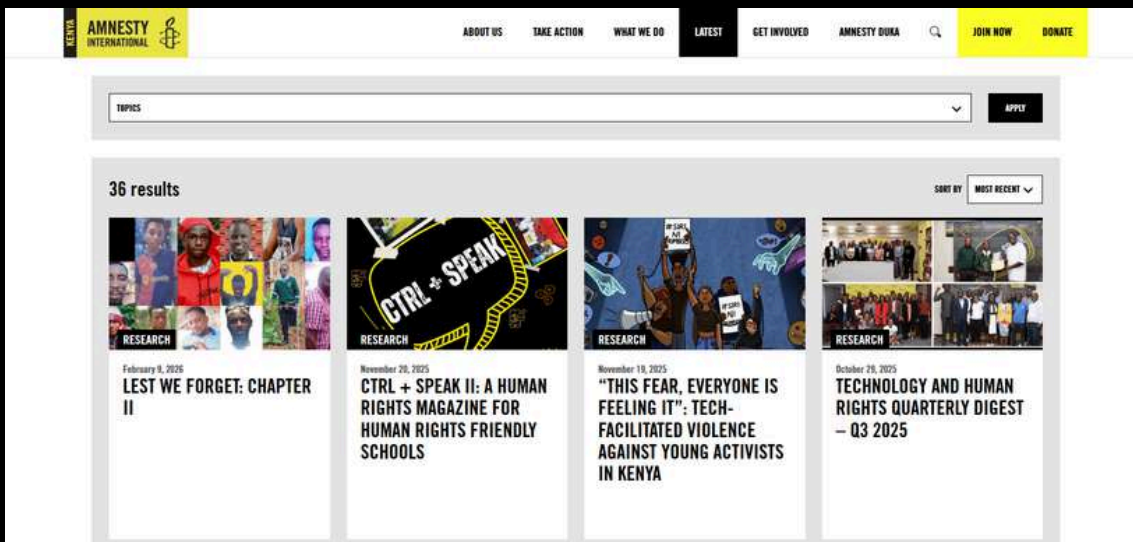
Drawing on in-depth interviews with 31 young human rights defenders, social media analysis, and months of research across Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu, the report reveals a disturbing pattern: state-linked online harassment, coordinated disinformation, unlawful surveillance, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings carried out against peaceful protesters and outspoken online voices.



This edition dives into why digital rights matter for children and youth, featuring stories, art, and bold opinions from young advocates. With one-third of the world's children now online (UNICEF), the need for legislation, education, and protection has never been greater.



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Activists, lawyers, and doctors stage a peaceful protest in Nairobi in February 2025, calling for the release of Dr. Kizza Besigye, Hajj Obeid Lutale, Eron Kiiza, and others they say are unlawfully detained, and urging respect for human rights and due process. © Amnesty International Kenya.

DEFENDING RIGHTS BEYOND BORDERS

Our struggle for human rights does not stop at Kenya’s borders. This year, Amnesty International Kenya deepened its global solidarity work, standing with victims of repression across the region and raising Kenya’s voice in defence of international justice.

On Uganda, we issued urgent statements and mobilised petitions demanding the release of Dr. Kizza Besigye, Hajj Obeid Lutale, Eron Kiiza, and others unlawfully detained. These actions were backed by peaceful protests and the submission of joint petitions to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, calling for transparency on the concrete measures being taken to end abductions, renditions, and cross-border repression on Kenyan soil.



Bob Njagi is welcomed and embraced by fellow members of the Free Kenya Movement at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in November 2025, after his release from Uganda following 38 days of unlawful detention by Ugandan authorities. His return underscores growing concern over cross-border repression of activists in the region. © Amnesty International Kenya

Our collective pressure, alongside families, civil society partners, and regional allies, yielded results. Eron Kiiza was released, followed later by the release of Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo, who had been abducted and detained by Ugandan authorities for over 38 days. While these releases were a relief, they also reinforced a hard truth: abductions and renditions are becoming a preferred tool of repression in East Africa, and silence only emboldens perpetrators. We will continue to resist any attempt to normalise them.



Peaceful protesters march through the streets of Nairobi in September 2025 calling for an end to the genocide in Gaza and the unlawful occupation of Palestine. The demonstration reflects growing global demands for the protection of civilians and accountability for ongoing human rights violations. © Amnesty International Kenya

Beyond the region, we stood firmly on the side of humanity under the banner of #FreeGaza. Together with Kenyans across the country, we spoke out against the ongoing catastrophe in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, making it clear that the time has come to dismantle the political and economic systems that enable Israel’s crimes. We demanded an end to the genocide in Gaza, the unlawful occupation, and the apartheid system that denies Palestinians their most basic rights.

We called on the Kenyan Government to move beyond cautious diplomacy and issue clear, principled statements condemning all violations of international law in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories.

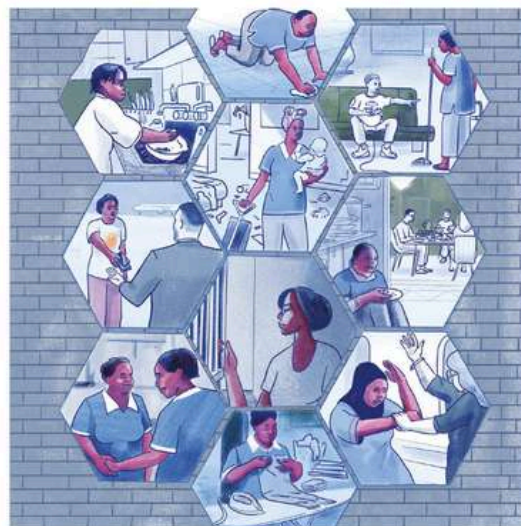
We urged Kenya’s missions in New York and Geneva to consistently vote in favour of United Nations resolutions demanding an immediate end to hostilities, the protection of civilians, accountability for war crimes, and the realisation of a just and lasting two-state solution.

At the continental level, we pressed Kenya’s Addis Ababa Mission to work with the African Union, the Arab League, and global partners to build a unified African position, one that unequivocally supports Palestinian self-determination and the sustainable implementation of the two-state solution.

In a world where repression increasingly crosses borders, our response must do the same. From Kampala to Gaza, our message remains clear: human rights are universal, and solidarity is our strongest defence.

We have stood in solidarity with Kenyan domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, where many continue to endure exploitation behind closed doors. In 2025, Amnesty International Kenya contributed to the landmark research “Locked in, Left Out: The Hidden Lives of Kenyan Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia,” drawing from testimonies of over 70 Kenyan women. Their accounts exposed a system marked by excessive working hours, confinement, passport confiscation, non-payment of wages, and various forms of abuse. The findings laid bare how the kafala system and the exclusion of domestic workers from labour protections create conditions where exploitation can thrive with little accountability.

Beyond research, Amnesty Kenya translated evidence into action. We engaged Kenyan and Saudi authorities, called for stronger regulation of recruitment agencies, and pushed for improved consular support and legal protections for workers abroad. At the same time, we amplified survivor voices and challenged the normalisation of unsafe labour migration pathways. This work underscores a simple but urgent truth: as long as Kenyans seek opportunities beyond our borders, their rights must travel with them, and we must continue to demand systems that protect their dignity, not endanger it.



LOCKED IN, LEFT OUT

THE HIDDEN LIVES OF KENYAN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA





Winners of the Digital Rights Essay Competition take part in a creative painting activity during the July 2025 awards ceremony. © Amnesty International Kenya

YOUNG KENYANS REDEFINING THE ONLINE SPACE

On the digital rights front, young Kenyans are leading transformative campaigns to make the internet safer, fairer, and more accessible. In Nairobi, the Privacy First Campaigners launched Jua Terms, urging companies to simplify punitive online Terms and Conditions so users can truly understand what they are agreeing to before clicking “I agree.” Meanwhile, in Mombasa, the Scroll Bila Troll campaign tackles cyberbullying, responding to a survey showing that 78% of young people aged 18–25 have experienced or witnessed online harassment. Both campaigns aim to foster online spaces that are transparent, safe, and empowering.

Amnesty International Kenya also co-hosted a Data Governance Research Day at Strathmore University, alongside CIPIT and the Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya (DPGSK). The session explored how to harness data responsibly while protecting dignity and privacy, emphasizing the need for systems that serve not just efficiency and profit, but the public good. Scholars, regulators, practitioners, and advocates examined ways to ensure that data governance strengthens equity, accountability, and human rights in the digital age.

Through the Digital Consent General Assembly, young people actively debated ethical consent, drafted youth resolutions, and proposed creative alternatives such as icon-based and layered privacy notices.



Amnesty International Kenya staff join members of the Privacy First Campaigners at the launch of the Privacy First Campaign in March 2025, highlighting growing public demand for stronger safeguards against unlawful surveillance and the protection of digital rights in Kenya. © Amnesty International Kenya



PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

1. Use Signal or other end-to-end encryption apps to keep your messages private
2. Set strong, unique passwords and enable biometric locks for extra security
3. Turn off location services when not needed to prevent tracking
4. Use a trusted VPN to encrypt your internet connection and protect your data



Winners of the 2025 Digital Rights Essay Competition stand proudly at the awards ceremony in July 2025. Representing Lake Junior School, Noonkiprir Girls Secondary, Suneka Girls, St Johns Masawa Junior, Nyabururu Girls High School, Kabianga School, and Senior Chief Koinange Girls, these young champions are shaping the future of digital rights in Kenya. Their voices remind us that the fight for privacy, dignity, and online freedom belongs to every generation. © Amnesty International Kenya

The 2025 Digital Rights Essay Competition drew in over 1,000 young changemakers from 45 Human Rights Friendly Schools across the country, each lending their voice to the future of human rights online. Writing under the theme “The Internet We Want”, students envisioned a digital space where governments, tech companies, and communities collaborate to build an inclusive, safe, and rights-respecting online future for all. Their ideas reflected not just creativity, but also courage; proof that Kenya’s next generation is ready to lead the digital rights conversation.

From Kisii to Kajiado, Homabay to Kiambu, the very best of these voices stood out. The winners per region were: Frazier Achieng Obarah (Lake Junior School – Homabay), Ariana Mildred (Noonkiprir Girls Secondary – Kajiado), Kwamboka Joan (Suneka Girls – Kisii), Carilus Akede (St. Johns Masawa Junior – Kisumu), Perpetua Nyaboke Ombati (Nyabururu Girls High School – Nyamira), Enoch Kipyegon Rotich (Kabianga School – Rift Valley), and Esperenza Hope Mbone (Senior Chief Koinange Girls – Kiambu). Each of them carried forward a message of hope: that the internet can and must be a place where rights thrive, not where they are eroded.

COLOUR ME





Members of the Chuka University Circle of Conscience and Amnesty International Kenya staff during the launch of the CoC in February 2025. © Amnesty International Kenya

RIGHTS EDUCATION FROM THE GROUND UP

Across the country, our Circles of Conscience (CoCs) continued to prove that human rights education is most powerful when it is rooted in community, spoken in familiar language, and led by people who understand local realities.

From Jowi FM in Kisumu to Milambo FM in Migori, CoC members took to the airwaves, breaking down complex human rights issues into conversations that made sense in everyday life. Listeners tuned in to discussions on community policing, access to justice, corruption and accountability—and even the often-mystifying Public Finance Management Cycle, which, thanks to our teams, now sounds far less like rocket science and far more like something ordinary citizens can actually engage with.

On 13 October, Milambo FM hosted the Amnesty Migori Chapter for a deep dive into the county budget process, the County Government Act, and the Public Participation Act. It was a powerful reminder that rights education does not have to be technical or intimidating, it just needs a microphone, lived experience, and people who care enough to explain.



A Jowi FM poster featuring Kisumu West CoC, Kisumu CoC, and Nyando CoC highlights their joint radio engagement on advancing community policing. Together, they are amplifying community voices, strengthening trust, and championing safer, rights-respecting neighbourhoods across Kisumu County. © Jowi 98.2 FM

Beyond radio, CoC members quite literally hit the ground, convening community forums to tackle urgent local issues. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) emerged as a key focus area. CoCs in Nakuru and Nyeri ran successful GBV awareness campaigns, creating safe spaces for dialogue while also recruiting new members committed to ending violence in their communities.

In Kisumu, the Oversight Committee rolled out initiatives aimed at strengthening rights-based community policing, working to rebuild public trust in security systems that have too often failed the people they are meant to serve. In Trans Nzoia, Amnesty brought together human rights stakeholders from across the county to develop a referral pathway for victims of human rights violations, ensuring survivors know where to go and who can support them. Meanwhile, CoCs in Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Uasin Gishu took direct action on pressing human rights cases. In Nandi County, members worked closely with the media to spotlight the abduction of a newborn from a hospital—demonstrating the power of rapid community response and public accountability.

In Uasin Gishu, CoC leadership translated into broader civic influence. Members took over key roles within the CSO network, with four CoC members elected into leadership positions, including Chairperson Benedine Kipruto, a testament to the credibility, trust, and organising power of grassroots human rights leadership.

From radio studios to village halls, from policy conversations to emergency response, our CoCs continue to show that human rights are not abstract ideas; they are daily conversations, collective action, and community courage in motion.

If 2025 proved anything, it is this: young people are not waiting their turn. They are organising, speaking, shaping policy, and taking their rightful place at decision-making tables—locally, regionally, and globally.



Faith Katumbi, Amnesty Kenya's Digital Rights Champion, takes the Kenyan and African youth voice to the global stage at the European Youth Meeting in Sweden. Her leadership reflects the power of young people shaping a safer, fairer, and more rights-respecting digital future for all. © Amnesty International Kenya

Through our Rights Click programme, Faith Katumbi, one of Amnesty Kenya's Digital Rights Champions, represented Kenyan and African youth at the European Youth Meeting in Sweden. There, she joined critical conversations on civic freedoms, digital governance, and online safety, issues that define the lived realities of young people today. Faith also engaged directly with Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, bringing youth voices into spaces where global standards are shaped. It was a powerful reminder that age is no barrier to influence when conviction meets opportunity.

Closer to Amnesty's governance spaces, Anthony Akollo, an Amnesty International Kenya Board Member, served as the youth delegate within Amnesty's regional and global decision-making structures. He reviewed motions ahead of the General Assembly and ensured that youth perspectives informed the organisation's human rights priorities. In doing so, he sent a clear message: young people are not just observers of power, they are participants, contributors, and accountability partners.

Leadership also emerged early and boldly. Movet Okello of Sinyolo Girls was selected to join the Digital Child Rights Advisory Committee, affirming that advocacy and leadership can begin long before formal titles, or even KCSE results, arrive. Her selection signals growing recognition that children and young people must be heard on digital policies that affect their safety, privacy, and freedom.

Across continents and institutions, Kenyan youth are stepping forward with clarity and courage. They are defending rights online and offline, shaping policy, and redefining what leadership looks like. In 2025, one thing is certain: the movement is young and it is already leading.

A screenshot of a virtual meeting interface. At the top, the title reads 'BUILDING AFRICA'S NEXT GENERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS'. Below the title, there is a grid of video thumbnails showing various participants. The main content area contains text describing a six-week virtual training programme for human rights defenders, held from November 4 to December 10, 2025. The text highlights the overwhelming response, with nearly 3,000 applicants from 22 African countries. It also lists the topics covered in the training, such as shrinking civic space, disinformation, and economic justice. The bottom of the screenshot shows a standard virtual meeting control bar with options for audio, video, chat, and other features. The system tray at the very bottom indicates the date as 12/10/2025 and the time as 7:45 PM.



PUBLIC DEFENDERS FUND

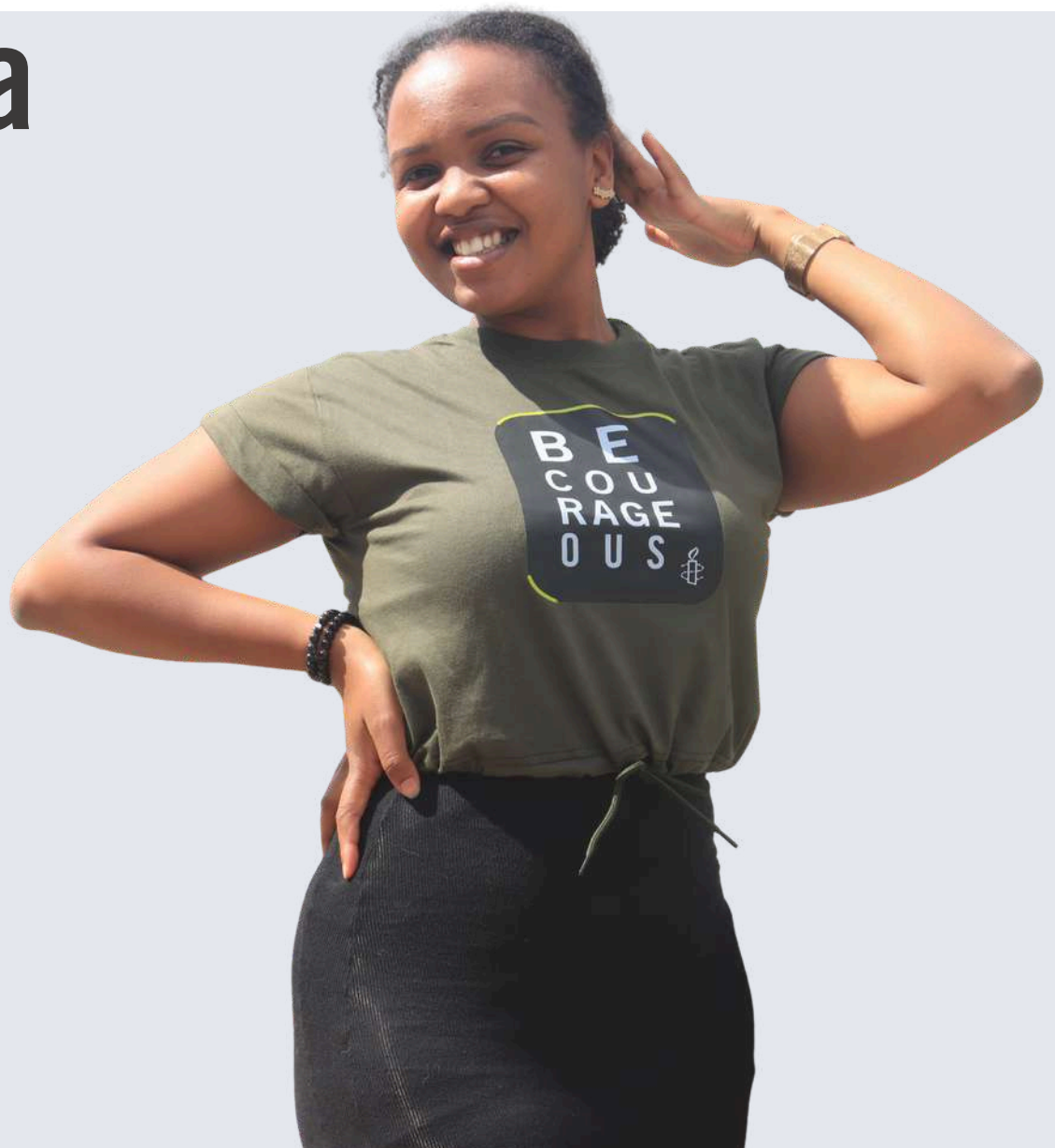
Courage is Contagious. Defend Those Who Defend Us.

Every day, human rights defenders put their lives, freedom, and mental wellbeing on the line to protect our rights. Amnesty does not take government funding to support them. We rely on people like you to make sure those that are targeted are never left to face these risks alone.

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Amnesty Duka





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KES 900



'Equality' Crop top
KES 900



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KES 900



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KES 1,200



'This is What Justice Looks Like' T-Shirt
KES 900



'Light a Candle' Hoodie (Mustard)
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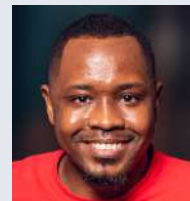
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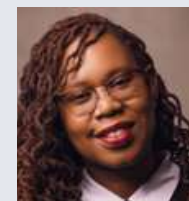
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Charles Maina



Patrick Muna



Peace Nabukhili



Emily Hunja



Zaria Gikonyo

Find the Courage

Find the hidden human rights words in the puzzle below. Words can go across, down, or diagonally and may even be backwards! Circle or highlight each word as you find it.

WORD LIST

- Justice
- Dignity
- Freedom
- Protest
- Solidarity
- Accountability
- Rights
- Equality
- Resistance
- Advocacy
- Truth
- Courage
- Community
- Activism
- Liberty

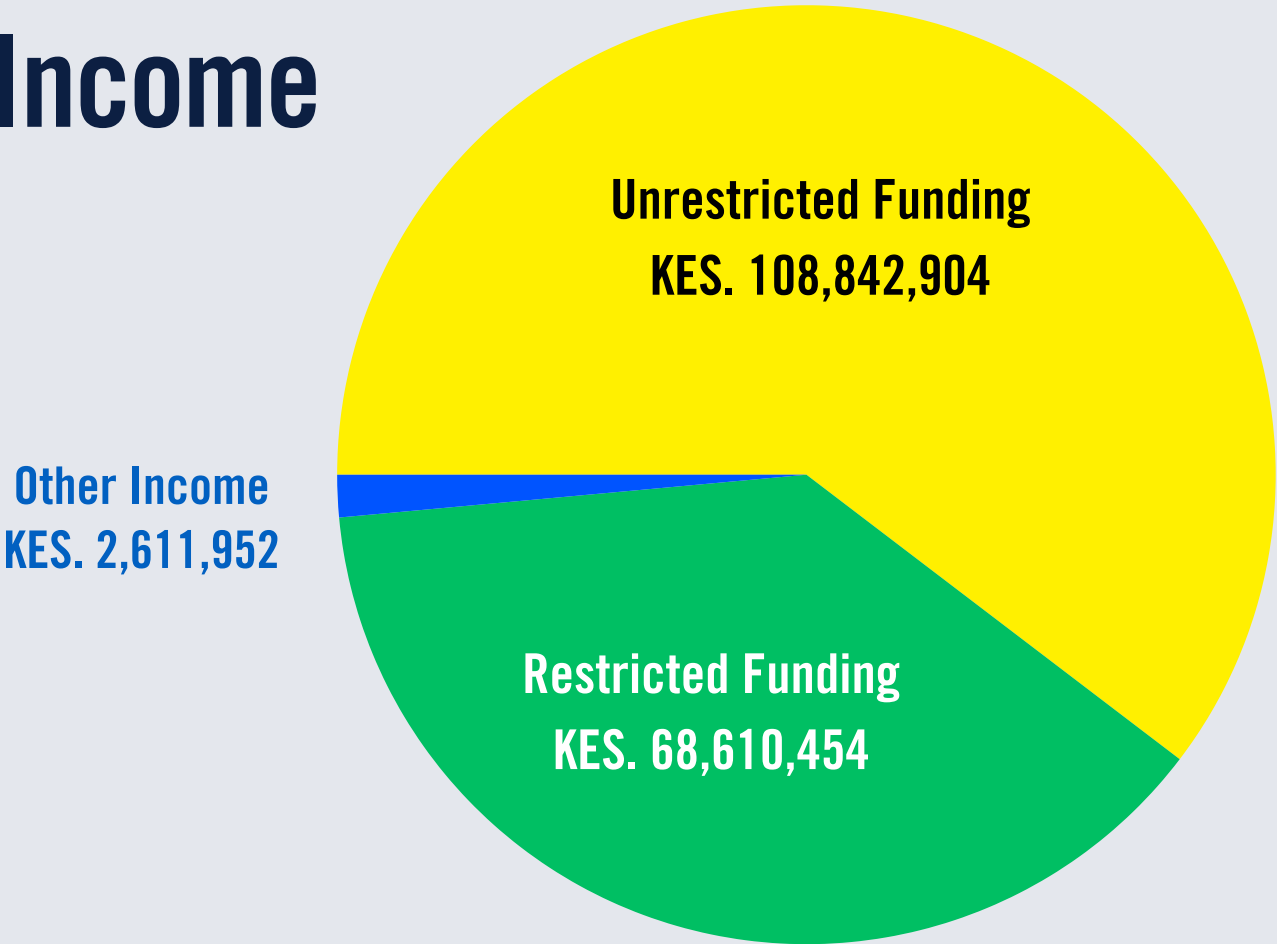
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	R	A	W	Q	T	R
O	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	P	L	M	N	H
K	T	R	U	T	H	X	Z	A	C	V	B	Y
L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	S	D	F	G	H	J
P	R	O	T	E	S	T	K	L	Q	W	E	R
A	C	C	O	U	N	T	A	B	I	L	I	T
M	N	B	V	C	X	Z	S	D	F	G	H	J
E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	U	I	O	P	L
S	O	L	I	D	A	R	I	T	Y	K	J	H
R	E	S	I	S	T	A	N	C	E	F	D	S
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	A	S	D	F
A	D	V	O	C	A	C	Y	G	H	J	K	L
D	I	G	N	I	T	Y	Z	X	C	V	B	N
R	I	G	H	T	S	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	M	N	B	V	C	X

As you find each word, ask yourself:

What did this look like in 2025, and how will I carry it into 2026?

Summary of 2025 Finances

Income



Expenditure

Program Cost	Program Support	Governance
95,912,204	78,721,760	5,431,346



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