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MISSION: To Promote Media Freedom, Credibility and Professionalism



KENYA EDITORS GUILD STATEMENT ON THE REPORTED ABDUCTION OF THE STANDARD GROUP ASSOCIATE EDITOR, ALEX KIPROTICH

The Kenya Editors Guild is shocked, outraged and deeply perturbed by the reported abduction of The Standard Group Associate Editor, Alex Kiprotich, in what appears to be a disturbing escalation in the intimidation and targeting of journalists in Kenya.

This is not simply an attack on one journalist. It is an assault on media freedom, freedom of expression, the public's right to know and, ultimately, Kenya's constitutional democracy. The Standard Group PLC has confirmed that shortly before 9:20 pm on Tuesday, Mr Kiprotich was reportedly abducted along the Gilgil–Nakuru road while travelling to Nakuru.

The circumstances are especially alarming because this is the second reported attempt to seize or harm Mr Kiprotich in barely two months.

On June 27, 2026, armed men travelling in a Toyota Probox reportedly attempted to intercept him as he drove to work in Nakuru. He escaped by locking his vehicle and fleeing the scene. The incident occurred only days after President William Ruto had publicly criticised The Standard Group over its coverage.

Even more disturbing, investigations subsequently undertaken by The Standard Group reportedly traced the vehicle involved to the National Police Service's Crime Research and Intelligence Bureau.

These are grave allegations. They cannot be dismissed, explained away or buried in silence. They demand immediate, independent and credible investigation.

Press Statement: Reported abduction of the Standard Group Associate editor, Alex Kiprotich

The latest incident also comes far too soon after the reported assault of two Kisumu-based Agence France-Presse journalists, Fred Ooko and Brian Ongoro, while covering a Linda Mwananchi rally in Homa Bay Town.

Taken together, these incidents paint a deeply troubling picture of a media environment in which journalists are being beaten, pursued, threatened, harassed and abducted while simply doing their jobs.

If State agents are indeed involved in these attacks, then Kenya faces a crisis far more serious than individual acts of violence. It would mean that institutions entrusted with protecting citizens are being turned against those whose constitutional duty is to inform them. That is an intolerable inversion of the role of the State.

Article 34(2) of the Constitution of Kenya is unequivocal. The State shall not interfere with any person engaged in broadcasting, production or circulation of any publication, or the dissemination of information by any medium. Neither shall it penalise any person for any opinion or view, or the content of any broadcast or publication.

These are not privileges granted at the discretion of those in power. They are constitutional guarantees. A journalist does not surrender his constitutional rights by asking difficult questions, publishing uncomfortable facts or holding power to account. And a government does not acquire the right to silence the media simply because it dislikes what is being reported.

The Kenya Editors Guild therefore demands:

1. A swift, transparent and genuinely independent investigation into his reported abduction, including the circumstances surrounding the June 27 incident.
2. A full investigation into the reported link between the vehicle involved in the June incident and the National Police Service's Crime Research and Intelligence Bureau.
3. The identification and prosecution of all persons responsible for these attacks, regardless of their position, rank or institutional affiliation.
4. A credible investigation into the assault of AFP journalists Fred Ooko and Brian Ongoro, including allegations that their attackers were armed We further call upon

Press Statement: Reported abduction of the Standard Group Associate editor, Alex Kiprotich

IPOA to exercise its oversight mandate and ensure that the investigation and subsequent prosecution are handled with the seriousness demanded by the circumstances.

The State has a constitutional duty to respect, protect and promote the rights of journalists. It cannot purport to defend democracy while those who report on the exercise of power are being hunted, assaulted or made to disappear.

A journalist's safety cannot depend on whether the Government approves of his reporting.

The safety of journalists is non-negotiable.

The freedom of the media is non-negotiable.

And the public's right to know is non-negotiable.

When a journalist is abducted, the victim is not the only one silenced. The entire public is silenced with him.

The Kenya Editors Guild will not be silent.

We call upon President William Ruto and all agencies of the State to ensure that those responsible for Alex's abduction are held to account, and that Kenya's constitutional commitment to media freedom is upheld not merely in words, but in action.

An attack on a journalist is an attack on the public's right to know. An attack on the media is an attack on the sovereign will of the people of Kenya and democracy itself.

Zubeidah Kananu



President

Press Statement: Reported abduction of the Standard Group Associate editor, Alex Kiprotich