



## **KHRC's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:**

*"...The KHRC is permanent,  
irreversible and  
irrevocable."*

### Also Inside:

- **The Truth about Marriage Bill;** discussed by the **Kenyatta University Legal Aid Clinic.**
- **The issue of Anglo-Leasing,** By **Mr. Joseph Agwata (KUSOL Alumni)**



# **Is It Terrorism or Economic Sabotage?**



## editor's digest

There's more things in Heaven and Earth than what's dreamt of in Philosophy, and on the other hand, Religion is what keeps the poor from killing the rich, but certainly, is there more to the Islam religion and the Salafi philosophy/ideology than to just killing in the name of 'God'? and why Kenya in particular? What makes the other East African countries out of the premium? Find out in this issue.

Now, since the whole world is watching, we at Kenyan Legal want to always give you something special; something good, like a river glory, and in that spirit, I introduce to you our panel members of the Reviewer Feedback Programme, the Kenyatta University Legal Aid Clinic, and the strategic Plan 2014-2018 of the Kenya Human Rights Commission(KHRC),and as Prof. Makau Mutua once stated,"...**The KHRC is permanent, irreversible and irrevocable.**", we share the same optimism.

Still progressing to give you nothing short of the best, this is Issue #8 of the Kenyan Legal Magazine; Real Kenya, Real Issues. Welcome.



REGARDS,

*Michael*

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## Is It Terrorism or Economic Sabotage?

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**T**hey say Religion, is the only reason why the poor don't kill the rich, but when pushed to the wall, the poor will kill the rich for a dream they had last night, for there's more in heaven and earth than what is dreamt of in philosophy.

For the past few months in Kenya, the issue of "terrorism" attacks hasn't been a question of "if" but rather that of "when" it shall next happen with its proceeds ending up with two frontiers of victims, the Christians who feel they are the 'prime target' in these attacks and in return the reverse profiling of the Muslim counterparts; but has this really been terrorism or is it simply an economic sabotage? And what really is terrorism therefore?

Terrorism operates by means of calculated violence with an undertone of extremist religious beliefs and ideologies, like for instance the **Salafi Ideology** which teaches that **Islam religion is on the decline and thus violence is encouraged to defend the faith, all in the while blaming the West and modernity for every problem that befalls Muslims**, thus every non-Muslim is an enemy of the Islam faith/religion. Religion is however not the only fuel of terrorism as in other parts terrorism is fuelled by political reasons, such as in Egypt, Ireland and Syria.

First off, I am of the belief that Al Shabaab is a little overrated; they aren't that powerful as such but would like to believe themselves to be so, I stand being corrected, and even if they are mild powerful to be responsible for the attacks, the reason behind is different from what "they" want us to believe; The Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) are not the only forces trying to restore Somalia back from the gutters of Al Shabaab so KDF's particular presence in Somalia is but a

scapegoat excuse; to me. Kenya is an easy target for an array of different reasons altogether.

Kenyan youths provide an easy 'arms for hire', for they live in a state of hopelessness for the high unemployment rates with no hope of this changing for better anytime soon with high poverty levels, these basically coupled with other

**"...Salafi Ideology which teaches that Islam religion is on the decline and thus violence is encouraged to defend the faith, all in the while blaming the West and modernity for every problem that befalls Muslims..."**

consequential issues. As Dr. Kioli Felix who is head of sociology and anthropology in Maseno University puts it:

***"...they(The Youths) use violence to communicate their dissatisfaction, believing that unless they kill, no one will ever take them seriously thus poor candidates are highly likely candidates for radicalization and persuasion to join these violent groups...these young people look at the discrepancy between the rich and the poor through the lenses of unemployment, cultural insulation and feel hopeless...and then this person(Al Shabaab or so), comes with the***

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*rhetoric such as ‘We are the defenders of the weak, disinherited, the oppressed and joining us will solve all your problems’.*”

It therefore follows pretty safe to say that (most of the) participants of the terrorism attacks are not as much ideologues of deep faith based individuals but rather seeking an avenue for the outburst of their anger to the society at large. Take to consideration the Kenyan Somali Citizens at the North of Kenya who if not being profiled to be terrorist immigrants, they are denied the basic recognition as citizens of the country in the matter of Identification cards and such. Quoting Ms. Hamida Abass, a Law Student at Strathmore Law School in ***Blanket Actions on Kenyan Somalis;***

***“Kenyan Somalis are not guests in this country; they’ve occupied the Northern Eastern Province and the Northern Frontier Districts for decades...Kenyan History has showed that many a times the Government has played a major role in the profiling of Somalis. These Blanket actions are not solutions to such problems; in any case what***

***they actually do is make people turn away from their government, enhance further radicalization and make youths a prey to the extremists and their ilk who are clearly enjoying their successful harvest.”***

On the other hand Kenya has been of strategic importance from the beginning (Al Qaeda’s attack in 1998 started with Kenya), for the fact that it is an area of religious convergence thus a probable religious fault line; this coupled with its economic might in the region, and for its ‘strategic’ position on the map.

So really, this isn’t all about “killing in the name of God”, but rather an economic sabotage as an alternative target aimed at creating a rather volatile environment to discourage economic activities as well as investments in the country because in the end such a shaken country can be pushed to any demands by the terror group; its in a subtle way seeking to gain their chieftaincy title and I trust they reasonably believe they can achieve that.

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