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## International Centre for Policy and Conflict

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### Immediate Press Release

Saturday March 20, 2010

### Urgent

### Threats to Deputy PC Oku Kaunya, Human rights Defenders and Potential Witnesses

**International Center for Policy and Conflict is seriously concerned** about the persistence of violations and threats targeting individuals and members of their families, groups or organizations working ensure criminal accountability for those responsible for atrocious post-election crimes; and to promote and protect human and peoples' rights and by the growing risks faced by human rights defenders in Kenya.

If it is true that Deputy Provincial Commissioner Oku Kaunya has been threatened, he will be adding to the long list of Kenyans who continue to receive intimidating threatens.

*We note with deep concern* that impunity for threats, attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders persists and that this impacts negatively on the work and safety of human rights defenders. Our offices were broken into on night of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and computers carted away.

ICPC is extremely disappointed by the casualness of the government of Kenya it treating and addressing this threats. Threatening human rights defenders, and potential witnesses and victims in relation to post-election violence and extrajudicial killings is taking into a grave matter that deserve urgent and concrete action by the government of Kenya.

We observe that these threats are heightening as the Pre-Trial Chambers of the International Criminal Court is about to deliver its verdict in the next few days. It is our fear that if the Chambers allows the Office of the Prosecutor to open official investigations, many potential witnesses and human rights defenders would come under enormous danger.

We are calling upon the government of Kenya to promote and give full effect to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders; and to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and such other individual citizen whose life is under threat.

Signed by  
Ndung'u Wainaina  
Executive Director