



**PAN AFRICAN
HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE
CONFERENCE
Nairobi, 2024**

Theme:
Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa
08 -09 June

**PAN AFRICAN
CONFERENCE REPORT**





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Theme:

Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa

08 -09 June

**Hussein Khalid
Michael Kuria
Yurub Isaak**



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List of Abbreviations

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AU	African Union
CAH	Civic Advisory Hub
CECSC	Centro de aprendizagem E Capacitãoda Sociedade Civil
CHRIPS	Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
HA	HAKI Africa
HRRG	Human Rights Reporters Ghana
HUDA	Human Development Agenda
ID	Identification/ Identity
INLAGHR	Institute for Land Governance and Human Rights
IPOA	Independent Policing Oversight Authority
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
MSJC	Mathare Social Justice Centre
NANGO	National Association of NGO
NCTC	National Counter Terrorism Centre
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OSF	Open Society Foundation
RULAAC	Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre
RWRC	Rights and Wellness Resource Centre
S4C	Spaces for Change.
UN	United Nations
UN FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UN OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNSR	United Nations Special Rapporteur
UoN	University of Nairobi
US	United States
VA	VOCAL Africa (Voices of Community Activists and Leaders of Africa)
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WISE	Women in International Security
YESRAC	Youth Empowerment and Social Rights Advocacy Centre

PART 1:

BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Pan-African Conference on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism was held from 7th to 10th June 2024 at the Argyle Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. It brought together civil society actors, government officials, security experts African Union officials and human rights defenders from across Africa. The conference explored the interconnection between human rights and security with a particular emphasis on counter terrorism, fostering a comprehensive approach to achieving peace and stability on the continent.

Over 50 participants took part in the conference from over 27 countries of Africa. The participants represented various human rights and security groups with the majority having vast experience in the field. Experts on the twin topic of human rights and security facilitated the various sessions giving insight on the real situation on the ground. Among the invited guests was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Prof. Ben Saul.

1.2 Goal of the Conference: To Situate Africa at the Centre of Human Rights and Counter Terrorism Efforts Globally

Africa, being the most affected by human rights challenges and counter-terrorism efforts, should take a global lead in addressing these issues because it possesses unique insights and experiences that are invaluable for shaping effective and balanced strategies. The continent's diverse cultural, social, and political landscapes have necessitated innovative approaches to integrating human rights into counter-terrorism, making African nations well-equipped to offer practical, context-specific solutions that respect human dignity while ensuring security. By leading global discourse, Africa can advocate for policies that prioritize both human rights and security, demonstrating how to navigate the delicate balance between these imperatives. Moreover, Africa's leadership can foster greater international cooperation and solidarity, encouraging a more holistic and humane global response to terrorism.

1.3 Objectives of the Conference

Strengthen Regional Cooperation and Coordination: Facilitate the creation and enhancement of collaborative frameworks among African CSOs, state institutions, regional bodies and the UN to improve the sharing of information, resources and

strategies for counter-terrorism efforts and emphasize the importance of a unified approach in addressing the transnational nature of terrorism while respecting national sovereigns.

Call for Promotion of Human Rights and Rule of Law in Counter-Terrorism Measures:

Ensure that all counter-terrorism actions comply with international human rights standards. Address concerns about the potential abuse of counter-terrorism measures to suppress dissent and protect the rights of all individuals, including those accused of terrorism.

Advocate for Enhanced Capacity Building and Resource Allocation:

Propose the development of comprehensive training programs for security personnel, judicial authorities and policymakers on effective and humane counter-terrorism practices.

The conference will advocate for increased funding and resources to bolster national and regional capabilities in preventing and responding to terrorist threats.

Address Root Causes and Prevent Radicalization:

Focus on identifying and mitigating the underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to radicalization and terrorism. Promote inclusive development, education, and community engagement initiatives to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and support the reintegration of former extremists into society.

1.4 Conference Expected Outcomes



- A Workshop Outcome Document on Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa:** This document will reaffirm the commitment of African civil society to uphold human rights in counter terrorism measures as a foundation for lasting security in Africa.
- Strengthened Regional Cooperation for Civil Society and State Actors on Human Rights and Security:** The conference aims to foster greater collaboration between African civil society and states on issues related to human rights and security. The conference will be the starting point for greater partnership and collaboration.
- Network of African Human Rights and Security Experts:** This network will serve as a platform for ongoing dialogue, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among key stakeholders.
- Security Sector Reforms and Human Rights:** The conference will commit to reforms within the security sector to incorporate human rights-based approach and foster civilian oversight to build public trust and improve the effectiveness of security operations.

1.5 Conclusion:

The Pan-African Conference on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism presented a unique opportunity to deliberate about a unified African approach towards creating a secure and just continent. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, African nations can build a future where human rights, security and counter terrorism are mutually reinforcing pillars of a peaceful and prosperous Africa.



PART 2:

PROCEEDINGS OF DAY ONE

2.1 Session One: 9:00 - 11:00 AM | Opening Ceremony

2.1.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Hussein Khalid



Hussein Khalid facilitated the opening of the conference by welcoming participants from over 20 African States and introducing key speakers. His remarks set the tone for discussions on human rights and security, emphasizing the role of civil society in engaging with regional and continental bodies such as the African Union (AU) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

He welcomed Directors to make their opening remarks and then proceeded later to inviting Mr. Christopher Kayoshe, a representative of the African Union, to deliver welcoming remarks. He noted that Mr. Kayoshe who originally had been instrumental in working with the AU on security and governance issues. In his introduction, Khalid highlighted the importance of collaboration between civil society and the AU, urging organizations to take advantage of existing structures to push for human rights-based approaches to counterterrorism. He then welcomed Directors of partner organisers to make their opening remarks.

2.1.2 Remarks by Yona Wanjala – Civic Advisory Hub

Yona Wanjala began by welcoming participants and expressing appreciation for the presence of civil society leaders, human rights defenders, policymakers and development partners. He underscored that this conference represents an important milestone in countering terrorism through African-led solutions.

Key issues in his remarks were as follows:

- **Reframing the Narrative on Counterterrorism:** African solutions to terrorism should not focus solely on military responses, which often escalate conflicts. Instead, preventive approaches that address root causes such as governance failures and socio-economic disparities are essential.
- **Africa's Global Image in Counterterrorism:** The continent has been stereotyped as a recruitment ground and financing hub for terrorism, yet governance failures, kleptocracy and authoritarianism remain significant contributors to instability.

- **The Role of Civil Society:** He called on civil society to actively participate in shaping counterterrorism efforts and move away from the outdated notion that security is the sole responsibility of uniformed officers.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** He encouraged participants to take advantage of the conference for building alliances and strengthening partnerships, reminding them that collaboration is just as important as networking.



Yona Wanjala,
Civic Advisory Hub

“

Gone are the days when security was left to uniformed officers. We are in this together and it is up to all of us to make meaningful contributions toward a peaceful Africa.

”

2.1.3 Remarks by Yusuf M. Aboubakar – HAKI Africa

Yusuf Aboubakar began by acknowledging the grim reality of insecurity and violent conflicts across Africa, stating that instability continues to hinder peace, development and democracy in many states.

Key issues in his remarks were as follows:

- **The Fragile State of Peace in Africa:** Many African nations remain in a constant state of conflict, with countries like Sudan, Libya, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo struggling to maintain stability.
- **Erosion of Democracy:** The rise of military governments replacing failed democracies reflects a loss of public trust in governance structures.
- **Human Rights at the Core of Security:** The failure to uphold human rights fuels instability and discrimination in governance breeds marginalization, resentment and ultimately conflict.
- **The African Charter's Role:** He called for renewed commitment to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, emphasizing that economic,

social and cultural rights must be equally prioritized alongside civil and political rights.

He concluded by calling on the conference to be a catalyst for action, urging civil society actors to hold their governments accountable for upholding human rights as a means of ensuring long-term security.

"May this conference mark the beginning of an African movement of human rights defenders, who will lead the fight to uphold our rights and ensure governments are held accountable."



Yusuf M. Aboubakar
HAKI Africa

“

Failure to recognize national diversity and promote inclusivity leads to marginalization, which in turn breeds desperation and armed conflict. If we do not address these core issues, peace and stability will remain elusive.

”

2.1.4 Remarks by Adeniyi – Spaces for Change

Adeniyi, speaking on behalf of Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, Executive Director of Spaces for Change, welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of civic space in counterterrorism efforts.

Key issues in her remarks were as follows:

- **Protecting Civic Space:** Counterterrorism measures must not be used as an excuse to shut down civic space or repress fundamental freedoms. Human rights and national security are interdependent—one cannot exist without the other.
- **Rising Terrorism in Africa:** Data from the Global Terrorism Index shows that sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed a sharp rise in terrorism-related deaths, making it critical to assess whether current counterterrorism strategies are effective.
- **Unintended Consequences of Counterterrorism Laws:** While security policies are often well-intended, they have led to negative consequences such as the suppression of dissent, arbitrary detentions and violations of press

freedoms.

- **African Union's Security Mandate:** The AU has acknowledged the growing threats of terrorism, violent extremism and unconstitutional changes of government, emphasizing the need for homegrown counterterrorism strategies that protect civil liberties.



Adeniyi
Spaces for Change

“

We must secure access and engagement with governments, regional bodies and other actors in the civic space. Counterterrorism must be done in a way that respects African realities and preserves human rights.

”

He concluded by encouraging participants to engage in research, policy advocacy and capacity building, ensuring that African solutions to terrorism are developed by Africans, for Africans.

2.1.5 Remarks by Rosette Ochoo – VOCAL Africa

Rosette Ochoo, representing VOCAL Africa, emphasized the critical role of youth in counterterrorism efforts. She framed her remarks around the vulnerability of young people to radicalization, particularly due to economic hardships, political marginalization and online recruitment.

Key issues in her remarks were as follows:

- **Youth as Targets of Terrorism:** Many terrorist groups exploit social media platforms to recruit and radicalize young people.
- **Empowering Youth Voices:** Youth must be actively engaged in counterterrorism discussions and security policy-making to ensure that their perspectives and challenges are considered.
- **Multifaceted Approaches to Counterterrorism:** Governments, civil society and development partners must work together to address

security concerns through economic empowerment, education and political inclusion.



Rosette Ochoo,
VOCAL Africa

“

As youth, if our voices are not heard, no one will understand what is troubling us. We must take charge of our future and actively participate in shaping security policies that affect us.

”

She concluded by echoing VOCAL Africa's vision of a unified continent in combating terrorism through a collective voice.

“One Africa, one voice. If we approach counterterrorism in a coordinated and inclusive way, we will go far.”



2.1.6 Speeches from Invited Guests

i) George Kegoro - Director Open Society Foundations

George Kegoro addressed the conference by emphasizing the importance of balancing security and human rights in counterterrorism efforts. He acknowledged the presence of diverse stakeholders and expressed Open Society Foundations' (OSF) commitment to continuing its engagement in shaping human rights-centered security policies. He highlighted that OSF is undergoing a significant internal transformation, with human rights becoming even more central to its programming. He reaffirmed OSF's commitment to working closely with civil society organizations and the conference organizers to strengthen advocacy efforts on security and human rights.

He reaffirmed OSF's commitment to working with civil society and policy-makers to ensure that security efforts remain grounded in human rights principles. He also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the conference and looked forward to continued collaboration with stakeholders in the field of human rights and security governance.



George Kegoro,
Director- Open Society
Foundation

“

The issues to do with human rights are going to be centralized significantly in the programming that we have. I'm hoping that the partnership we've enjoyed with the organizers will continue and will be more robustly represented in the work we're going to be doing in the future.

”

ii) Christopher Kayoshe - Governance Officer on Human Rights Affairs – Africa Union

Mr. Kayoshe provided a comprehensive overview of the state of terrorism in Africa and the necessity of rethinking counterterrorism approaches to ensure they address root causes rather than merely reacting to security threats.

He highlighted the following key issues:

- Terrorism has spread to all five regions of the continent, unlike in the past when it was confined to specific areas.
- Extremist groups have shifted tactics, moving from bombings and hijackings to occupying territories, establishing control over populations and challenging state authority.
- The destabilization of one country directly impacts neighboring states, reinforcing the need for regional cooperation.



Christopher Kayoshe-
Governance Officer on
Human Rights Affairs - AU

“

When we see stability in one member state, in some cases, within hours, we see instability emerging in another country. We must recognize that we are in this together and a collective response is necessary to combat terrorism effectively.

”

Mr. Kayoshe emphasized that Africa's security is indivisible, meaning that security in one country directly affects its neighbors. He urged African governments to prioritize community-based approaches, recognizing that civil society plays a crucial role in preventing radicalization at the grassroots level.

iii) Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana Commissioner – African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Commissioner at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), delivered a compelling address highlighting the critical intersection of human rights and counterterrorism in Africa. She underscored the need for African states to adopt counterterrorism strategies that align with human rights principles, warning against security policies that violate fundamental freedoms and suppress civil liberties. Her speech provided a historical perspective on Africa's struggle with terrorism, reflected on the evolving security landscape and called for legal, institutional and policy reforms that promote security while safeguarding democratic rights.

Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana
Commissioner-ACHPR



“

We have witnessed, unfortunately, numerous instances where counterterrorism measures have led to arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and the suppression of civil society. These actions are in direct violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and international law.

”

She urged governments to reform counterterrorism laws to ensure that they are targeted, lawful and aligned with international human rights principles. Dr. Musyimi-Ogana concluded by emphasizing that counterterrorism must be a collective effort, involving governments, civil society and regional bodies.

She called for:

- Legal reforms that protect human rights while addressing security concerns.
- Public accountability and transparency in counterterrorism policies.
- Stronger community engagement in preventing radicalization.
- Stronger community engagement in preventing radicalization.

She urged all stakeholders to remain vigilant in ensuring that counterterrorism measures do not become instruments of oppression.

"We must stand together to ensure that Africa remains a continent where security and human rights are not competing interests, but complementary pillars of peace and progress."

iv) Dr. Rosalind Nyawira Director National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)

Dr. Rosalind Nyawira, Director of Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), addressed the conference by emphasizing the importance of integrating human rights and humanitarian law into counterterrorism efforts. She spoke on the psychological dimensions of terrorism, the challenges of counterterrorism within the criminal justice system and the need for community-based approaches to combat radicalization. Her speech provided a comprehensive overview of the evolving nature of terrorism in Africa, underscoring the necessity of collaborative, multi-agency and community-led strategies to prevent violent extremism.

Dr. Nyawira stressed the crucial role that communities play in preventing the

spread of violent extremism. She outlined the importance of building community resilience to counter extremist ideologies.

Key Strategies for Community Engagement:

- Strengthening local networks: Kenya has established youth mentorship programs, women's networks, interfaith groups and psychological support groups to engage vulnerable populations.
- Promoting awareness and early intervention: Educating communities on terrorist recruitment tactics allows them to identify and report suspicious activities before they escalate.
- Encouraging grassroots leadership: Empowering local leaders to drive counter-radicalization efforts ensures that security interventions are culturally and contextually relevant.

Dr. Rosalind Nyawira,
Director- NCTC



“

We must ensure that our efforts are not about matching the violence of terrorists, but about stopping the violence altogether. Counterterrorism should not just be reactive—it must be proactive, preventive and people-centered.

”

She emphasized that socio-economic rights must be prioritized, as poverty and lack of opportunities often make communities more vulnerable to radicalization.

“It is critical that communities take ownership of preventing violent extremism. We must equip them with the knowledge, resources and support needed to resist

extremist narratives and build long-term resilience.”

v) Prof. Ben Saul – United Nations Special Rapporteur

Professor Ben Saul, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, delivered a compelling address emphasizing Africa's central role in global counterterrorism discussions, the historical and contemporary challenges in counterterrorism policies and the critical need for oversight, accountability and the protection of human rights in security operations. He began on a light note, acknowledging the vibrant African culture he had experienced that morning, humorously remarking that:

“White people cannot dance, so I think we need African solutions to Australian problems.”

This comment set the stage for his broader argument: Africa must drive its own solutions to counterterrorism, ensuring that they are context-specific, rooted in human rights and aligned with international best practices. Professor Saul stated that Africa is the number one geographic priority for his mandate at the United Nations Human Rights Council over the next six years. He outlined his engagements with African leaders and institutions, including:

- Meetings with African ambassadors in Geneva and New York to discuss counterterrorism challenges.
- Visits to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia and the African Union in Addis Ababa, where he explored regional efforts to address terrorism.

- Planned visits to sub regional organizations such as SADC and IGAD, recognizing the importance of harmonizing counter terrorism efforts across Africa.

He noted that the African Union is in the process of establishing several new counter terrorism institutions at the continental level, underscoring the need for:

- Stronger collaboration between African states.
- Greater investment in intelligence-sharing.
- More community-centered approaches to preventing violent extremism.

Prof. Ben Saul,
UN Special Rapporteur



“

Terrorism is a grave threat in Africa, as is the growth of violent extremism. I express my solidarity with the victims of terrorism, the governments and the populations affected by it.

”

However, he cautioned that while counterterrorism is essential, it must not come at the expense of human rights protections. Professor Saul concluded by urging African nations to:

- Strengthen human rights protections in counterterrorism policies.
- Improve transparency and oversight in security operations.
- Address root causes of terrorism through social and economic policies.

- Ensure civil society participation in counterterrorism decision-making.

“Combating terrorism is difficult and requires collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders. But if human rights are not at the core of counterterrorism efforts, we risk exacerbating the very threats we seek to eliminate.”

He reaffirmed his commitment to working with African governments, civil society and international partners to ensure that counterterrorism strategies uphold human rights and the rule of law.

“It is my hope that meetings like this will serve as a platform for generating new ideas on how we can effectively apply human rights in the fight against terrorism. Thank you.”

vi) Key Note Speech: Rt Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga Pan Africanist and former Prime Minister of Kenya



Rt Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga

The Guest Speaker began with appreciating the organisers of the conference for inviting him to give the key note speech. He also appreciated all the participants who travelled from across the continent to attend the conference. Hon. Raila began stated that we must acknowledge that Africa is the richest continent on the planet in terms of natural resources. Yet,

paradoxically, it remains one of the poorest in terms of living conditions for its people. He said the conversation about human rights must take into account the reality that despite its rich diversity, Africans have endured centuries of struggle, from the shackles of colonialism to the challenges of post-independence governance.

He went on to say despite this resilience, Africans continue to grapple with persistent threats of terrorism and the imperative of upholding human rights for all its citizens. Terrorism, in all its forms, seeks to destabilize African nations, weaken democratic institutions and sow seeds of fear and division. It preys on the vulnerable, exploits the marginalized and attempts to extinguish the hope that burns within every African heart. He said Africa must stand resolute in its commitment to combat the scourge with every fiber of our being. As we pursue security and stability, we must never lose sight of the fundamental principles that define our humanity. Human rights are not negotiable. They are the cornerstone upon which our societies are built and the foundation upon which our collective future must stand.

Africans cannot and must not sacrifice the rights and dignity of its people in the name of security. The continent must strive for a balanced approach—one that ensures the safety of all citizens while upholding their inherent rights and freedoms. The struggle to promote human rights while countering terrorism is not the responsibility of governments alone. It requires all Africans—leaders, policymakers, civil society organizations and citizens—to join hands in shaping the future of Africa. Hon. Raila called upon each and every person

in the conference to work alongside the African Union, the United Nations and all international partners in this effort. The work each person does is indispensable in shaping policies that reflect the aspirations and values of the African people.

“

"Together, let us forge a path toward a safer, more just and prosperous Africa. As we embark on this journey, let us draw inspiration from the resilience of our forebears, the courage of those who have dared to dream, the collective strength of our shared vision for a better Africa. The road ahead will not be easy. It will be fraught with challenges, but I am confident that with unity, we will prevail, With determination, we will overcome and With an unwavering commitment to justice, we shall succeed. With these remarks, I declare this conference officially open and welcome you all to Nairobi."

”



2.2 Session Two: 11:30 - 1:00 PM | Counter-Terrorism in Africa: Facts and Statistics

2.2.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Yona Wanjala



The session, chaired by Yona Wanjala (Civic Advisory Hub), provided an in-depth examination of counterterrorism trends, human rights concerns and the intersection of terrorism with organized crime in Africa. Discussions revolved around balancing national security with human rights, the role of organized crime in terrorism financing and the global counterterrorism policy landscape.

2.2.2 Leveraging Human Security to Enhance Respect for Human Rights

Presenter: Lawrence Mute (Faculty of Law, University of Nairobi)

Lawrence Mute emphasized that counterterrorism strategies in Africa must align with human security principles. He noted that repressive measures often weaken human rights protections and exacerbate grievances, ultimately fueling radicalization.

Key points from his presentation were:

- National security and human rights should not be viewed as competing interests—governments can fight terrorism while respecting fundamental freedoms.
- Many counterterrorism laws disproportionately target vulnerable communities, creating divisions between law enforcement and the public.
- The exclusion of human security considerations—such as access to justice, political inclusion and economic opportunity—creates conditions that allow extremism to thrive.

- The legal framework for counterterrorism must ensure accountability for security forces to prevent excessive use of force, arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings.



Lawrence Mute
Faculty of Law UoN

“

Security can be achieved while respecting human rights. The failure to do so not only violates fundamental freedoms but also makes counterterrorism efforts ineffective.

”

He recommended:

- Training security forces in human rights compliance.
- Ensuring independent oversight of counterterrorism operations.
- Encouraging public participation in security decision-making.

2.2.3 Terrorism and Organised Crime Trends in Africa

Presenter: Dr. Halkano Wario (Institute for Security Studies - ISS)

Dr. Halkano Wario explored the increasing overlap between terrorism and organized crime in Africa, emphasizing that criminal networks play a crucial role in financing terrorist activities.

Key points from his presentation were:

- The rise of illicit economies—such as drug trafficking, human smuggling and illegal gold mining—has created alternative revenue streams for terrorist groups.
- State actors and private entities are often complicit in money laundering schemes that indirectly fund extremist groups.
- Corruption within law enforcement and government institutions allows organized crime to thrive, undermining counterterrorism efforts.
- Africa's response to transnational crime remains weak, with many countries lacking the capacity to disrupt criminal networks.

He cited findings from the Africa Organized Crime Index, which reported that: 23% of African states show evidence of direct collusion between government officials and criminal networks.

- Terrorist groups increasingly use informal banking systems (Hawala) and cryptocurrency to bypass traditional financial oversight.
- Corrupt officials in some countries actively facilitate smuggling routes used by both criminals and terrorists.

To address these challenges, he recommended:

- Strengthening financial intelligence units to detect suspicious transactions.
- Improving regional cooperation in tracking illicit financial flows.
- Holding corrupt officials accountable for aiding criminal enterprises.

Dr. Halkano Wario
Institute for Security Studies



“

We cannot effectively fight terrorism without tackling organized crime. Money laundering, corruption and illicit financial flows fuel instability and finance extremist groups.

”



2.2.4 United Nations Special Rapporteur's Report to the General Assembly

Presenter: Professor Ben Saul

Prof. Ben Saul presented findings from his recent report to the UN General Assembly, highlighting the global misuse of counterterrorism laws and their impact on human rights.

Key points from his presentation were:

- Many African states have adopted counterterrorism laws that are overly broad and vague, leading to the misuse of these laws against political opponents and activists.
- Counterterrorism operations in Africa often involve widespread human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, mass arrests and enforced disappearances.
- There has been an alarming increase in restrictions on civil society organizations and the press under the pretext of national security.
- Corruption remains a significant challenge, with some counterterrorism laws being used

to shield corrupt officials rather than target real security threats.



Prof. Ben Saul,
UN Special Rapporteur

“

When counterterrorism laws are abused to silence dissent, they undermine democracy and create an environment where terrorism thrives. The best security is one that respects human dignity and the rule of law.

”

His report identified three key areas requiring urgent action:

- Redefining legal frameworks to ensure terrorism laws are precise and targeted.
- Improving oversight and accountability mechanisms to prevent security abuses.
- Ensuring counterterrorism policies align with human rights standards.

2.2.5 Plenary

After the presentations, the panel engaged in a robust discussion, addressing pressing issues raised by participants:

- Participants noted that some governments label resistance movements as terrorism while ignoring state-sponsored violence.
- Prof. Saul argued that a universally accepted definition is necessary to

prevent political manipulation of counterterrorism laws.

- Security experts argued that respecting human rights enhances counterterrorism effectiveness by improving community trust and cooperation.
- Participants called for clear legal guidelines and independent oversight of counterterrorism agencies.

- Dr. Wario emphasized that terrorist groups operate across borders, yet African nations often act in isolation.
- Participants urged the African Union and regional bodies to play a stronger role in intelligence sharing and policy coordination.

“

Terrorism is not confined to one country—it is a regional problem. Without cooperation, efforts to combat it will always fall short.

”



2.3 Session Three: 2:00 - 3:30 PM | Efforts to Promote Human Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa

2.3.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Yusuf M. Aboubakar



In this session, Yusuf M. Aboubakar started by recognizing the complexity of counterterrorism efforts in Africa, where governments face both internal and external threats from violent extremist organisations. He emphasized that while governments have a responsibility to protect their population, it is also critical to ensure that security measures do not result in human rights violations, which can fuel further radicalization and undermine public trust in institutions. He said throughout the discussion; the session will reinforce the importance of balancing counterterrorism measures with human rights protections. Yusuf Aboubakar emphasized that accountability, transparency and legal safeguards are necessary not only to prevent abuses but also to strengthen security efforts in the long term.

2.3.2 The Place of Judiciary in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Hussein Khalid - CEO, VOCAL Africa (sitting for UNSR)

In his address, Hussein Khalid underscored the judiciary's critical role in ensuring that counter terrorism efforts do not infringe on human rights. He emphasized that access to justice is essential in preventing abuse of power ensuring legitimacy in governance and addressing grievances that fuel extremism.

Hussein Khalid
CEO, VOCAL Africa



“
One of the reasons we have to make sure that there is access to justice is to ensure that those in power those in authority do not abuse that power.
”

He warned against using extralegal means stating *“We should not use our authorities to abuse the rights of others.”*

Ensuring rule of law and due process in counterterrorism efforts, Khalid argued is necessary to uphold public trust, social cohesion and fair trial rights.

Key points from his presentation were:

- **Access to justice:** we must safeguard against state overreach and abuse of power particularly in counterterrorism operations. He argued that when authorities feel there is a threat their response.
- **Legitimacy and Public Trust:** Governments must ensure they do not erode their legitimacy and foster discontent and

resistance by using extra legal means to counter terrorism.

- **Address Grievances to Prevent Radicalization:** violent extremism feeds on grievances particularly among marginalized communities. denying justice amplifies these grievances and makes individuals, particularly those from marginalized communities, vulnerable to radicalization.
- **Social Cohesion:** ensuring fair legal processes contributes to social unity. Equality and fairness while navigating the legal systems helps bridge divides and reduce communal tensions. This in turn makes societies more resistant to radical ideologies.
- **Justice for Victims of Terrorism:** victims of terrorism often feel neglected in legal processes. Ensuring their cases are litigated and judgments delivered helps victims achieve closure. Judicial recognition of victims' suffering is crucial in counterterrorism discourse.
- **International Cooperation in Justice and Counterterrorism:** the importance of global collaboration in counterterrorism cannot be overemphasized. Nations should share legal best practices to improve security and uphold human rights. By fostering international judicial cooperation, nations can develop more balanced rights-based approaches to counterterrorism. radical ideologies.

Hussein Khalid's address highlighted the inseparability of security and human rights.

He asserted that justice is the strongest tool against violent extremism—both in preventing radicalization and in ensuring accountability.

"Justice for all is the strongest weapon against violent extremism."

2.3.3 Role of Oversight Institutions in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Presenter Dr. Elema Halake (Independent Policing Oversight Authority)

The discussion focused on the role of civilian oversight in ensuring human rights protections while countering terrorism, with a case study of the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) in Kenya. Dr. Halake emphasized that while counterterrorism efforts are necessary, they must be conducted within the framework of human rights and the rule of law.

Dr. Elema Halake
(IPOA).



“*Measures adopted by states to counter terrorism can have a serious impact on fundamental human rights. While states have a duty to protect their citizens, this must be done in a way that upholds human rights and ensures accountability.*”

Key points from his presentation were:

- Limited reach and resources makes it difficult to document and respond to human rights violations across the country.
- Insecurity in terrorism-prone regions such as the Kenya-Somalia border present security risks when investigating cases.
- Lack of witness cooperation either due to intimidation or lack of trust in the system present a real challenge.
- Delayed complaints and lack of evidence by the time some cases are reported, critical evidence may be lost or tampered with, making investigations difficult.
- The challenge of multi-agency counterterrorism operations makes it difficult to determine responsibility for human rights violations.
- The discussion highlighted the critical role of civilian oversight in preventing human rights violations during counterterrorism operations. IPOA has played a key role in holding security forces accountable and ensuring justice for victims. Despite facing challenges such as limited reach, security risks and lack of witness cooperation, IPOA continues to advocate for greater police accountability and legal reforms.
- Independent oversight of police is crucial in preventing abuses of power by law enforcement agencies involved in counterterrorism operations.
- Counterterrorism efforts by security forces have led to serious human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment of suspects in custody.

"Independent oversight is a crucial intervention in counterterrorism efforts. The close collaboration between civil society organizations, oversight bodies and government agencies has been instrumental in ensuring that human rights are protected."

The discussion reaffirmed that security and human rights must go hand in hand. Holding security agencies accountable strengthens the fight against terrorism by ensuring justice, building public trust and preventing further radicalization.

2.4 Session Four 3:30 - 5:00 PM | Role of Civil Society in Africa on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

2.4.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo



Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo, representing Spaces for Change in Nigeria, opened this Session by emphasizing the interdependence of human rights and counterterrorism activities throughout Africa. She emphasized that, while nations have a responsibility to provide security, this must not be at the expense of fundamental freedoms and justice. She said the session will sought to investigate the roles of various players, including the judiciary, civil society organisations and international partners, in balancing security measures with human rights protections.

2.4.2 The Role of Civil Society in Counter Terrorism

Presenter: Brian Kumari (Center for Human Rights & Policy Studies)



Brian Kumari's presentation addressed a fundamental challenge: Why are civil society actors largely absent in counterterrorism strategies?

Key issues raised by his presentation were:

- **State-Led Counterterrorism Narratives:** Governments view terrorism as a security matter, sidelining CSOs and limiting their involvement in crafting counterterrorism policies.
- **Militarized Approaches & Human Rights Violations:** Counterterrorism responses

in Africa have largely been military-driven, restricting civic space and leading to frequent human rights violations.

- **Terrorism isn't just about security threats:** it's deeply tied to socioeconomic and political injustices. Marginalization, unemployment, lack of justice and historical conflicts create environments where extremism thrives. CSOs, by their very nature, are best positioned to address these root causes.

The discussion on counter-terrorism in Africa has long been dominated by state-centric approaches, often excluding civil society organizations (CSOs). This session sought to redefine that narrative

by exploring how CSOs contribute to countering violent extremism, promoting human rights and strengthening community resilience. The presentation unpacked the complex relationship between state-led counterterrorism efforts and civil society's role in shaping a more holistic, rights-based approach.

These include:

- **Community Resilience Building:** CSOs implement education, dialogue and social programs that reduce vulnerability to extremist ideologies.
- **Alternative Narratives:** They counter extremist messaging with factual, inclusive and peace-driven narratives.

- **Policy Advocacy:** By engaging policymakers, CSOs push for more accountable, rights-based counterterrorism frameworks.

Challenges Faced by CSOs:

- Restricted funding & surveillance by governments.
- Lack of trust between CSOs and security agencies.
- Threats to civic freedoms under counterterrorism laws.

Brian emphasized that effective counterterrorism requires collaborative, whole-of-society approaches, where CSOs, state actors and international partners work together.

2.4.3 Human Rights & Counterterrorism: A Fine Balance

Presenter: Eva Nudd (Human Rights Lawyer & International Consultant)



Eva brought a powerful, first hand perspective to the discussion, drawing from her experiences in Guantanamo Bay litigation and public interest cases in Kenya.

Key issues raised by her presentation were:

- **Counterterrorism vs. human rights:** Many states use counterterrorism laws as a pretext to suppress civil liberties, detaining individuals without trial, using torture and limiting access to justice.
- **Legal Deficiencies & Procedural Injustices:** Suspects are often denied fair trials; secret evidence & forced confessions obtained through torture are common; and limited access to legal

representation prevents victims from defending themselves.

- **Case Study – Guantanamo Bay:** Eva participated in litigation against force-feeding of detainees; Military trials lacked transparency, with observers unable to access real-time proceedings; and The use of torture-induced evidence was normal practice in many cases.
- **Case Study – Kenya's Counterterrorism Failures:** Eva worked on a public interest litigation case involving a UAE citizen falsely accused of terrorism; the victim was forcibly rendered to four countries, beaten, detained and denied justice for over a decade; and the Kenyan judiciary's inefficiencies made it impossible to hold state actors accountable.

What needs to be done?

- **Legal Aid & Access to Justice:** Human rights organizations must strengthen legal representation for victims of counterterrorism abuses.
- **Reform Counterterrorism Laws:** National and regional laws must align with human

rights principles to prevent abuses under the guise of security.

- **Public Interest Litigation:** Civil society must expand strategic litigation to challenge unlawful state practices.

2.4.4 The Role of International Partners & Donors

Presenter: George Kegoro (Open Society Foundation)



The speaker tackled an often-overlooked issue: How international funders and development partners can support civil society in counterterrorism efforts.

Key issues raised by his presentation were:

- **Funding Restrictions on CSOs:** Many governments weaponize terrorism financing laws to block international funding for CSOs, making it difficult for them to operate.
- **Foreign Influence in African Counterterrorism:** African governments often import counterterrorism models from Western states; and these models fail to consider Africa's unique political and social dynamics.
- **Building Trust Between Governments & CSOs:** There is deep mistrust between civil society and the state; and development partners can mediate between CSOs and governments to promote collaboration.

What can funders do?

- **Creative Funding Solutions:** Funders should develop innovative financing models to ensure resources reach civil society groups despite restrictions.
- **Advocacy & Diplomacy:** International organizations should pressure governments to respect civic freedoms while promoting human rights-centered counterterrorism approaches.
- **Strengthening Regional Advocacy:** Civil society must leverage international legal instruments like the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights to challenge state abuses.

Key recommendations and way forward:

- **A Shift from Military-Driven Counterterrorism:** Governments must balance security needs with human rights protections.
- **CSO Inclusion in Counterterrorism Policies:** Civil society must be involved in shaping national and regional security strategies.
- **Strengthening Public Interest Litigation & Legal Aid:** Victims of counterterrorism abuses must have access to justice.

- **Protecting Civic Space:** Governments should reform laws that restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association.
- **Building Stronger International Partnerships:** Development partners should support CSOs with funding, advocacy and capacity building.

The session underscored a fundamental truth: Effective counterterrorism cannot exist without human rights protections. Civil society organizations must be at the forefront of addressing terrorism's root causes and shaping inclusive policies while ensuring justice for affected communities.

PART 3:

PROCEEDINGS OF DAY TWO

3.1 Session Five: 9:00 - 10:00 AM | Contemporary Issues on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa

3.1.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Yusuf M. Aboubakar



The discourse on counterterrorism in Africa remains highly complex, often raising tensions between security concerns and fundamental human rights. Through expert presentations and an interactive plenary, participants highlighted the dangers of over-securitized laws, the necessity of community-driven approaches and the urgent need for rights-based counterterrorism policies.

3.1.2 Counterterrorism Legal Frameworks in Africa: A Tool or a Weapon?

Presenter: Alan Ngari



The presentation opened with a deep dive into counterterrorism laws across Africa and their far-reaching consequences on civic freedoms.

- Legal frameworks often fail to include protections for fundamental rights, leading to widespread abuse and misinterpretation.

The case for a rights based legal approach

State-led counterterrorism laws and public exclusion:

- Most counterterrorism laws in Africa are drafted and passed without public participation.
- Many of these laws import provisions from foreign jurisdictions without adapting them to local contexts.

- There is an urgent need for counterterrorism policies to be aligned with constitutional and human rights principles.
- Public participation in lawmaking must be enforced to ensure that counterterrorism laws do not unjustly target specific communities.

Weaponization of counterterrorism laws against activists:

- Counterterrorism laws are increasingly used to target human rights defenders, journalists and opposition voices.
- Governments exploit vague legal provisions to justify mass arrests,

prolonged detentions and forced disappearances.

Key Recommendation:

Civil society organizations and legal practitioners must engage more actively in legislative processes to prevent counterterrorism laws from being used as tools of oppression rather than protection.

3.1.3 Human Rights and Counterterrorism Case Law in Africa

Presenter: Zaina Kombo



The presentation provided real-life case studies of how counterterrorism laws have been abused and how courts have responded.

Nigeria's use of counterterrorism laws to suppress dissent:

- Nigeria's Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act has been weaponized against political activists.
- Judicial non-compliance with human rights norms has allowed cases of indefinite detentions, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Kenya's counterterrorism laws and the 'religious profiling' debate:

- Initially, counterterrorism laws primarily targeted Muslim communities.

- However, these laws are now increasingly being applied to Christian leaders (e.g., the recent case of the Shakahola massacre).
- The shifting application of counterterrorism measures reveals deep inconsistencies in the legal system and selective justice.

Regional disparities in counterterrorism enforcement:

- While some African countries have strong judicial oversight, others lack accountability mechanisms, enabling unchecked human rights abuses.
- The challenge lies in ensuring uniform legal standards that both combat terrorism effectively and protect human rights.

3.1.4 The Place of Digital ID in Human Rights & Counterterrorism

Presenter: Laura Goodwin (Namati)



This discussion explored how digital identification systems are increasingly linked to counterterrorism efforts, raising major human rights concerns.

The myth of digital solutions in counterterrorism:

- Digital ID is not a silver bullet to counterterrorism.
- If a system is already discriminatory,

adding a digital layer exacerbates exclusion rather than solving the issue.

Surveillance, privacy and the risk of state overreach:

- Governments can use digital IDs for mass surveillance, infringing on privacy rights.
- Many counterterrorism surveillance laws lack oversight mechanisms, leading to unchecked state power.

The digital divide and access to services:

- Digital ID systems often exclude vulnerable populations, such as those

without internet access, illiterate individuals, or marginalized communities.

- Mandatory digital ID requirements for essential services (e.g., healthcare, social benefits) further entrench inequalities.

Key recommendation:

- Digital ID systems must remain optional and retain analog alternatives to ensure no one is denied access to basic rights.

3.1.5 Plenary

The interactive discussion featured diverse perspectives from across Africa, reinforcing key themes. The following points were shared during plenary

- A participant from Nigeria shared how authorities justify human rights violations under the guise of counterterrorism.
- In Egypt and Sudan, counterterrorism laws have been used to suppress journalists and opposition figures.
- Joseph Kabila from Ghana emphasized that community-based organizations (CBOs) play a crucial role in counterterrorism through early intervention and public sensitization.
- A Sudanese participant raised concerns about extrajudicial killings in counterterrorism efforts, calling for greater legal accountability.
- A Kenyan participant raised concerns about how digital ID programs are being introduced without clear legal frameworks, potentially increasing state surveillance and privacy violations.
- A participant from Angola called for pan-African solidarity among activists to challenge repressive counterterrorism laws.
- It was widely agreed that regional cooperation is essential in resisting abusive counterterrorism frameworks.
- African governments must not pass counterterrorism laws without public consultation.
- Legal frameworks must be reviewed to ensure they align with constitutional protections.
- Courts must actively challenge unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings and mass arrests conducted under counterterrorism operations.
- Digital ID systems should not be mandatory for accessing essential services.
- Governments must adopt data protection laws to prevent state surveillance overreach.

- African civil society organizations must strengthen cross-border collaboration to challenge counterterrorism abuses.
- International human rights bodies should increase pressure on governments using counterterrorism to suppress civic space.

The discussions reinforced that real security is built on justice, inclusion and the protection of civil liberties. Governments must move away from militarized, punitive measures and embrace human-rights-based approaches to ensure long-term stability.

3.2 Session Six: 10:00 - 11:00 AM | Role of Various Groups of Africa in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

3.2.1: Session Introduction by Moderator: Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo

The session began with an insightful introduction by the moderator, Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo, who emphasized the critical role different African groups play in counterterrorism and human rights protection. The first speaker took the audience through a powerful analogy about reconstructing the world by focusing on the humanity of individuals, reinforcing the message that communities must work together to create peace.



The speaker highlighted the unique role of women in identifying radicalization signals early, intervening in domestic spaces, and fostering community resilience against extremist ideologies. She stated:

"Women see what men do not. Their role in nurturing, educating, and managing social relationships gives them a unique advantage in preventing radicalization before it takes root."

She advocated for gender-sensitive policies in counterterrorism efforts, urging states to recognize and incorporate women-led peace initiatives. The session stressed that by empowering women and equipping them with resources, societies can mitigate violent extremism at the grassroots level.

3.2.2 Role of African Youth in Human Rights Preventing and Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Wevyn Muganda



The presenter is the founder of a youth-led organization focusing on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security,

delivered a passionate address on youth agency and resistance in counterterrorism.

She outlined three key reasons why engaging African youth in counterterrorism

efforts differs from other contexts. These are:

Colonial Legacies and Structural Violence – Many African nations continue to grapple with post-colonial injustices, economic disparities, and political instability, creating environments ripe for radicalization.

Intersectionality and Identity – Young people navigate various identities—gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status—each affecting their susceptibility to violent extremism.

Pressure on Young Men – Masculinity expectations push young men towards radicalization, while marginalized young women become both victims and, in some cases, active participants

initiatives and engaging in digital campaigns to foster peace."

Wevyn categorized youth engagement in counterterrorism into five areas:

- **Community Engagement** – Educating peers about the dangers of extremism.
- **Raising Awareness** – Utilizing social media to challenge radical ideologies.
- **Advocacy** – Pushing for policies that address youth grievances.
- **Capacity Building** – Providing alternative economic opportunities.
- **Youth-Led Research** – Gathering insights to inform counterterrorism strategies.

She explained:

"Young Africans must reclaim their narratives. The media often portrays us as either lazy or as perpetrators of conflict. But in reality, we are leading protests, building

She concluded with a powerful reminder:

"When human rights are upheld, there is little room for extremist ideologies to thrive."

3.2.3 Role of African Communities in Human Rights Preventing and Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Kashi Jermaine



Kashi Jermaine from Kenya's coastal region spoke next, offering firsthand experience from a community that has borne

the brunt of counterterrorism operations. He emphasized the role of communities in preventing radicalization and ensuring human rights are upheld in counterterrorism efforts.

He shared:

"In my village, you cannot walk past ten houses without encountering a victim or survivor of counterterrorism operations. We must ensure that security measures do not trample on the rights of the very people they seek to protect."

Kashi identified several community-driven strategies to counter violent extremism:

- **Ensuring Credible Information** – Community members must rely on verified sources to avoid being manipulated by propaganda.

Facilitating Access to Justice – Mobilizing resources to provide legal aid to victims of human rights violations.

Boycotting Entities that Fund Terrorism – Communities can refuse to support businesses that are complicit in financing extremist activities.

Participating in Governance – Voting for leaders who uphold human rights and engaging in public policy processes.

Breaking Public Stigma – Supporting victims of counterterrorism operations to reintegrate into society.

Kashi illustrated his point with a tragic real-life incident:

"A family in my village was subjected to a midnight raid. The father was arrested, and when the mother refused to open the door, a grenade was thrown inside. A pregnant woman was shot, a four-year-old child was executed with two bullets to the head. The entire family was left in trauma and social isolation. We must break the cycle of public stigma and offer support to these families."

3.2.4 Plenary

The floor was opened for questions, with contributions from various participants. A participant from Burkina Faso, Malik, posed a question on community participation in policy formulation:

Q

"In our country, we use the Open Government Partnership to co-create policies with the government. How has community participation influenced counterterrorism policy in your respective countries?"

Wevyn Muganda responded:

"In Kenya, youth organizations have played a key role in influencing the National Strategy on Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism. However, the challenge remains in ensuring these policies are effectively implemented."

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Q

Why do some extremists claim they were forced into radicalization?

Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana

"Many of these young men never intended to be terrorists. They were groomed, misled, and placed in circumstances that gave them little choice. We must address the underlying structural issues if we are to prevent recruitment."

A

The session illuminated the indispensable roles of African women, youth and communities in human rights protection and counterterrorism. The speakers and participants highlighted actionable recommendations, calling for:

- Increased collaboration between governments and civil society.
- Youth-led policy formulation and community-driven counterterrorism efforts.

- Greater investment in human rights-centered security strategies.

The session ended with a resounding agreement that Africa must develop its own homegrown solutions to combat violent extremism, driven by its own people and rooted in justice, inclusivity and human dignity.

3.3 Session Seven: 11:30 - 12:30 PM | Role of Regional and International Actors in Human Rights and Counterterrorism

3.3.1 Session Introduction by Moderator: Yona Wanjala



In this session, Yona Wanjala stated they will examine the importance of international cooperation in ensuring that counterterrorism measures align with human rights standards, emphasizing that security and justice are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary.

Wanjala also emphasized that counterterrorism is a transnational issue that requires coordinated efforts across national borders. He said the session will explore the role of regional organisations such as the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC) in developing policies that balance security concerns with the protection of fundamental rights. International institutions, including the United Nations (UN) and various human rights organisations, will also be mentioned as crucial participants in developing legal frameworks and ensuring compliance.

3.3.2 Role of the ACHPR in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana Commissioner ACHPR



Dr. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, a Commissioner at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), delivered a powerful and insightful

speech during the closing session of the conference. She focused on the intersection of counterterrorism and human rights, emphasizing the need for African-led solutions that respect fundamental freedoms while addressing security threats.

Key points in her presentation were:

1 The balance between counterterrorism and human rights

"Human rights are universal, inalienable, and indivisible. No state can claim to fight terrorism while trampling on the very rights they are sworn to protect."

- Dr. Litha firmly reminded the audience that while terrorism is a real threat, counterterrorism efforts cannot justify human rights abuses.
- She criticized security agencies in some African states for using counterterrorism laws to suppress dissent rather than ensuring public safety.
- She stressed that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights remains the guiding framework that all states must follow, even in times of crisis.

2 The role of the African Commission in monitoring and accountability

"The African Commission is not a passive observer. We are watching. We are listening. And we will act where violations occur."

- She reaffirmed ACHPR's role in monitoring counterterrorism policies and ensuring compliance with human rights laws.
- She highlighted cases where ACHPR has intervened to demand accountability for human rights violations, including in cases of extrajudicial killings, unlawful detentions, and suppression of civil liberties.
- She also challenged African states to submit periodic reports on human rights compliance, per Article 62 of the African Charter, which many governments have failed to do consistently.

3 The need for regional cooperation

"Terrorism does not respect borders, and neither should our efforts to combat it."

- Dr. Litha called for stronger collaboration among African nations through regional mechanisms like the African Peace and Security Council (PSC), regional economic blocs (ECOWAS, EAC, SADC), and intelligence-sharing networks.
- She highlighted how regional bodies must take the lead in defining counterterrorism strategies that do not simply follow Western-led security doctrines, which often focus on militarization rather than prevention.
- She warned against the over-reliance on external actors, stating that Africa must drive its own counterterrorism strategies while prioritizing human rights.

4 The impact of geopolitics on Africa's counterterrorism agenda

"African lives cannot be pawns in a global security chess game."

- Dr. Litha strongly criticized foreign interference in Africa's counterterrorism efforts, especially when Western and global powers dictate counterterrorism strategies that may not align with African realities.
- She pointed out that some global powers prioritize "stability" over human rights, supporting authoritarian governments as long as they are seen as allies in counterterrorism.
- She mentioned cases like Sudan, Mali, and the Sahel region, where Western-backed military interventions have often worsened security conditions rather than improving them.
- She called for African-led security

approaches that take into account local community needs, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and inclusive governance.

5 A call to strengthen civic space and civil society engagement

"We cannot build peace by silencing the voices of those who demand accountability."

- Dr. Litha reaffirmed ACHPR's commitment to defending civic space across the continent.
- She condemned the crackdown on civil society organizations, journalists, and activists in the name of counterterrorism, stating that a free and vibrant civil society is essential to holding governments accountable.
- She encouraged civil society groups to continue engaging ACHPR, submitting reports, and using the Commission as a tool to demand justice and accountability.

6 Looking ahead – the future of counterterrorism in Africa

"The path forward must be one of justice, not vengeance. Of security, but also of dignity. Of law, not of lawlessness."

- She concluded her speech by calling for a paradigm shift in how Africa approaches counterterrorism.
- She advocated for a victim-centered approach, ensuring that the families of terrorism victims receive justice and support, while also ensuring that those falsely accused of terrorism are not subjected to torture, arbitrary detention, or extrajudicial execution.
- She emphasized that good governance, economic development, and youth empowerment are Africa's best weapons

against radicalization and terrorism.



Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana,
Commissioner ACHPR

“

"We will not win this fight with guns alone. We must win it with justice, with inclusion, with human rights, and with dignity."

”



She ended with a call to action, urging African governments, civil society and regional bodies to work together to ensure that counterterrorism policies align with the fundamental values of human rights and justice.

3.3.3 Role of Africa Union in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism

Presenter: Christopher Kayoshe- Governance Officer on Human Rights Affairs - AU



Chris Kayoshe, speaking on behalf of the African Union (AU), delivered an impactful address during the closing session of the conference.

As a representative of the AU, he emphasized the organization's role in counterterrorism efforts across the continent while ensuring that these strategies align with human rights principles.

Key points in his presentation were:

1 The African Union's commitment to counterterrorism and human rights

"The African Union does not view counterterrorism as a war on people. It is a fight against a dangerous ideology that preys on marginalization, injustice, and inequality."

- Chris reaffirmed the AU's dedication to countering violent extremism in a way that respects human rights and promotes justice and governance rather than relying solely on military responses.
- He emphasized that terrorism is not just a security issue—it is also a development, governance, and human rights issue, which must be tackled comprehensively.
- He called upon African governments to ensure that their counterterrorism frameworks do not become tools for political suppression or human rights abuses.

2 Understanding the roots of terrorism in Africa

"The problem of terrorism is deeply rooted in governance failures, economic exclusion, and unresolved historical injustices. We cannot fight it with guns alone."

- Kayoshe outlined the AU's analysis of terrorism in Africa, identifying the main drivers of radicalization:
 - Economic marginalization.
 - Political exclusion.
 - Ethnic and religious discrimination.
 - Unresolved conflicts and historical grievances.
 - Foreign interference in African affairs.

He acknowledged that some counterterrorism policies have exacerbated rather than solved the problem, leading to state repression, extrajudicial killings, and arbitrary detentions that fuel resentment and radicalization.

3 The AU's Counterterrorism Framework: Prevention First

"The African Union has clear counterterrorism mechanisms in place—but are our member states implementing them effectively?"

- Chris highlighted the key legal and policy frameworks that the AU has developed to guide member states in their counterterrorism efforts:
 - The 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.
 - The 2004 Protocol to the Convention on Terrorism.
 - The African Model Law on Counter-

Terrorism, which emphasizes human rights protections.

- The AU's African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), which monitors terrorist threats and advises governments.
- The Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, which facilitate regional cooperation on intelligence sharing.

He stressed the need for governments to fully implement these policies, rather than drafting new laws that contradict AU principles and human rights standards.

4 The role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in counterterrorism

"Terrorists do not recognize national borders. Our response must be just as united as their threat."

- Kayoshe emphasized the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in combating terrorism, noting that terrorist networks often operate across multiple states.
- He pointed out that groups like Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and ISIS affiliates take advantage of weak border controls and governance gaps to spread their influence.
- He called for stronger coordination among regional bodies, including:
 - ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)
 - EAC (East African Community)
 - SADC (Southern African Development Community)
 - IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)
- He encouraged African nations to stop relying on external security doctrines and instead build homegrown

counterterrorism responses that prioritize prevention, economic development, and social inclusion.

5 AU's approach to human rights in counterterrorism efforts

"Counterterrorism cannot be a tool to silence dissent. It must be a tool to protect lives, uphold justice, and promote democracy."

- Kayoshe strongly condemned the use of counterterrorism laws to suppress political opposition, civil society organizations, and independent media.
- He warned that some African governments have misused anti-terror laws to justify crackdowns on activists, journalists, and minority communities, which only deepens public distrust and makes counterterrorism efforts less effective.
- He highlighted the importance of judicial oversight, accountability mechanisms, and public transparency in counterterrorism operations.
- He also pointed out that the AU encourages states to adopt victim-centered approaches, ensuring that victims of terrorism receive support, justice, and protection.

6 Africa's struggle against foreign influence in counterterrorism

"African solutions for African problems cannot exist if we remain dependent on foreign interventions."

- Kayoshe raised concerns about the impact of foreign interventions on African counterterrorism strategies. He pointed out that:
 - Many African countries receive military aid from global powers, but

these funds and resources often come with political conditions that do not always align with Africa's interests.

- The war on terror has been used as a justification for Western military interventions, which have at times led to further destabilization (e.g., Libya, Mali).

- Some African countries rely too heavily on Western intelligence-sharing mechanisms, leaving them vulnerable to external political pressures.

- He encouraged African nations to strengthen their own intelligence and security frameworks to ensure that counterterrorism remains an African-led initiative.

7 A call to strengthen civil society engagement

"We cannot win this fight without civil society. They are the bridge between the state and the people."

- Kayoshe recognized the essential role that civil society organizations (CSOs) play in counterterrorism, including:
 - Community engagement and deradicalization programs.
 - Legal support for individuals wrongfully accused under counterterrorism laws.
 - Human rights monitoring and accountability.
 - Providing alternative narratives to extremist propaganda.

- He called for closer collaboration between African governments and CSOs, rather than treating civil society as a threat or an enemy.
- He emphasized the need for African states to open up space for civic participation, ensuring that counterterrorism efforts respect fundamental freedoms.

8 Final Words: A Call for an African-Led Future

"We have the tools. We have the knowledge. Now, we need the political will to act."

- In his closing remarks, Kayoshe called for:
 - Better implementation of AU counterterrorism frameworks.
 - Stronger regional cooperation between African states.
 - Greater investment in economic development and social inclusion as long-term counterterrorism strategies.
 - A shift away from military-heavy approaches toward community-based prevention mechanisms.
 - A commitment to human rights and good governance as the foundation of Africa's security efforts.

He challenged African leaders, civil society, and regional bodies to work together to build a sustainable, human-rights-centered approach to counterterrorism.



Christopher Kayoshe-
Governance Officer on
Human Rights Affairs - AU

“

"Let Africa be the master of its own security future. Let us build systems that protect both our people and their rights. Only then can we truly defeat terrorism, not just in battle, but at its roots."

”

3.4 Session Eight: 12.30 - 1:30 PM | Closing

3.4.1 Conference Outcome Document

Presenter: Hussein Khalid - C.E.O VOCAL Africa



As the session moderator, Hussein Khalid set the tone for the closing reflections, stating:

1 *"We cannot afford to let security concerns be an excuse for human rights violations. Africa's counterterrorism strategy must place human dignity at the center."*

2 *"This is not just a conversation. It is a movement. The work starts now, in our communities, in our advocacy, and in our policies."*

3 *"The challenge before us is clear: do we allow counterterrorism policies to silence us, or do we push back with evidence-based, community-driven solutions?"*

His powerful remarks emphasized the need for continued engagement beyond the conference hall. The Conference Outcome Document, presented by Executive Directors of CAH, HA, S4C, and VOCAL Africa, summarized the key discussions, challenge and recommendations made throughout the conference. It outlined the following major points:

1 The need for a human rights centered approach to counterterrorism

- Governments must prioritize human rights and rule of law while combating violent extremism.
- Counterterrorism measures should be proportionate, lawful, and compliant with international human rights norms.

- The use of state security apparatus to suppress political dissent, media freedom, and activism must end.

2 Addressing the root causes of radicalization

- Violent extremism is often fueled by marginalization, inequality, lack of economic opportunities, and governance failures.
- The AU and national governments must develop strategies addressing socio-economic grievances that lead to radicalization.
- Special emphasis should be placed on youth employment, education, and access to justice.

3 The role of civil society in counterterrorism

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) are key partners in addressing radicalization and violent extremism.
- Governments should recognize and engage civil society in counterterrorism policy formulation rather than treating them as adversaries.
- Freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and expression must be protected to allow civic actors to operate freely.

4 Strengthening regional and international cooperation

- The African Union must enhance its engagement with civil society and member states to develop Africa-led counterterrorism policies.

- More collaboration between regional bodies, international partners, and community-based organizations is needed.
- Intelligence-sharing across African nations should be improved to effectively combat cross-border terrorist networks.
- 5 **Accountability and oversight in counterterrorism operations**
 - Governments must ensure counterterrorism operations comply with human rights obligations.
 - Regional courts, human rights bodies, and national judicial systems should be strengthened to hold security forces accountable for abuses.
 - Mechanisms should be established to monitor and evaluate the human rights impact of counterterrorism measures.
- A shift is needed from a military-first approach to a prevention-centered strategy, focusing on community engagement, intelligence-led policing, and rehabilitation programs.
- The conference called for investment in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and reconciliation efforts in regions affected by violent extremism.

- 6 **The role of women and youth in preventing violent extremism**
 - Women's and youth organizations should be actively involved in shaping counterterrorism and peace-building policies.
 - Governments and international bodies must fund and support initiatives led by women and youth to address radicalization.
 - There is a need for gender-sensitive approaches in counterterrorism strategies to prevent the exclusion of women and youth from security dialogues.

6 The role of women and youth in preventing violent extremism

- Women's and youth organizations should be actively involved in shaping counterterrorism and peace-building policies.
- Governments and international bodies must fund and support initiatives led by women and youth to address radicalization.
- There is a need for gender-sensitive approaches in counterterrorism strategies to prevent the exclusion of women and youth from security dialogues.

7 Rejecting the militarized approach to counterterrorism

- Many African governments rely heavily on military and police interventions to tackle violent extremism, often resulting in civilian casualties and rights violations.

*This document
was presented
to AU
officials, UN
representatives,
and government
stakeholders,
with a call
to action for
its adoption
in policy
implementation.*

3.4.2 Confernece Closing Remarks

Presenter: Li Fung Senior Representative UN OHCHR



Ms Li Fung's speech was a highlight of the closing session, as she provided a global perspective on human rights and counterterrorism in Africa.

key points from her speech were:

- She commended the organizers for creating a space for critical dialogue between civil society, regional bodies, and governments.
- She recognized the importance of community-driven approaches to counterterrorism, stating:
"If we fail to engage communities in counterterrorism efforts, we risk alienating them and driving more individuals toward radicalization."
- She stressed that counterterrorism cannot be used as a justification for human rights violations.
- She reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting civil society and promoting human rights-based security approaches.
- She also raised concerns about the shrinking civic space across Africa, where counterterrorism laws are increasingly being used to target activists, journalists, and human rights defenders.

"Security must never be a reason to silence those who hold governments accountable."

On the Importance of Inclusion in Security Policies:

Li Fung challenged states to move beyond a securitized approach and incorporate women, youth, and marginalized groups into counterterrorism dialogues:

"Security policies that exclude the voices of the affected communities are destined to fail. Women and youth, in particular, must be given leadership roles in shaping the future of counterterrorism."

Call for Stronger Partnerships Between Africa and International Bodies:

- She emphasized the need for collaboration between African human rights institutions, civil society, and international organizations.
- She expressed her admiration for the work done by African civil society in promoting human rights, acknowledging that Africa has solutions the rest of the world can learn from.

"I am taking African solutions back to Geneva. The lessons shared here are critical for shaping global counterterrorism strategies."

Her speech received a resounding round of applause, as it reinforced the importance of human rights in counterterrorism efforts while recognizing the pivotal role of African-led solutions.

3.4.3 Conference Closure

Presenter: Mutuma Nkanata (Executive Director of the NGO Coordination Board)



Mutuma Nkanata officially closed the conference, stating:

- The importance of civil society's role in shaping counterterrorism laws and policies.
- That the NGO sector in Kenya is now governed under the Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority, signaling greater legal space for civil society engagement.

- That future engagements will build on the outcomes of this conference, with more partnerships and regional cooperation.

He thanked all attendees and reaffirmed the government's commitment to a human rights-based approach in counterterrorism.

The conference ended on a high note, with participants energized to continue advocating for a balanced approach to security and human rights. The discussions laid the foundation for stronger regional cooperation and more inclusive counterterrorism efforts in Africa.

PART 4:

CONFERENCE REVIEW AND REPORT CONCLUSION

4.1 Background of Review

Human rights and security are two fundamental concepts that significantly impact the socio-political landscape of Africa. The relationship between these concepts is complex and multifaceted, often presenting a paradox where the enhancement of one may seem to infringe on the other. However, a comprehensive analysis reveals that human rights and security are not mutually exclusive but are deeply interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Across Africa, the quest for peace and stability remains a central concern. However, achieving lasting security cannot be solely addressed

through military might or border controls. A crucial yet often overlooked element in this equation is the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There is a rising need to explore the intricate relationship between human rights and security in Africa and highlight how these two concepts are mutually reinforcing. By upholding human rights, African states can build trust with their citizens, fostering cooperation and legitimacy in security measures. Conversely, neglecting human rights can breed resentment and fuel social unrest, ultimately undermining security. Conversely, by promoting human rights and

civil liberties across Africa, citizens can exercise their freedoms to improve their livelihoods which will directly contribute to enhanced security. In an environment

where rights are respected and civic space is expanded, security thrives. Violation of human rights is in itself a form of insecurity.

4.2 The Conceptual Framework

4.2.1 Human Rights

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life. Human rights are based on shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence.

4.2.2 Security

Security refers to the protection of a state and its citizens from threats and dangers, which can be both internal and external. Security measures include actions taken to prevent crime, terrorism and other forms of violence that threaten the safety and stability of a society.

4.2.3 Counterterrorism

Counter terrorism refers to the practices, strategies and measures employed by governments, security agencies and international actors to prevent, mitigate and respond to acts of terrorism. They include a broad range of activities such as intelligence gathering, military operations, legal and judicial measures as well as efforts to address the underlying causes of terrorism such as political, social and economic grievances.

4.3 Compatibility and Inter-relatedness of Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

The compatibility and interrelatedness of human rights and counter-terrorism efforts in Africa involve balancing the imperative to ensure security while upholding human rights standards. This relationship can be complex due to the challenges posed by terrorism and the necessity of maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights. This dynamic manifests itself in various ways in the continent: as shown below.

4.4 Legal Framework

- **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights:** This foundational document emphasizes that states have obligations to protect human rights even while addressing security threats.

- **Counter-Terrorism Conventions:** Africa has regional instruments like the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which mandates states to counter terrorism in compliance with human rights standards.

4.5 Human Rights and Security Interdependence

- **Security and Counter Terrorism:** Effective counter-terrorism measures can enhance the protection of human rights by providing security and stability, which are essential for the enjoyment of various rights.
- **Respect for Human Rights:** Conversely, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is crucial for sustainable and legitimate counter-terrorism efforts. Violations of human rights can undermine public trust and fuel the grievances that may lead to radicalization and terrorism.

4.6 Challenges and Tensions

- **Excessive Use of Force:** In some cases, security forces employ excessive or indiscriminate force, leading to civilian casualties and abuses, which can violate fundamental human rights.
- **Arbitrary Detention and Torture:** Suspects of terrorism usually face arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, contravening international human rights standards.
- **Suppression of Freedoms:** Measures such as surveillance, censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly can infringe on civil liberties.

4.7 Balancing Act

- **Rule of Law:** Counter-terrorism efforts should be conducted within the framework of the rule of law, ensuring due process and judicial oversight.
- **Proportionality and Necessity:** Any restrictions on rights must be proportionate, necessary and aimed at a legitimate aim, ensuring they do not become means of oppression.

4.8 Regional and International Oversight

- **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:** This body monitors states' compliance with human rights standards in their counter-terrorism efforts and can address complaints of violations.

- **International Partnerships:** Collaboration with international bodies like the United Nations and the African Union helps align national counter-terrorism strategies with global human rights norms.

In summary, the relationship between human rights and counter-terrorism in Africa is characterized by the need to secure both security and human dignity. Ensuring this balance requires adherence to legal frameworks, oversight mechanisms and strategies that respect human rights while effectively addressing the threat of terrorism.

4.9 Why Human Rights Matter for Counter Terrorism

4.9.1 Building Public Trust and Legitimacy

In Africa, security forces operating under a cloud of human rights abuses alienate the very communities they are meant to protect. Transposed, security forces that respect human rights gain the trust and cooperation of the populace, facilitating intelligence gathering and counter terrorism.

4.9.2 Addressing Root Causes of Conflict

Human rights violations such as poverty, marginalization and discrimination can create fertile ground for radicalization and violent extremism. By ensuring inclusive governance, addressing grievances and promoting social justice, governments in Africa can tackle these root causes of conflict.

4.9.3 Strengthening the Social Contract

When citizens feel secure in their rights and freedoms, they are more willing to cooperate with the state and participate in democratic processes. This fosters a sense of shared responsibility for security and counter terrorism, leading to a more stable and peaceful society.

4.9.4 Promoting Sustainable Development

Investment in human development, such as education, healthcare and economic opportunities, empowers individuals and reduces feelings of alienation and crime rates. This creates a virtuous cycle where increased security allows for further development and vice versa.

Annex 1

Conference Programme

DAY ONE

Session One: 9:00AM - 11:00 AM | Opening Ceremony

Moderator: Hussein Khalid

- **Welcome Address:** Executive Directors (CAH, HA, S4C, VA)
- **Speech:** George Kegoro, Director, Open Society Foundations
- **Speech:** Christopher Kayoshe, Governance Officer on Human Rights Affairs – AU
- **Speech:** Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Commissioner – African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- **Speech:** Roseline Doreen, Chair – Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
- **Speech:** Dr Rosalind Nyawira, Director, National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
- **Speech:** Prof. Ben Saul – UN Special Rapporteur
- **Key Note Speech:** Rt Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga, Pan Africanist and former Prime Minister of Kenya

11.00AM – 11.30AM: Tea and Refreshments Break

Session Two: 11:30AM - 1:00 PM | Counter-Terrorism in Africa: Facts and Statistics

Moderator: Yona Wanjala

- **Speaker 2.1:** Leveraging Human Security to Enhance Respect for Human Rights
- **Speaker 2.2:** Terrorism and Organised Crime Trends in Africa
- **Speaker 2.3:** UNSR's Report to the General Assembly
- **Plenary**

1.00PM – 2.00 PM: Lunch Break

Session Three: 2:00 - 3:30 PM | Efforts to Promote Human Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa

Moderator: Yusuf M. Aboubakar

- **Speaker 3.1:** The Place of Judiciary in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 3.2:** Africa's NHRI's Framework on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism
- **Speaker 3.3:** Role of Oversight Institutions in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism
- **Plenary**

Session Four: 3:30PM - 5:00 PM | Role of Civil Society in Africa on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

Moderator: Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo

- **Speaker 4.1:** Role of Civil Society in Africa in Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 4.2:** Role of Civil Society in Africa in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 4.3:** Role of Dev Partners in Supporting Civil Society on Human Rights & Counter Terrorism
- **Plenary**

DAY TWO

Session Five: 9:00AM - 10:00 AM | Contemporary Issues on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa

Moderator: Yusuf M. Aboubakar

- **Speaker 5.1:** Human Rights and Counter Terrorism Legal Frameworks in Africa
- **Speaker 5.2:** Human Rights and Counter Terrorism Case Law in Africa
- **Speaker 5.3:** The Place of Digital ID in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa
- **Plenary**

Session Four: 10:00AM - 11:00 AM | Role of Various Groups of Africa in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

Moderator: Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo

- **Speaker 6.1:** Role of African Women in Human Rights, Preventing and Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 6.2:** Role of African Youth in Human Rights, Preventing and Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 6.3:** Role of African Communities in Human Rights, Preventing & Countering Terrorism
- **Plenary**

11.00AM – 11.30AM: Tea and Refreshments Break

Session Seven: 11:30 - 12:30 PM | Role of Regional and International Actors in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism

Moderator: Yona Wanjala

- **Speaker 7.1:** Role of the ACHPR in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism
- **Speaker 7.2:** Role of Africa Union in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism

- **Speaker 7.3:** Role of International Organisations in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism
 - **Plenary**
-

Session Eight: 12.30 - 1:30 PM | Closing

Moderator: Hussein Khalid

- **Conference Outcome Document:** Executive Directors (CAH, HA, S4C, VA)
- **Speech:** Li Fung, Senior Representative UN OHCHR
- **Speech:** Chris Kayoshe, Africa Union
- **Speech:** Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- **Speech:** Willy Mutunga, Former Chief Justice of Kenya

Annex 2

List of Speakers

Session	Topic	Speaker	Institution
One: Opening Ceremony	Moderator	Hussein Khalid	VOCAL Africa
	Welcoming Remarks	Yona Wanjala	Civic Advisory Hub
	Welcoming Remarks	Victoria Ibezim Ohaeri	Spaces for Change
	Welcoming Remarks	Yusuf M. Aboubakar	HAKI Africa
	Welcoming Remarks	Rosette Ochoo	VOCAL Africa
	Speech	George Kegoro	Open Society Foundation
	Speech	Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
	Speech	Roseline Doreen	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
	Speech	Dr Rosalind Nyawira	National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
	Speech	Prof Ben Saul	United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR)
	Key Note Address	Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga	Pan Africanist and Former Prime Minister of Kenya

Session	Topic	Speaker	Institution
Two: Counter Terrorism in Africa: Facts and Statistics	Chair	Yona Wanjala	Civic Advisory Hub (CAH)
2.1	Leveraging Human Security to Enhance Respect for Human Rights	Lawrence Mute	Faculty of Law, University of Nairobi (UoN)
2.2	Terrorism and Organised Crime Trends in Africa	Dr Halkano Wario	Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
2.3	UNSR Report to General Assembly	Prof. Ben Saul	United Nations (UN)
Three: Efforts to Promote Human Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa	Moderator	Yusuf M. Aboubakar	HAKI Africa
3.1	The Place of Judiciary in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Evans Okeyo	Judicial Service Commission (JSC)
3.2	Africa's NHRI's Framework on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism (KNCHR)	Dr Nyeris Sang (TBC)	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
3.3	Role of Oversight Institutions in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Dr Elema Halake	Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA)

Session	Topic	Speaker	Institution
Four: Role of Civil Society in Africa in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism	Moderator	Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo	Civic Advisory Hub (CAH)
4.1	Role of Civil Society in Africa in Countering Terrorism	Brian Kimari	Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies (CHRIPS)
4.2	Role of Civil Society in Africa in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Eva Nudd	International Human Rights Consultant
4.3	Role of Dev Partners in Supporting Civil Society on Human Rights & Counter Terrorism (OSF)	George Kegoro	Open Society Foundations (OSF)
Five: Contemporary Issues on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa	Moderator	Yusuf M. Aboubakar	HAKI Africa
5.1	Human Rights and Counter Terrorism Legal Frameworks in Africa (HRW)	Allan Ngari (Virtual)	Human Rights Watch
5.2	Human Rights and Counter Terrorism Case Law in Africa	Zaina Kombo	Amnesty International

Session	Topic	Speaker	Institution
5.3	The Place of Digital ID in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism in Africa	Laura Goodwin	Namati
Six: Role of Various Groups of Africa in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism	Moderator	Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo	Spaces for Change
6.1	Role of African Women in Human Rights, Preventing and Countering Terrorism	Stella Sabiiti	Private Consultant on Peace and Security in Africa
6.2	Role of African Youth in Human Rights, Preventing and Countering Terrorism	Wevyn Muganda	ISIRIKA
6.3	Role of African Communities in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Kashi Jermaine	Human Development Agenda (HUDA)
Seven: Role of Regional and International Actors in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism	Moderator	Yona Wanjala	Civic Advisory Hub (CAH)
7.1	Role of the ACHPR in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana	ACHPR

Session	Topic	Speaker	Institution
7.2	Role of Africa Union in Promoting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism	Dr John Ikubaje	Africa Union
7.3	Role of International Organisations in Human Rights and Counter Terrorism	Fauzia Abdi	Women in International Security (WISE)
Eight: Closing	Moderator	Hussein Khalid	VOCAL Africa
	Closing Remarks	Yona Wanjala	Civic Advisory Hub (CAH)
	Closing Remarks	Victoria Ibezim Ohaeri	Spaces for Change (S4C)
	Closing Remarks	Yusuf M. Aboubakar	HAKI Africa
	Speech	Li Fung	UN OHCHR
	Speech	Dr John Ikubaje	Africa Union
	Speech	Dr Litha Musyimi-Ogana	ACHPR
	Speech	Mutuma Nkanata	NGO Board
	Speech	Dr Willy Mutunga	Former Chief Justice of Kenya

Annex 3

List of Participants

No.	Name	Institution	Country
1	Prof Ben Saul	UN	Australia
2	Yusuf M. Aboubakar	HAKI Africa	Kenya
3	Yona Wanjala	Civic Advisory Hub	Kenya
4	Commissioner Dr Litha	African Union	South Africa
5	Karen Lorena	United Nations	Mexico
6	Christopher Kayoshe	African Union	Addis Ababa
7	Jermaine Karshi	Human Development Agenda (HUDA)	Kenya
8	Malick Lingani		Burkina Faso
9	Sola Mercy Taiye Olutayo	Spaces for change	Nigeria
10	Joseph Wemakor	Human Rights Reporters Ghana (HRRG)	Ghana
11	Seyram Adiakpo	WANEP (Togo)	Togo
12	Abdoulaye Harouna		Niger
13	Okechukwu Nwanguma	RULAAC	Nigeria
14	Leah Mitaba	Zambia Council for Social Development	Zambia
15	Paula Monjane	CESC	Mozambique
16	Ernest Nyimai	National Association of NGO (NANGO)	Zimbabwe
17	Hilder Achiro	Civic Advisory Hub	Uganda
18	Dr. James Nkuubi	Civic Advisory Hub	Uganda
19	Mathias Shipeta	HAKI Africa	Kenya
20	Simon Kazungu	INLAGHR	Kenya

No.	Name	Institution	Country
21	Mohamed Nor Ibrahim	Kalkal Human Rights Organisation	Somalia
22	Ayan Abdillahi Takhal		Ethiopia
23	Joao Malavindale		Angola
24	Naly Raonison	Transparency International Initiative	Madagascar
25	Vitali Maembe		Tanzania
26	Aziza Ismali		Zanzibar
27	Mohammad Al-Hadi Al-Mahi		Sudan
28	Feryel Sharf Eldeen	Gender MENA	Tunisia
29	Yassir Faraj		Egypt
30	Prof Najya Muhammed	Pwani University	Kenya
31	Stella Sabiiti		Uganda
32	Robert Mogwane	Botswana Watch organisation	Botswana
33	Elijah Luk		South Sudan
34	Kamugoye Eugene Bwimmana		Rwanda
35	Gacheke Gachihi	MSJC	Kenya
36	Rosette Ochoo	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
37	Mutemi Kiama	Africa Rising	Kenya
38	Bereket Gebretinsae Araya	Private Consultant	Eritrea
39	Zaina Kombo	Amnesty International	Kenya
40	Li Fung	UN OHCHR	Korea
41	Eva Nudd	International human rights consultant	United States

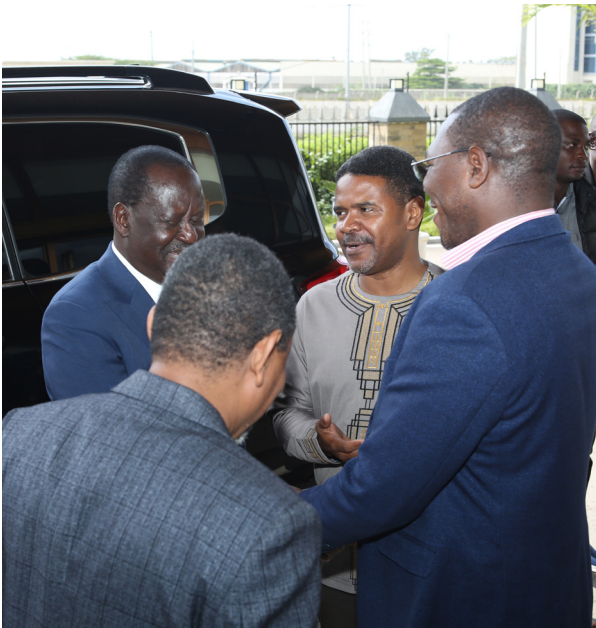
No.	Name	Institution	Country
42	George Kegoro	Director OSF	Kenya
43	Dr John Ikubaje	African Union	Nigeria
44	Lawrence Mute	Faculty of Law UoN	Kenya
45	Wevyn Muganda	ISIRIKA	Kenya
46	Laura Goodwin	Namati	US
47	Brian Kimari	CHRIPS	Kenya
48	Evans Okeyo	Judiciary	Kenya
49	Dr Nyeris Sang	KNCHR	Kenya
50	Elema Halake	IPOA	Kenya
51	Halkano Wario	ISS	Kenya
52	Salwa Salim	RWRC	Kenya
53	Ali Fujo	YESRAC	Kenya
54	Faith Naima	HAKI Africa	Kenya
55	Con Omore	HAKI Africa	Kenya
56	Milen Halefom	Private Consultant	Ethiopia
57	Salma Hemed	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
58	Said Abdu	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
59	Mike Maina	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
60	Fredrick Ojira	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
61	Robert Mutinda	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
62	Yassah Kimei	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
63	Mitchelle Ijai	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
64	Hussein Khalid	VOCAL Africa	Kenya
65	Husna Mbarak	UN FAO	Kenya

Annex 4

Pictorial









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