



GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

PRESS STATEMENT

December 16th, 2016

It was with deep regret that we received the news last Sunday, of the death of Mr. Zakayo Muriuki Gatimu, in an Ethiopian hospital.

The Ethiopian authorities arrested the late Zakayo Muriuki Gatimu on 10th January, 2015, in Jijiga, Ethiopia. He was arrested walking out of the compound of the client who had contracted his employer company, BSS Ltd, to install a VSAT Satellite in Jijiga. Jijiga is about 381 miles East of Addis Ababa near the Somalia border. On the same date, another Kenyan, Mr. Jedrick Mugo (Radio Frequency Engineer of Space Engineering Company alongside a Mr. Ali Basir was also arrested in the same region of Jijiga.

The Government has been aware of the imprisonment of Mr. Muriuki in Ethiopia, and our Embassy in Addis Ababa has been engaged with both his family and the Government of Ethiopia in a bid to resolve the case and have Mr. Muriuki and his colleague return home.

We can confirm that investigations to establish the circumstances of his death are underway and we have been assured of full cooperation from the Ethiopian authorities.

At this time, our primary concern is with the family of Zack Muriuki, who we have been assisting to repatriate the body. We will continue to stand with them as arrangements for the funeral are finalized.

We express sincere condolences to the family and assure them of continued government support at this difficult time.

Government remains engaged in efforts to secure the release of Mr. Muriuki's colleague, Mr. Jedrick Mugo. We continue to urge their employers to come forth with critical information needed by the Ethiopian Government to shed more light into the case. Their continued silence threatens to cripple the Embassy's efforts to secure Mr. Mugo's release.

Government would like to issue a cautionary reminder to citizens living in foreign countries, especially those which are politically volatile and conflict prone, to maintain the highest levels of vigilance. It is incumbent on Kenyans living abroad to be cognizant of laws in those countries and make every effort to observe them. The liberties enjoyed under the Kenyan constitution are not standard across board.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is always at hand to advise Kenyans considering or pursuing opportunities outside the country. They are able to advise citizens on appropriate pre-cautionary measures to take, laws to observe, and avenues to pursue for assistance in the event of certain possible eventualities. Citizens worldwide are always in better standing seeking such guidance before leaving their home countries. This places Government in a better position to adequately assist Kenyans who find themselves in difficult, dangerous or compromising situations while in a foreign country.

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Government Spokesperson