

RAISE YOUR VOICE CONDEMNS THE HEINOUS ASSAULT OF A WOMAN IN NYAMIRA COUNTY, KENYA

25 March 2025

Raise Your Voice strongly condemns the appalling attack on a woman during a burial ceremony in Nyabisimba, Nyamira County. This egregious act of violence, allegedly perpetrated by Robert Pokea Sarudi, Bismark Ondiek Sarudi, and Lameck Ogindo Osoro, is a grave violation of human rights and an affront to the constitutional protections afforded to all Kenyans.

The victim was reportedly coerced into participating in traditional rituals against her will and was brutally assaulted for refusing to comply. Such acts of intimidation and violence have no place in our society. Every individual has the right to autonomy, and no cultural practice should justify harm. **The Kenyan Constitution**, under **Article 28**, guarantees that every person has inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected. Furthermore, **Article 29** explicitly states that every person has the right to freedom and security, including the right not to be subjected to violence of any kind.

Femicide and gender-based violence have reached alarming levels in Kenya, with 170 femicide cases recorded in 2024—the highest annual figure to date. Between August and November 2024 alone, 100 women were murdered. Despite existing legal frameworks, enforcement remains inconsistent. Addressing this crisis requires stronger legal action, societal change, and comprehensive support for survivors.

We commend law enforcement for their swift action in apprehending the suspects and urge a thorough investigation to ensure justice. Raise Your Voice calls on leaders, authorities, and communities to work toward ending gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices. We urge the government to enforce stronger protections to safeguard the rights and dignity of all individuals, especially women.

To the victim and all survivors of gender-based violence, we stand in solidarity with you. We reaffirm our commitment to advocating for justice, safety, and the eradication of all forms of violence against women and marginalized groups.