

Kenya Police News

The Standard (Kenya), November 6, 2007.

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has laid the blame on the execution of close to 500 young men between June and October on the doorstep of the police. The State human rights' organisation, which described the 454 killings as 'extra-judicial', said the deaths coincided with the period when the police intensified a crackdown on the Mungiki sect. In a preliminary report released on Monday, the commission said some of the victims' bodies were dumped at the City Mortuary and others in Ngong Forest. At the mortuary, the report adds, the victims were booked as 'young Kikuyu male adults'. It adds that the bodies had a single gunshot on the head. Commission Chairman, Mr Maina Kiai, said investigations had reached the conclusion that the dead were victims of execution and "the police could be complicit in the killings". Kiai said only the police had the capacity to do so. He said the commission had counted and identified 229 bodies and received many complaints every day. He linked the killings to the war on Mungiki, saying the number of the dead taken to the mortuary rose sharply between June and July - 223 - compared to 189 between January and May before crackdown on the sect members heightened. "They coincide with the period after June when the Government declared war on Mungiki and wanted criminals," the report says. But the number of bodies taken to the mortuary dropped in August. Earlier this year, a war erupted between the Mungiki and matatu crews over protection money. When Mungiki demanded more money than was previously the case, matatu men in Kiambu and Thika refused to play ball. What followed were killings and beheadings in Nairobi, Central and parts of the Rift Valley provinces. The report said police collected 11 bodies in Yatta, Machakos, between August and September. Family members, the report says, had told the commission that some of their kin had been arrested by police, but were later found dead in Yatta. Kiai said executions are crimes against humanity and called for investigations by international experts. "We want prompt, impartial and effective investigation by police experts from South Africa, Ghana and Rwanda since Kenyans are incapable or unwilling to investigate the matter," said Kiai. The commission chairman said the report was preliminary and that a full one will be released later. He added that the commission supported President Kibaki's call on the police to stop harassing innocent people

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A video clip showing Foreign Affairs minister Raphael Tuju saying 400 Mungiki suspects had been killed by the police was released by a Government human rights watchdog on Wednesday. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) further tabled postmortem reports on five people it claimed were among 500 men executed between June and October this year. In spite of rebuke by police commissioner Hussein Ali, officials of the commission maintained that a preliminary report they released earlier proved crimes against humanity had been committed. "Frankly, we are not sure which parts of the report we should highlight for the police commissioner as constituting evidence," the commission said in a statement. On Tuesday, Maj-Gen Ali described the 11-page preliminary report, which blamed the police for the 500 deaths, as "a bunch of allegations". The clip showed Mr Tuju in a TV show saying President Kibaki could have faced an uprising from a certain

community over the crackdown on Mungiki if they could not have been crooks. The commission further said it had witness accounts, pictures and other evidence to show at least 500 people were summarily executed. The bodies were collected from bushes and forests in Ngong and Kiserian in Kajiado as well as in Naivasha and Yatta, Machakos District.

Suggesting the killings were State-sponsored, the human rights officials said they coincided with pronouncements by Government officials on members of Mungiki sect. It also accused the Kenya police of either being unable or unwilling to carry out investigations to the required standards.