



**CK (A Child) Through Ripples International as Her Guardian and Next Friend)  
& 11 others v Commissioner of Police/Inspector General of the National Police  
Service & 2 others; And Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (Amicus  
Curiae) (Petition 8 of 2012) [2013] KEHC 3114 (KLR) (27 May 2013) (Judgment)**

*C K (A Child) through Ripples International as her guardian & next friend) & 11 others v  
Commissioner of Police / Inspector General of the National Police Service & 3 others [2013] eKLR*

Neutral citation: [2013] KEHC 3114 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
IN THE HIGH COURT AT MERU**

**PETITION 8 OF 2012**

**JA MAKAU, J**

**MAY 27, 2013**

**BETWEEN**

- CK (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 1<sup>ST</sup> PETITIONER**
- FK (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 2<sup>ND</sup> PETITIONER**
- MM (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 3<sup>RD</sup> PETITIONER**
- EKM (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 4<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- PK (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 5<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- MNM (A CHILD) THROUGH JM AS HER GUARDIAN AND NEXT  
FRIEND) ..... 6<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- YN (A CHILD) THROUGH GN AS HER GUARDIAN AND NEXT  
FRIEND) ..... 7<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- LW (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 8<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- PW ..... 9<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**
- IK (A CHILD) THROUGH RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL AS HER GUARDIAN  
AND NEXT FRIEND) ..... 10<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER**



TM (A CHILD) THROUGH AG AS HER GUARDIAN AND NEXT  
FRIEND) ..... 11<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER  
RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL ..... 12<sup>TH</sup> PETITIONER

AND

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE/INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE ..... 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT  
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ..... 2<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT  
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, NATIONAL COHESION & CONSTITUTIONAL  
AFFAIRS ..... 3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT

AND

KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ... AMICUS CURIAE

**The police failure to conduct prompt, proper, effective and professional investigations amounts to violation of human rights of the victims**

*In the instant case victims of defilement and other forms of sexual violence and child abuse alleged to have made various reports on the violence against them in various police stations within Meru County. The police officers at the said stations however failed to take any steps or put in motion processes of the law as would have brought the perpetrators of the violence to book. The court held that the police failure to conduct prompt, proper, effective and professional investigations amounted to violations of the human rights of the victims.*

Reported by Mercy Ombima & Cynthia Liavule

**Constitutional Law** - fundamental rights and freedoms - right to special protection as members of vulnerable groups - human dignity - access to justice - protection from abuse – neglect - all forms of violence - inhuman treatment and right to equal protection and benefit of the law - breach of fundamental rights and freedoms through police inaction to complaints of victims of defilement - where police failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper, corruption free and professional investigations to the complaints - effect of the police inaction - Constitution of Kenya, 2010, articles 2(5); 2(6); 21(1)(3); 27; 28; 29; 48; 50(1) and 53(1)(d); African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990, articles 1, 3, 4, 16 and 27; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, articles 1 to 8(inclusive) and 10; the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, 1981, articles 2 to 7(inclusive) and 18.

**Brief facts**

Ripples International, the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner, brought the petition on behalf of the petitioners who were allegedly victims of defilement and other forms of sexual violence and child abuse. The victims alleged to have made various reports on the said violence against them in various police stations within Meru County. The police officers at the said stations however neglected, omitted, refused and or otherwise failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation into the petitioners’ complaints or record the petitioners’ complaints, visit the crime scenes, interview the witnesses or collect and preserve evidence, take any other steps or put in motion such other processes of the law as would have brought the perpetrators of the violence to book. The petitioners hence moved the court arguing that due to the neglect, commission, refusal and/ or failure on the part of the police to act on their complaints, they suffered grave, unspeakable and immeasurable physical and physiological trauma and that the perpetrators of the aforesaid unlawful acts still roamed large and free hence threatening the physical and psychological wellbeing of the petitioners. They thus sought, among other orders, a declaration to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into their complaints violated their various fundamental rights and freedoms.



## Issues

Whether shoddy investigations by the police in alleged criminal acts amounted to infringement of the victim's fundamental rights and freedoms under all or any of articles 21(1)(3), 27; 28; 29; 48; 50(1) and 53(1), (d) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and provisions of other international legal instruments.

## Held

1. The police failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations when the victims reported complaints of defilement and other forms of abuses against them. It also caused grave harm to the victims and also created a climate of impunity for defilement as perpetrators were let free. Those actions infringed the victims' fundamental rights and freedoms under *inter-alia* articles 21(1)(3), 27; 28; 29; 48, 50(1) and 53(1) (d) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (Constitution), and the general rules of international law, including any treaty or convention ratified by Kenya, which formed part of the law of Kenya as per article 2(5) and 2(6) of the Constitution.
2. The police owed a constitutional duty to protect the petitioners' rights and that duty was breached by their neglect, omission, refusal or failure to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations and as such they violated the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms as entrusted in the Constitution.
3. The respondents in the petition failed to implement the victims' rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined under article 21 of the Constitution. They also failed in their fundamental duties as stated under article 21 of the Constitution in failing to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfill the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms in particular the rights and freedoms relating to special protection as members of vulnerable group (article 21(3)), equality and freedom from non-discrimination (article 27) humanity dignity (article 29), access to justice (article 48 and 50) and protection from abuse, neglect, all forms of violence and inhuman treatment(article 53(1)(d) under the Constitution.
4. The police failure to conduct prompt, effective, proper, corruption free, and a professional investigation into petitioners' complaints of defilement and other form of sexual violence amounted to discrimination contrary to the express and implied provisions of articles 27 and 244 of the Constitution.
5. The police failure to effectively enforce section 8 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 infringed upon the petitioners' right to equal protection and benefit of the law contrary to article 27(1) of the Constitution and further by failing to enforce existing defilement laws the police contributed to development of a culture of tolerance for pervasive sexual violence against the girl child and impunity.
6. The police played a critical role in protecting and preserving fundamental rights and its abdication from that role inevitably deprived the claimants' access to courts and led to miscarriage of justice or denied them justice altogether. Their demand for payments as preconditions for assistance, whether for fuel or P3 forms or whatever the case could have violated the petitioners' right to access to justice and right to have disputes that could be resolved by the application of law decided in a fair and in public hearing before a court of law in accordance with article 50(1) of the Constitution.
7. The police failure to act on the petitioners' complaints of defilement violated their rights under article 53 of the Constitution. The constitutional requirement to protect the best interests of the child required not only the establishment of relevant laws but also required their proper enforcement by state agencies and any failure to implement laws aimed at protecting children amounted to infringement and/or violation of their constitutional rights.

*Petition allowed.*



## Orders

*i. A declaration issued to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the petitioners' (victim\`s) complaints of defilement violated the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms:*

- a. *To special protection as members of a vulnerable group;*
- b. *to equal protection and benefit of the law;*
- c. *not to be discriminated against;*
- d. *to inherent dignity and the right to have the dignity protected;*
- e. *to security of the person;*
- f. *not to be subjected to any form of violence either from public or private sources or torture or cruel or degrading treatment; and*
- g. *to access to justice as respectively set out in articles 21(1), 21(3), 27; 28; 29; 48; 50(1) and 53(1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya.*

*ii. A declaration made to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the petitioners' respective complaints violated the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms under:*

- a. *Articles 1 to 8 (inclusive) and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;*
- b. *articles 2, 4, 19, 34 and 39 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;*
- c. *articles 1, 3, 4, 16 and 27 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and*
- d. *articles 2 to 7(inclusive) and 18 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.*

*iii. An order of mandamus made directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent (Commissioner of Police/Inspector General) together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the petitioners' respective complaints of defilement and other forms of sexual violence.*

*iv. An order of mandamus made directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to implement article 244 of the Constitution in as far as it was relevant to the matters raised in the petition.*

## Citations

5. Ms Beatrice Chalangat for FIDA
  4. Mr Mwakosi (Amicus Curiae) for the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
  3. Mr Makori for the 2nd Respondent
  2. Mr Menge for the 1st & 3rd Respondents
  1. Mr Muthomi for the Petitioner
- articles 1 and 2.
6. Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1981
  5. International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966 articles 3, 7, 9 and 26.
  4. United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, 1992 articles 2, 4, 19, 34 and 39
  3. African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights, 1981 articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 18
  2. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999 articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 16 and 27
  1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 article 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10
- International Instruments & Conventions:
5. Sexual Offences Act, 2006 (Act No 3 of 2006) sections 2, 8, 24-36, 40, 46– (Interpreted)
  4. Police Act (cap 84) In general – (Interpreted)
  3. National Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No11a of 2011) section 24 – (Interpreted)
  2. Children Act 2001(cap 141) section 3, 5 15 and 22– (Interpreted)
- (Interpreted)



26; 23(1); 27(1-4); 28; 29; 48; 50(1) and 53(1)(c)(d)(2); 58(1)(c); 157(4)(6)(a)(b)(c); 244(a-e) –  
1. Constitution of Kenya, 2010 articles 1, 2(5)(6), 3; 7; 9; 10, 19, 21(1)(3); 22(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(2);

**Statutes:**

***East Africa;***

1. Cas Romania (Cas Romania, European Court Of Human Rights) 26692/05 2012)

1.

3.

SA 222(CC); 2009 (7) BCLR 637(CC) – (Mentioned)

2.

938 (CC); 2001 (10) BCLR 995 (CC) – (Explained)

1.

South Africa;

Application No 27 of 2008 – (Explained)

1.

## JUDGMENT

1. The twelve petitioners through a petition dated October 11, 2012 brought under articles 2, 10, 19,21,22,23,27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, article 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 16 and 27 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights, section 3, 5 15 and 22 of the Children Act 2001(Chapter 141) of the Laws of Kenya, the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 (Act No 3 of 2006 and the Police Act(Chapter 84) of the Laws of Kenya seek the following reliefs:-

1. A declaration to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the first eleven petitioners' complaints of defilement violates the first eleven petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms-
  - (a) to special protection as members of a vulnerable group'
  - (b) to equal protection and benefit of the law;
  - (c) not to be discriminated against'
  - (d) to inherent dignity and the right to have the dignity protected;
  - (e) to security of the person
  - (f) not to be subjected to any form of violence from public or private sources or torture or cruel or degrading treatment; and
  - (g) to access to justice as respectively set out in articles 21(1), 21(3), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1)(c) of the Constitution.
2. A declaration to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the first eleven petitioners' respective complaints violates the first eleven petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms under-



- (a) Articles 1 to 8(inclusive) and 10 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,
  - (b) Articles 2, 4, 19, 34 and 39 of the *United Nations Convention on the rights of the child*;
  - (c) Articles 1, 3, 4, 16 and 27 of the *African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the child*, and
  - (d) Articles 2 to 7(inclusive) and 18 of the *African Charter on Human and people's rights*.
3. An order of mandamus directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> petitioners' respective complaints of defilement and other forms of sexual violence.
  4. an order of mandamus directing the 3<sup>rd</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to-
    - (a) formulate the National Policy Framework envisioned by Section 46 of the *Sexual Offences Act*, 2006 through a consultative and participatory process, ensuring its compliance with the Constitution and to disseminate, implement and widely and regularly publicize the National Policy Framework, and
    - (b) Make and/or cause the National Policy Framework in (a) above to be made a mandatory component of the training curricular at all police training colleges and institutions.
  5. An order of mandamus directing the 3<sup>rd</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to implement the guidelines provided in the Reference Manual on the *Sexual Offences Act*, 2006 for prosecutors, sections 27-36, excepting section 34.
  6. An order of mandamus directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to implement article 244 of the *Constitution* in as far as it is relevant to the matters raised in this petition.
  7. An order directing the respondents to regularly and/or account to the honourable court, for such period as the honourable court may direct, on compliance and/or implementation of the orders set out in paragraphs 3 to 6 (inclusive) above.
  8. The costs of and incidental to this petition
  9. such other, further, additional, incidental and/or alternative reliefs or remedies as the honourable court shall deem just and expedient.
2. The learned state counsel for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents, Mr Menge filed grounds of opposition dated March 6, 2013 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent filed replying affidavit dated January 17, 2012.
  3. On the December 3, 2012 leave was granted to FIDA to be enjoined as party in this petition. On March 11, 2013 Kenya National Commission on Human Rights was made a party to this matter and allowed to appear as *Amicus Curiae*. On the same day the court directed that the respondents who had not put in their written submissions do so within a month and this matter was set down for highlighting on April 30, 2013.
  4. On April 30, 2013 the counsel for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents had not filed his submissions, whereas the state counsel for the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent filed his submissions on the same day. The Advocate for the petitioners, FIDA and Kenya National Human Rights relied on their submissions filed on February



- 11, 2013 and February 27, 2013. The petitioners' submissions were filed on February 11, 2013. All parties opted not to highlight on their aforesaid submissions.
5. I have carefully considered the petition and response by 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent, the affidavits in support and in opposition. The court has carefully also considered the written submissions and authorities in support and relevant provisions of law and the parties opposing positions.
  6. The petitioners case in brief is that the eleven(11) petitioners, CK, FK, MM, EK, MPK, MNM; NN, LW, PW, IK, and TM are Kenyan citizens by birth and residents of the Meru County in the Republic of Kenya. That each of the said petitioners were on all material dates relevant to these proceedings a "Child" and a victim of "Child abuse" and "defilement" as respectively defined under the [Children Act, 2001](#) and the [Sexual Offence Act, 2006](#). That each of the said 11 petitioners is averred was at all material times to these proceedings entitled to each and all fundamental rights and freedoms set out or implied in the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#). That the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner is a Charitable Non-governmental Organization specializing in the promotion and protection of child rights and welfare within Meru County in the Republic of Kenya. That the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner is currently sheltering, educating and maintaining more that 200 vulnerable children from Meru County.
  7. That the petitioners herein were on diverse dates between the year 2008 and 2012 victims of defilement and other forms of Sexual violence and child abuse. That the petitioners made reports of the acts of defilement at various police stations within Meru County and the police officers at those various Police Stations neglected, omitted, refused and or otherwise failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional Investigation into the petitioners'complaints or record the petitioners' complaints in the police Occurrence Book or visit the crime scenes or interview the witnesses or collect and preserve evidence or take any other steps or put in motion such other processes of the law as would have brought the perpetrators of defilement and other forms of sexual violence to account for their unlawful acts or took such other legislative, policing and/or administrative measures as would protect the petitioners(in common with other Kenyan Children) from abuse, sexual violence, inhuman and degrading treatment. That due to neglect, commission, refusal and/or failure on the part of the police the petitioners averred and contended that they have suffered grave unspeakable and immeasurable physical and physiological trauma and that the perpetrators of the aforesaid unlawful acts roam large and free, with impunity and they continue to threaten the physical and psychological wellbeing of the petitioners.
  8. The petitioners contended that the 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner, aged 5 years was defiled by her uncle (K) and that the 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner's family has been complicit in every cover up. The aforesaid defilement and subjecting the 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner to violence and other forms of abuse. That on January 18, 2012, the 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner reported the defilement to Meru District Children's Officer, Kinoru Administration Police Camp and Meru Police Station. That the Kinoru Administration Police Camp Officers demanded kshs 1,000/- before they could intervene in anyway and refused to assist the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner in rescuing the 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner. That the OCS Meru Police Station refused to investigate the complaint, claiming that the complaint had been made late. The 1<sup>st</sup> petitioner contends that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, proper and professional investigation into her complaint violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1),(3), 27, 29, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1), (c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
  9. The 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner contends that in August, 2011, then aged 15 years was defiled by her neighbor(MN) and as a result of the defilement, she conceived, dropped out of school and suffered grave physical and psychological trauma. That the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner reported the aforesaid act of defilement at Kariene Police Station on January 17, 2012.



10. That the Police Officers at Kariene Police Station interrogated the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner loudly and in public in the hearing of all present at the police station, thereby subjecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner to humiliation, embarrassment and inhuman treatment. That the police officers refused to issue a P3 form to the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner, insisting that they had to wait until the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner's baby, conceived out of the defilement was born and further refused to arrest or interrogate the perpetrator and unlawfully, inexcusably and unjustifiably neglected, omitted and/or otherwise failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation into the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner's complaint.
11. The 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner contends that the neglect, refusal and/or failure of police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation, into her complaint violates her fundamental rights and freedom under article 2, 21(1),(3),27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53(1),(c) of the [\*Constitution of Kenya, 2010\*](#).
12. The 3<sup>rd</sup> petitioner, contends that on December 27, 2011 when aged 8 years was defiled by a gang of three neighbours(M/S ZK, KM and MN) and as a result of the defilement she contracted a sexually transmitted disease and suffered grave physical and psychological trauma. That the 3<sup>rd</sup> petitioner reported the said defilement at Laare Police Station on December 25, 2012. That the police officers at Laare Police Station arrested and charged only one of the three perpetrators in the defilment but failed to investigate, interrogate and/or arrest the other perpetrators in spite of their continued threat, harassment and intimidation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> petitioner's family. The 3<sup>rd</sup> petitioner contends that the refusal, neglect, omission and/or failure of the police to investigate, interrogate and/or arrest the other perpetrators violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under articles 2, 2(1) 3, 27, 28, 29, 50(1) and 58(1), (c), of the [\*Constitution of Kenya, 2010\*](#).
13. The 4<sup>th</sup> petitioner in June, 2010, then aged 12 years was defiled by an Administration Police Officer(JMM) as a result of which she conceived and has suffered a grave physical and psychological trauma. That the perpetrator who has since admitted to the offence is contended has been harassing, intimidating and threatening the 4<sup>th</sup> petitioner and her family. That though the perpetrator was formally charged in court, the petitioner contends, the police have frustrated and delayed the criminal proceedings by inter alia, insisting on receiving money and travel reimbursement from the petitioner, failing to avail the police investigation file and failing to timeously avail DNA results. The fourth petitioner contends that the delay in the prosecution of the perpetrators and the manner of which the police have handled the case violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1), 21(30), 27, 28 , 29, 48 50(1) and 53(1),(c), of the [\*Constitution of Kenya, 2010\*](#).
14. The 5<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends that on May 11, 2011, then aged 11 years, was defiled by her neighbor(DM) causing her grave physical and psychological trauma. That the police have neglected, omitted, refused and/or otherwise failed to investigate, interrogate and/or arrest the perpetrator in spite of the 5<sup>th</sup> petitioner's complaint and ample evidence linking the perpetrator to the defilement. The 5<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure on the part of the police to investigate, interrogate and/or arrest the perpetrator violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1), 3(), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1) (c) of the [\*Constitution of Kenya, 2010\*](#).
15. The 6<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends that she was repeatedly defiled by her father (MM) between the year, 2008 and 2011, as a result of which she has suffered grave physical and physiological trauma. The 6<sup>th</sup> petitioner averred that she reported the aforesaid acts of defilment at Tigania Police Station on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2011 who failed, neglected, omitted and refused to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation into the 6<sup>th</sup> petitioner's complaint. The 6<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations



- into her complaint violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1),(3),27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1),(c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
16. The 7<sup>th</sup> petitioner averred that on August 6, 2011, then aged 8 years, was defiled by her neighbor(JK) causing her grave physical and psychological trauma. That a report was made to Nchiru Police Station whereby police officers are said to have demanded payment of Kshs.1,000/- for fuel and as a precondition for taking 7<sup>th</sup> petitioner to the hospital and omitted, neglected, refused and failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation to the 7<sup>th</sup> complainant's complaint. She further contends that though the perpetrator was formally charged in court, the police officers at Nchiru have frustrated the prosecution by, inter alia, refusing to inform the 7<sup>th</sup> petitioner of the hearing dates and failing to present the perpetrator in court whenever the case is scheduled for hearing. The 7<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1), (3), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1)(c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) had been violated by the Police Officers.
  17. The 8<sup>th</sup> petitioner avers that on August 31, 2011, then aged 13 years was defiled by her employer's husband(GG) and as a result of which she has undergone surgery at the Meru General Hospital and has suffered grave physical and psychological trauma. The 8<sup>th</sup> petitioner reported the defilement at Meru Police on August 31, 2011. She contends the Police Officer at the Meru Police Station have neglected, omitted, refused and/or failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation into the 8<sup>th</sup> petitioner's complaint or visit the scene of crime or interrogate or arrest the perpetrator. She contends that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into her complaint or interrogate or arrest the perpetrator violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under article 2, 21(1),(3), 27, 28, 29, 48 50(1) and 53(1) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
  18. The 9<sup>th</sup> petitioner avers that in October, 2008, then aged 15 years, was defiled while under refuge at Huruma Children's Home(at Nkubu, Meru), as a result she conceived and suffered grave physical and psychological trauma. She reported the defilement at Nkubu Police Station on January 22, 2009. She contends that the police station have neglected, omitted, refused and failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into her complaint and such failure violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under articles 2, 21(1), (3),27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53(c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
  19. The 10<sup>th</sup> petitioner avers that in June, 2008, then aged 11 years, was defiled by her neighbor(SK) and as a result of which she conceived and suffered grave physical and psychological trauma. She avers that on January 21, 2011 she made a report at Kariene Police Station and that though the perpetrator was formally charged in court, the police have frustrated and delayed the case by, inter alia, failing to bring critical witnesses to court, failing to bring police file to court and by bringing to court witnesses who have no personal knowledge to the facts of the case. She contends that the manner in which the police have handled her case violates her fundamental rights and freedoms under articles 2, 21(1),(3), 27, 28, 29, 48,50(1) and 53(1),(c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
  20. The 11<sup>th</sup> petitioner avers that she was severely beaten and defiled by her step-father causing her grave physical and psychological trauma. That she reported the defilement at Meru Police Station on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 but police officers refused to record or investigate her complaint. She contends that the neglect, omission, refusal, and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into her complaint violates her fundamental rights and freedoms, under article 2, 21(1), (3), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1), (c) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
  21. The 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner avers that it brings these proceedings in public interest and pursuant to the express and implied provisions of article 22(2) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).



22. Section 22(1) and (2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides:-

“ 22.

- (1) Every person has the right to institute court proceedings claiming that a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights has been denied, violated or infringed, or is threatened.
- (2) In addition to a person acting in their own interest, court proceedings under clause (1) may be instituted by--
  - (a) a person acting on behalf of another person who cannot act in their own name;
  - (b) a person acting as a member of, or in the interest of, a group or class of persons;
  - (c) a person acting in the public interest; or
  - (d) an association acting in the interest of one or more of its members.”

23. The 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner contends that the neglect, omission, refusal and failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the eleven petitioners respective complaints violates their respective fundamental rights and freedoms under, *inter alia*, articles 2, 21(1), 21(3), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1), (c) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, articles 1 to 8 (inclusive) and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, articles 2, 3, 19, 34 and 39 of United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, articles 1, 2, 3, 16, and 27 of the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child and articles 2 to 7 (inclusive) and 18 of the African Charter on Human and people rights. The 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner further contends the police’s failure to act on petitioner’s complaints constitutes a grave abdication of statutory duty and express and implied provision *inter alia*:-

- (a) sexual offences Act, 2006(Act No.3 of 2006) and
- (b) The Police Act(cap.84) of the Laws of Kenya)

24. The petitioners’ petition is supported by affidavit of Mutuma Kirima, a Social Worker employed by the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner, a Charitable Non-Governmental Organization, specializing in the promotion and protection of child rights and welfare within Meru County. The affidavit supports each and every petitioner’s claim as herein above analyzed and with supportive annexures MKI to MK8.

25. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents did not file any replying affidavit but grounds of opposition dated March 6, 2013 alleging that the petition is incompetent, and bad in law as prayed against 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents contended the petitioners have not identified the perpetrators by giving their names and that the court lacked jurisdiction to grant the prayers sought. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents further contended that the petitioners have not demonstrated how the respondents were involved to the order sought herein and that the petitioners had not exhausted all available avenues and a such constitutional remedies should be trivialized.

26. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents did not file any affidavit to controvert the matters raised in the affidavit of the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner and I take the same as unchallenged and to be truthful. The names of the perpetrators have clearly been given and their whereabouts disclosed, I therefore find no merits in the 1<sup>st</sup> and



3<sup>rd</sup> respondents' objection on the ground that the particulars and names of the perpetrators have not been disclosed.

27. Under article 22(1), everyone has the right to institute court proceedings for enforcement of Bill of Rights. Article 22(1),(a),(b),(c), and (d) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) provides:-

“ 22.

- (1) Every person has the right to institute court proceedings claiming that a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights has been denied, violated or infringed, or is threatened.
- (2) In addition to a person acting in their own interest, court proceedings under clause (1) may be instituted by--
  - (a) a person acting on behalf of another person who cannot act in their own name;
  - (b) a person acting as a member of, or in the interest of, a group or class of persons;
  - (c) a person acting in the public interest; or
  - (d) an association acting in the interest of one or more of its members.”

27. Further article 23(1) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) provides:

“ 23.

- (1) The High Court has jurisdiction, in accordance with article 165, to hear and determine applications for redress of a denial, violation or infringement of, or threat to, a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights.”

28. In view of the foregoing I find and hold everyone has the right to institute court proceedings claiming that a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights has been denied, violated or infringed and the High Court has jurisdiction to entertain such proceedings and determine applications for redress of a denial, violation or infringement of, or threat to, a right on fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights.

29. I therefore find no merits on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respondents grounds of opposition and the same are rejected and dismissed.

30. The 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent through its replying affidavit dated January 17, 2012 by Mr Jackson Motende, State Counsel, in the office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Meru office referred to article 157(4) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) which gives the Director of Public Prosecution power to direct the Inspector-General of the National Police Service to investigate any information or allegation of criminal conduct. He averred that court directions were given in accordance with the said Article and attached a letter dated May 29, 2012 marked “JM”. The said letter is only on complaint by 2 victims and not all petitioners in this petition as can be observed. That since the said letter, it appears there had been no follow up or response from the DCIO. Significantly the letter was not written to Inspector General nor was it copied to the said office. The affidavit of the learned State Counsel Mr J Motende is clear that no action has been taken on the petitioners' complaints as he depones that majority of the complaints contained in the petition were never received by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent. Strange



enough there is no affidavit filed denying that the petitioners reported to the various police stations mentioned in the petition and in the supportive affidavit. I therefore do not find any basis of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent denying petitioners complaints were not reported to police stations mentioned in the petition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent has not given any reason for their refusal, neglect, omission to act on the petitioners' complaints and their failure to prosecute the perpetrators promptly upon receipt of the various complaints. The 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent's assertion that it is wrongfully enjoined to this petition is without any basis. Article 157(6), (a), (b), (c) and (II) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) provides:-

- “(6) The Director of Public Prosecutions shall exercise State powers of prosecution and may—
- (a) institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any person before any court (other than a court martial) in respect of any offence alleged to have been committed;
  - (b) take over and continue any criminal proceedings commenced in any court (other than a court martial) that have been instituted or undertaken by another person or authority, with the permission of the person or authority; and
  - (c) subject to clause (7) and (8), discontinue at any stage before judgment is delivered any criminal proceedings instituted by the Director of Public Prosecutions or taken over by the Director of Public Prosecutions under paragraph (b)
- 7 .....  
8 .....  
9 .....  
10 .....
- (11) In exercising the powers conferred by this Article, the Director of Public Prosecutions shall have regard to the public interest, the interests of the administration of justice and the need to prevent and avoid abuse of the legal process.”

31. It is therefore clear that it is the duty of the Director of Public Prosecutions to institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any person before any court and in doing so shall have regard to the public interest, the administration of justice and the need to prevent and avoid abuse of legal process.
32. The issue for determination in this petition is whether failure on the part of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigation into the petitioners' complaints of defilement and other forms of sexual violence infringes on petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms under all or any articles 21(1),(3),27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53(1), (d) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#)?
33. The petitioners as per affidavit in support, which had not been controverted by the respondents in anyway and which I find to be true having not been challenged have confirmed that they have been victims of defilement, and other forms of sexual violence and child abuse. The reports of defilement and other forms of sexual abuse were reported to various police stations. Police unlawfully, inexcusably and unjustifiably neglected, omitted and/or otherwise failed to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations to the said complaints. That failure caused grave harm to the petitioners



and also created a climate of impunity for defilement as perpetrators were let free. This infringed the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms under *inter alia* articles 21(1),(3), 27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53(1),(d) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) and the general rules of international law, including any treaty or convention ratified by Kenya, which form part of the law of Kenya as per article 2(5) and 2(6) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#). That these international instruments are applicable to the petitioners cases. The relevant conventions include:

1. The [United Nations Convention on Rights of Child](#) notably article 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
  2. The [African Charter on Human and People's Rights](#) notably articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 18.
  3. The [Convention on Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women](#)(CEDAW) notably articles 1 and 2.
  4. The [International Convention on Civil and political rights](#)(ICCPR) notably articles 3, 7, 9 and 26.
34. I further find that the petitioners in this petition have suffered horrible, unspeakable and immeasurable harm due to acts of defilement committed against them. They each suffered physical harm in the form of internal and external wounds from the perpetrators assaults and some suffered consequences of unwanted pregnancies vested on children not physically mature enough to bear children. The petitioners have suffered psychological harm from assaults made worse by the threat, fear and reality of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases or infections.
35. Whereas the perpetrators are directly responsible for the harms, to the petitioners, the respondents' herein cannot escape blame and responsibility. The respondent's ongoing failure to ensure criminal consequence through proper and effective investigation and prosecution of these crimes has created a "climate of Impunity" for commission of sexual offences and in particular defilement. As a result of which the perpetrators know they can commit crimes against innocent children without fear of being apprehended and prosecuted. This to me makes the respondents responsible for physical and psychological harms inflicted by perpetrators, because of their laxity and their failure to take prompt and positive action to deter defilement. The worse is that the petitioners' visited various police stations after defilements and gave names of the perpetrators being people they knew yet the respondents did not bother to take appropriate action. Instead the respondents showed disbelief, blamed the victims, humiliated them, yelled at and ignored them as they put them under vigorous cross-examination and failed to take action. The respondents are in my view directly responsible for psychological harm caused by their actions and inactions. The petitioner has since become self-doubtful, self-loathing, self-blame, and have low self-esteem. That has been documented amongst the petitioners following contact with the police.
36. It is as a result of the above-mentioned that the petitioners had to flee and seek protection and safety from the 12<sup>th</sup> petitioner leading to their separation from their close family members, friends, and community and removal from their homes, schools and where close support was mostly needed. The failure to act appropriately is directly liable for the psychological damage experienced by the petitioners arising from their alienation from family, schools and their own communities.
37. The petitioners' counsel attached opinions of two experts on Kenyan and International Police standards for establishing the standards to be applied to police treatment of defilement. The experts on Kenya Policing standards concluded *inter alia* that:

"In all cases investigations were inadequate in that the Police failed to visit scenes of crime to gather evidence that is vital in collaboration of a case, did not interview witnesses/victims,



samples were not taken and even those produced by victims were never forwarded to the Government analysts' for examination..."

38. The expert on international policing standards concluded *inter alia* that:
- “The Investigations of these eleven cases fall short of international policing standards. The very basic steps required to investigate crimes of this nature have been overlooked and ignored. There seems to be a prevailing attitude that crimes of this nature are not taken seriously. These failures are significant in that there not only is an urgent need to re-assess how these cases are investigated but there is also an immediate need to adjust the attitude of the Police handling them.....”
39. The respondents in this petition failed to implement the rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined under article 21 of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#). The respondents have failed in their fundamental duties as stated under article 21 in failing to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfill the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms in particular the rights and freedoms relating to special protection as members of vulnerable group (article 21(3), equality and freedom from non-discrimination (article 27) humanity dignity (article 29), access to justice (article 48 and 50) and protection from abuse, neglect, all forms of violence and inhuman treatment (article 53(1),(d) under the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
40. The petitioners referred me to the case of [Van Eader v Minister of Safety and Security](#) (2002) ZASCA 123 in which case police allowed a dangerous criminal and serial rapist to escape from their custody. The supreme court of Appeal of South Africa held:-
- “The fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution include human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.....everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources..... In all the circumstances of the present case I have come to the conclusion that the Police owed the appellant a legal duty to act positively to prevent Mohammed's escape.....I have reached this conclusion mainly in view of the state's constitutional imperatives to which I have referred.”
41. The court held that police had breached the applicant's fundamental rights and freedoms by allowing the rapist to escape from their custody.
42. In the instant petition the police have allowed the dangerous criminals to remain free and/or at large. The respondents are responsible for arrest and prosecution of the criminals who sexually assaulted the petitioners and the failure of State agents to take proper and effective measures to apprehend and prosecute the said perpetrators of defilement and protect the petitioners being children of tender years, they are in my opinion responsible for torture, defilement and conception of young girls and more particular the petitioners herein.
43. In case of [Jessica Lenahan \(Gonzales\) et al United States](#), Case 12.626, Report No 80/11, August, 17, 2011. The inter-American Commission on Human Rights considered Police obligations to enforce a restraining order in circumstances where a father took his children from their mother's custody without permission and killed them. The Commission found that there was “broad International consensus” that States “may incur ..responsibility for failing to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, sanction and offer reparations for acts of violence against women” .....women.



44. The State's duty to protect is heightened in the case of vulnerable groups such as girl-children and the State's failure to protect it need not be intentional to constitute a breach of its obligation. The courts have found that State has a clear duty to investigate crime and found the failure to do so constitute a constitutional violation of claimant's rights.
45. In *R v Commissioner of Police & 3 Others ex-parte Phylis Temwai Kipteyo* HC Misc Appl 27 of 2008, (2011) eKLR(Bungoma)the court stated:-
- “All the same, the life of the victim and the interests of the family are protected by the Constitution and the statutes. The State through the respondents herein are responsible for security of citizens in this country. It is the duty of the state to inquire into any crime or suspected crime affecting any of its subjects. It is the duty of the State to investigate the disappearance of the victim herein who was its subject and its employee(emphasis added)
46. I agree with the above-mentioned case that once a report or complaint is made it is the duty of the police to move with speed and promptly, commence investigation and apprehend and interrogate the perpetrators of the offence and the investigation must be conducted effectively, properly and professionally short thereof amounts to violation of fundamental rights of the complainant.
47. In the instant case the police owed a constitutional duty to protect the petitioners' right and that duty was breached by their neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations and as such they violated the petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms as entrusted in the Constitution.
48. Under article 244 (a)-(e) of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010* it is provided:-
- “244. The National Police Service shall—
- (a) strive for the highest standards of professionalism and discipline among its members;
- (b) prevent corruption and promote and practice transparency and accountability;
- (c) comply with constitutional standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (d) train staff to the highest possible standards of competence and integrity and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and dignity; and
- (e) foster and promote relationships with the broader society.”
49. Further article 27(1)-(4) of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010* it is provided:-
- “ 27.
- (1) Every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
- (4) The State shall not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person on any ground, including race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language or birth.”
50. The petitioners contends that gender-based sexual violence constitutes discrimination and referred me to article 1 of the *Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* which defines discrimination against women as including .....”acts that inflict sexual harm”.



51. Having considered the petitioners petition and affidavit in support and the fact that the police did not take appropriate action to ensure justice to the petitioners I find the police failure to conduct prompt, effective, proper, corruption free, and a professional investigation into petitioners complaints of defilement and other form of sexual violence amounts to discrimination contrary to the expressly and implied provisions of Article 27 of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) and contrary to article 244 of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#).
52. Further to the above the Police failure to effectively enforce Section 8 of the [Sexual Offences Act, 2006](#) infringes upon the petitioners right to equal protection and benefit of the law contrary to article 27(1) of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#) and further by failing to enforce existing defilement laws the police have contributed to development of a culture of tolerance for pervasive sexual violence against girl children and impunity.
53. In the circumstances the respondents are responsible for violation of the petitioners' rights under article 27 of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#). The respondents are obligated by law to protect girl children from defilement and ensure effective investigation of defilment claims(See section 14 and 14A of the [Police Act](#)(repealed and replaced by Act No 11A of 2011), section 2, 8 and 40 of the [Sexual Offences Act](#) and articles 157(4) and article 244 of the [Constitution of Kenya, 2010](#)).
54. In the case of MC Bulgaria ([MC v Bulgaria](#), European Court Of Human Rights 39272/98, 2003) the European Court of Human Rights held:-
- “The investigation of the applicant’s case, and in particular the approach taken by the investigators and the prosecutors in the case fell short of the requirements inherent in the States’ positive obligations-viewed in the light of the relevant modern standards in comparative and international law-to establish and apply effectively a criminal-law system punishing all forms of rape and sexual abuse.....The court thus finds that in the present case there has been a violation of the respondent State’s positive obligations under both articles 3(on torture and inhuman/degrading treatment) and 8(on protection of the law) of the Convention.”
55. In the case of CAS Romania([CAS Romania](#), European Court of Human Rights 26692/05 2012). The European Court of Human Rights held that an ineffective investigation of sexual assault charges violates the Human Rights convention. The court held as follows:-
- “It (the investigation) should in principle be capable of leading to the establishment of the facts of the case and to the identification and punishment of those responsible. This is not an obligation of result, but one of means. The authorities must have taken the reasonable steps available to them to secure the evidence concerning the incident, including, inter alia, eyewitness testimony, forensic evidence, and so on. Any deficiency in the investigation which undermines its ability to establish the cause of injuries or the identity of the persons responsible will risk failing foul of this standard, and a requirement of promptness and reasonable expedition is implicit in this context. In cases under articles 2 and 3 of the Convention where the effectiveness of the official investigation has been at issue, the court has often assessed whether the authorities reacted promptly to the complaints at the relevant time. Consideration has been given to the opening of investigations, delays in taking statements and to the length of time taken for the initial investigation.



56. Yet in the case of *Carmichele v Minister Safety and Security and another*(*supra*) the court held:-

“The courts are under a duty to send a clear message to the accused, and to other potential rapists and to the community. We are determined to protect the equality, dignity and freedom of all women, and we shall show no mercy to those who seek to invade those rights. South Africa also has a duty under international law to prohibit all gender-based discrimination that has the effect or purpose of impairing the enjoyment by women of fundamental rights and freedoms and to take reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent the violation of those rights. The police is one of the primary agencies of the state responsible for the protection of the public in general and women and children in particular against the invasion of their fundamental rights by perpetrators of violent crime.”

57. In the case of *Gonzalez & Others(Cotton Field) v Mexica*(*Inter-American Court of Human Rights*, judgment of November, 16, 2009) the inter-American Court of Human rights held that State of Mexico had infringed on petitioners’ rights to equality and non-discrimination, in claim relating to the discipline, torture, rape and murder of three young girls and stated as follows:-

“Evidence provided to the court indicates, inter alia, that officials of the state of Chihuahua and the municipality of Juarez made light of the problem and even blamed the victims for their fate based on the way they dressed, the place they worked, their behavior, the fact that they were out alone, or a lack of parental care.....The court therefore finds that, in the instant case, the violence against women constituted a form of discrimination, and declares the State violated the obligation not to discriminate contained in article 1(1) of the Convention, in relation to the obligation to guarantee the rights embodied in the articles 4(1), 5(1), 5(2) and 7(1) of the American Convention.”

58. On sexual violence, freedom and security of a person court have held that State has an obligation to protect all citizens from violence and ensure their security of person. This is enshrined in article 29 of our *Constitution*.

59. In case of *Carmichele v Minister of Safety and Security & Another* (*supra*) the court stated:

“Thus one finds positive obligations on members of the Police force both in the IC and the Police Act. In addressing these obligations in relation to dignity and the freedom and security of the person, few things can be more important to women(and children) than freedom from the threat of sexual violence.”

60. Article 48 and 50 of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010* obligates the State to ensure access to courts is not unreasonably or unjustifiably impeded and in particular where there is legitimate complaint, dispute or wrong that can be resolved by the courts or tribunals. Needless to say in criminal justice system, Police play a critical role and its abdication from that role would inevitably deprive claimant’s access to courts and lead to miscarriage of justice or deny justice altogether. The centrality of police in criminal justice system is evidenced by their functions as set out under Part III of the *Police Act* (Now repealed), which has been re-enacted at section 24 of the *National Police Service Act*(act No 11A of 2011) as follows:-

“24. The functions of the Kenya Police Service shall be the-

- (a) Provision of assistance to the public when in need;
- (b) maintenance of law and order;



- (e) investigation of crimes;
- (f) collection of criminal intelligence;
- (g) prevention and detection crime;
- (h) apprehension of offenders;
- (i) enforcement of all laws and regulations with which it is charged...”

61. The police in the instant petition by failing to conduct prompt, effective, proper, corrupt free and professional investigations into the petitioners complainants, and demanding payments as preconditions for assistance, whether for fuel or P3 forms or whatever the case might have been they violated petitioners right to access of justice and right to have disputes that can be resolved by the application of law decided in a fair and in public hearing before court of law in accordance with article 50(1) of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010*.

62. Under article 53(1),(d) and (2) of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010*;it is provided as follows:-

53.

(1) Every child has the right--

(d) to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour;

(2) The State shall ensure the progressive implementation of the principle that at least five percent of the members of the public in elective and appointive bodies are persons with disabilities.”

63. The above article clearly entitles petitioners to a fundamental inalienable right to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful,cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment and hazardous or exploitative labour.

64. The Article also provides that a child’s best interest are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.The police failure to act on petitioners complaints of defilement violated their rights under article 53 of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010*. The constitutional requirement to protect the best interest of the child requires not only the establishmentof relevant laws but requires their proper enforcement by state agencies and any failure to implement laws aimed at protecting children amounts to infringement and/or violation of the constitutional rights. As recognized by the *U.N, committee on rights of the child*, under article 19, General Convention, the State is obligated to investigate and punish those responsible for committing violence against children(see *Director of Public Prosecutions, Transvaal v Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, and others*(2009) ZACC 8, 2009(4) SA 222(cc) 2009 (7) BCLR 637(CC) at para 200).

65. Having considered the evidence in the petitioners’ affidavit and the petition herein,the relevant articles in the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010*, the general rules of international law, treaty or convention ratified by Kenya and other related and relevant laws applicable in Kenya, I am satisfied that the petitioners have proved their petition and that the failure on part of the respondents to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the petitioners complaints of defilment and other forms of sexual violence infringes on the petitioners fundamental rights and freedoms, under articles 21(1), 21(3), 27, 28, 29, 48, 50(1) and 53(1)(d) of the *Constitution of Kenya, 2010*.



66. In the circumstances I find the petitioners' petition is meritorious and I proceed to grant the following orders:-

1. A declaration be and is hereby made to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the first eleven petitioners' complaints of defilement violates the first eleven petitioner's fundamental rights and freedoms-
  - (a) to special protection as members of a vulnerable group,
  - (b) to equal protection and benefit of the law;
  - (c) not to be discriminated against,
  - (d) to inherent dignity and the right to have the dignity protected;
  - (e) to security of the person,
  - (f) not to be subjected to any form of violence either from public or private sources or torture or cruel or degrading treatment; and
  - (g) to access to justice as respectively set out in articles 21(1), 21(3), 27,28,29,48,50(1) and 53(1)(c) of the *Constitution of Kenya*.
2. A declaration be and is hereby made to the effect that the neglect, omission, refusal and/or failure of the police to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the first eleven petitioners' respective complaints violates the first eleven petitioners' fundamental rights and freedoms under-
  - (a) Articles 1 to 8(inclusive) and 10 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,
  - (b) Articles 2, 4, 19, 34 and 39 of the *United Nations Convention on the rights of the child*;
  - (c) Articles 1, 3, 4,16 and 27 of the *African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the child*, and
  - (d) Articles 2 to 7(inclusive) and 18 of the *African Charter on Human and people's rights*.
3. An order of mandamus be and is hereby made directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into the 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> petitioners' respective complaints of defilment and other forms of sexual violence.
4. Prayer No.4 is refused
5. Prayer No.5 is refused
6. An order of mandamus be and is hereby made directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent together with his agents, delegates and/or subordinates to implement article 244 of the *Constitution* in as far as it is relevant to the matters raised in this Petition.  
Prayer 7 is refused.

67. Costs of the petition to the petitioners against the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respondents jointly and severally.

**DATED, SIGNED AT MERU THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2013.**

**J. A. MAKAU**



**JUDGE**

**DELIVERED IN OPEN COURT IN THE PRESENCE OF:-**

1. Mr. Muthomi for the petitioner
2. Mr. Menge for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondents
3. Mr. Makori for 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent
4. Mr. Mwakosi(Amicus curae) for Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.
5. M/S Beatrice Chalangat for FIDA.

**J.A . MAKAU**

**JUDGE**

