



IJM

# KENYA



## THE PROBLEM

### POLICE ABUSE OF POWER

**In Kenya, it's easy for a corrupt or incompetent police officer to falsely accuse and imprison, or even kill an innocent person who can't afford to pay a bribe.**

Without a lawyer, the innocent person will often wait years for freedom. Families are left waiting years for justice and much of the time, police can expect to get away with these crimes.

IJM remains committed to holding police accountable and working with the authorities responsible for oversight of the police. When police earn the trust of the public, they are able to provide protection to the most vulnerable in society. IJM also supports local authorities to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual violence against children, providing holistic and trauma-informed services to survivors.

## THE FACTS



**707 people have been killed** by police or reported missing since 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Of those cases, **only 26 people** have been charged with a crime.

**1 in 3 people** reported experiencing police abuse, including assault, bribery, falsification of evidence and threat of imprisonment in the same study.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Missing Voices Kenya <sup>2</sup>Kenya IPOA

## IJM KENYA PROGRESS SINCE 2001



**279**

innocent men and women released from prison since 2004



**100**

criminals convicted for sexually assaulting children since 2002



**4,849**

police, judges, communities and others trained on police abuse and child protection



**“As much as I have that pain of losing Martin and he will never come back to us, I am happy because it has served as a lesson to other police or those people in government who may misuse their powers: they have been torturing and intimidating the poor thinking they are above the law. I want to say there is hope, there is hope.”**

*PENINA, the widow of Martin Koome, after the police responsible were convicted*

## Penina’s Story

One night in 2013, Martin Koome was brutally beaten by a senior police officer while in custody. The next day, his wife, Penina, found him at a local hospital, where he died shortly after.

Penina and Martin’s sister, Ann, began to suspect that the police officer’s cover story about another cellmate murdering Martin was false. They began asking questions and insisted on pursuing the case even though they were threatened and intimidated. They found out about IJM from the mother of the falsely accused prisoner, and IJM began the long battle of proving the truth of what happened that night and ensuring justice for Martin.

Five years later, the officer was convicted for Martin’s murder in the first case in which a senior police officer was found guilty of murder. Martin’s daughter was a baby when he died. By the time the officer was convicted, she was five years old (pictured here with Penina).

### IJM KENYA MILESTONES

**2001** – IJM Kenya Opens.

**2012** – IJM and its partners survey prisoners in Nairobi’s industrial remand prison and determine 20–40% may be innocent.

**2016** – Willie, an IJM investigator, was murdered along with the client he was defending, Josephat, and their driver, Joseph, because they dared to stand up to abusive police. The murders ignited protests and calls for police reform from Kenyan society.

**2018** – First conviction of a senior police officer for murder, found guilty after brutally beating a man in custody.



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