KATIBA Institute
Constitution as an Instrument of Change

STATEMENT ON THE ABDUCTION OF ADVOCATE ABSHIR AHMEDSADAK ABDI AND TWO OTHER MEN

Nairobi, 12 November 2026 - Katiba Institute supports the Law Society of Kenya's march today. Advocate Abshir Ahmedsadak Abdi, Ayub Mohamud Maalim, and a third man have been missing for eleven days, and we join the demand for their return.

In the early hours of 1 November 2026, masked gunmen chased the three men through Kilimani, Nairobi, until their car went into a ditch. Witnesses say the gunmen forced Mr Abdi to kneel, blindfolded him, and drove him away. None of the three has been seen since.

The High Court has ordered the State to produce Mr Abdi, but the State says it does not hold him. If it holds any of the three, the Constitution requires it to bring them before a court within 24 hours. That deadline passed ten days ago. If it does not hold them, it must find them.

This is not an isolated case. This year alone, 22 people have been forcibly disappeared, among them the Tanzanian activist Twaha Mwaipaya, seized near Nairobi a week before Mr. Abdi. After the June 2024 protests, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights recorded 82 enforced disappearances in six months.

There has been so much state violence that we risk becoming numb to it. We must not. Every enforced disappearance is a tragedy for a family and for every Kenyan, and a State that harms people for challenging it must be held to account. We call on the National Police Service to produce all three men and to account for every person still missing.

About Katiba Institute

Katiba Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-governmental organisation that seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of Kenya's 2010 Constitution and constitutionalism, to defend the Constitution, and to facilitate its implementation through litigation, research, and public education.

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