JOINT STATEMENT BY LEADERS OF MAINSTREAM CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES IN KENYA

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And death shall be no
more.” (Revelations 21:4)

We, the leaders of the Mainstream Christian Churches in Kenya, comprising of the
Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Kenya, the Presbyterian Church of East
Africa, Methodist Church in Kenya, Africa Inland Church and National Council of
Churches of Kenya (NCCK), have held a daylong meeting and reflected deeply on the
state of affairs in our country.

We are still coming to terms with the horror, helplessness and pain suffered by over
147 young students, staff members and security personnel who lost their lives in the
massacre at Garissa University College, as well as hundreds more who are nursing
injuries and trauma in different hospitals and at home.

We condole with the parents and relatives who lost their loved ones and assure you of
our continued prayers especially during this painful period. For those still in hospital,
we shall continue praying for their quick recovery and peace of mind. For those who
survived with minor or no injuries, we wish them speedy recovery from the trauma
that they are going through, and pray that they will resume their studies as soon as
possible.

Dear Christians, fellow Kenyans and all People of goodwill, we the shepherds of the
flock of Christ are pained to admit that this was another case of Kenyans targeted
because of their religion.

For several months now, we have watched with horror as our flock is attacked in their
places of worship - innocent Kenyans butchered because they believe in Christ - and
deliberate attempts to expel Christians from certain parts of the country. We have just
learnt that in Wajir Christians are living in military camps due to fear.

We regret that most of those killed were young Christians in a prayer session. The
systematic profiling, isolation and massacre of Christians in different parts of Kenya
must stop. The use of derogatory language when referring to other religions is wrong
and must be stopped. We must learn to tolerate each other regardless of religious
affiliation and region of origin. While urging our Christians to be peace makers, we will
not remain silent as they continue being massacred.
We are shocked by information that the government, through its intelligence services, knew of the impending attack yet nothing was done. We shall not tire in reminding the government to take its responsibility to protect every Kenyan more seriously. Top security chiefs must take responsibility for negligence and abdication of duty that led to this horrific massacre. Clearly, there exists serious loopholes in the chain of command in our security apparatus.

Dear Kenyans, we all need to join forces and embrace a spirit of nationalism and patriotism among us. It is sad that there are terrorists living among us yet we are not reporting them to the relevant authorities. It is saddening that our children are being recruited every day to commit acts of terrorism against their fellow citizens. We must pause for a moment to ask ourselves: Why are our sons and daughters turning against us? Where have we gone wrong in bringing them up? How do we correct this problem?

We urge every family in Kenya led by the politicians and religious leaders to account for the whereabouts of each of their children. We remind the government of its duty to protect the freedom of religion and association of every Kenyan.

The Government should develop mechanisms to continuously vet all employees to ensure that they are not used to radicalize students and recruit them to join subversive groups.

All religious leaders must desist from teaching, preaching and spreading hatred among people based on their religion. The use of derogatory words against other religions must stop.

Dear Kenyans, in the wake of regular terror attacks, it is clear that we have not learned any lessons from the past regarding our emergency response strategies. Time has come for us to ask ourselves certain questions, such as how prepared are we to respond to future terror attacks? How have we prepared our children to respond when under attack? How can we minimize casualties during emergencies?

In this regard, we are asking the government to introduce mandatory emergency response training at all our learning institutions and to all other vulnerable groups. Fellow Kenyans, despite all the difficulties we are facing as a country, we urge you to remain united. May the blood of the young Kenyans who died in Garisa bind us together as Christians and as a nation.

Let us continue to pray for our country so that security, peace and unity may prevail.

God bless you and God bless Kenya.
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. His Eminence, John Cardinal Njue</td>
<td>Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops</td>
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<td>2. The Most Rev. Dr. Eliud Wabukala</td>
<td>Anglican Church of Kenya</td>
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<td>3. Rev. Silas Yego</td>
<td>Africa Inland Church</td>
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<td>5. Rt. Rev. David Riitho Gathanju</td>
<td>Presbyterian Church of East Africa</td>
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Date: 9th April 2015