Dear Mr. Muhoro:

We are writing this public letter today representing IPEN, a global network of more than 500 public interest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in 116 countries to strengthen and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect health, human rights, and the environment. We are gravely concerned about the safety of our friends and colleagues in Kenya who are members of the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA).

We are aware that following the legal service notices on the 2nd of February 2017 to Metal Refinery EPZ Ltd. for the Owino Uhuru Class Action Litigation Case, CJGEA members have been ruthlessly threatened and harassed. They are living in fear for their lives. Due to threats to their security, they cannot stay in their homes and have had to relocate.

Ms. Phyllis Omido, an internationally recognized human rights and environmental advocate and a Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient of 2015, as well as her family, and members of CJGEA, have had to flee their homes because their safety is at risk. Mzee Ogola Owino Uhuru, a village elder, barely escaped his life after his home was almost burnt down. He had to flee with his family at night and slept at the police station. Miss Anastacia Nambo has also been threatened and is living in fear. She has not been able to sleep at her house for almost a week. Mr. Kamencu, another member of CJGEA, was attacked and is also living in fear.

Mr. Muhoro, we urge you to do everything in your power to investigate and stop this criminal harassment and to ensure the safety and protection of CJGEA members and people in the village. People should not live in fear in their motherland. According to the 2016 Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Environmental Human Rights Defenders: "Upholding human rights for environmental human rights defenders is essential to the protection of the environment and environmental rights, and is grounded in international human rights standards. Environmental human rights defenders cannot properly defend the environment-related rights, without exercising their own rights to access to information, freedom of expression, of peaceful assembly and association, guarantees of non-discrimination, and participation in decision-making. States have the duty to protect those rights as well as their rights to defending human rights and to life, liberty, and security."

Mr. Muhoro, you are in the best position to help people redress the injustice in Kenya. The international community is closely watching the situation in Kenya and believes in your ability to protect human rights in your country. We respectfully request that you acknowledge receipt of this letter and inform us about the measures that you and other authorities in Kenya are taking to protect the CJGEA members and their families. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Olga Speranskaya
IPEN Co-Chair

Pamela Miller
IPEN Co-Chair

cc Mr. Baskut Tuncat, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics
The Goldman Environmental Prize of the Goldman Fund, U.S.A.
Amnesty International
Mageswari Sangaralingamm, Research Officer  
Sahabat Alam (Friends of the Earth)  
MALAYSIA

Dr. Okeyo Benards, Director  
Eco Ethics - Kenya  
Mombasa, KENYA

Griffins Ochieng, Programmes Coordinator  
Centre for Environment Justice & Development  
Nairobi, KENYA

Marie Therese Seif, President  
Human Environmental Association for Development  
LEBANON

Dr. Naji Kodeih, President  
IndyACT Lebanon  
The League of Independent Activists  
LEBANON

Sarojeni V. Rengam, Executive Director  
Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific  
MALAYSIA

S.M. Mohamed Idris, President  
Consumers’ Association of Penang  
MALAYSIA

Fernando Bejarano, Director  
Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas en México (RAPAM), and  
CAATA (Centro de Análisis y Acción sobre Toxicos y sus Alternativas)  
MÉXICO

Sofia C. Chávez Arce, General Director  
Vías Verdes A.C.  
Zapopan Area, MÉXICO

Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja, President  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment  
PAKISTAN

Sonia S. Mendoza, Chairman  
Mother Earth Foundation  
PHILIPPINES

Romeo F. Quijano, President  
Pesticide Action Network Philippines  
Professor, College of Medicine  
University of the Philippines Manila  
PHILIPPINES

Dr. Abel Arkenbout, CEO  
Toxicowatch Foundation  
NETHERLANDS

Sascha Gabizon, International Director  
Women Engaged for a Common Future  
NETHERLANDS

Dr. Rye Senjen, Scientific Adviser  
Environmental & Human Health Aotearoa  
Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND

Dr. Meriel Watts, Coordinator  
Pesticide Action Network Aotearoa, NEW ZEALAND

Leslie Adogame, Executive Director  
Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria)  
Lagos, NIGERIA

Abou Thiam, Regional Coordinator  
Pesticide Action Network Africa  
Dakar, SENEGAL

David Azoulay, Environmental Health Program Director  
CIEL (Center for International Environmental Law)  
Geneva, SWITZERLAND

Ibrahima Sory Sylla, President  
Carbone Guinée  
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

Desmond D’Sa  
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance  
Durban, SOUTH AFRICA

Inja Choi  
Wonjin Institutes for Occupational and Environmental Health, Action for Carcinogen-free Korea  
SOUTH KOREA

Jeong-ok Kong, M.D., MPH.  
Supporters of Health and Rights of People in Semiconductor Industry (SHARPS)  
SOUTH KOREA

Dolores Romano, Responsable de políticas de sustancias químicas- Ecologistas en Acción  
SPAIN