



EAVA Artists Limited

**Statement on the murder of Sheila Lumumba and why we should protect queer
Kenyans**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kampala Monday 25th, 2022. East Africa Visual Artists (EAVA Artists) join Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and the LGBTIQ+ community on the African continent to condemn the murder of Sheila Lumumba in Kenya that happened last week.

Sheila Lumumba's body was found several days ago. Their body was discovered days after going missing when their colleagues at a hospitality business noticed their absence. Sheila's murder comes after a wide range of stigma and discrimination against the LGBTIQ+ community in Kenya and across Africa.

“Queer people deserve to thrive without fear of being persecuted. Sheila's death reflects the reality that LGBTIQ+ persons live, in Africa. It bears mentioning that unfortunately these are not isolated incidences [sic] and are part of a pattern of attacks and violence against LGBTIQ+persons in the country” Vincent Kyabayinze, the Director of EAVA Artists mentioned.

There are several cases of harassment (and sometimes killings) of the LGBTIQ+ community in East Africa over the years for example;

1. In 2019, Erica Chandra, a transwoman was murdered in Westlands, Kenya
2. In 2021, Joash Mosoti was found murdered in Kenya
3. Marinos Alexandria was tortured and raped by soldiers in Uganda
4. Olivia Lasao who was harassed by her white co-founder
5. David Kato who was murdered in Uganda

“EAVA Artists continues to document these injustices against the LGBTIQ+ community in East Africa. The murder of Sheila comes as another reason why we should remain vigilant and share stories like these that matter. We won't stop until Sheila gets justice.” Vincent mentioned.

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Editors note

East Africa Visual Artists (EAVA Artists) is an innovative Human rights organization that celebrates the diversity and inclusion of all humanity. We tell stories that celebrate the diversity of persons who have historically been misunderstood and marginalized in Eastern Africa. We aim to make all voices heard to create a more just and equitable society.

For more details,

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