



**ART 4
RIGHTS**



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME



**RESILIENCE
FUND**
Supporting community
responses to organized crime

Press Release

Art 4 Rights and Resilience Fund Video Launch

Art 4 Rights and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC) under their Resilience Fund Project have launched their documentary dubbed- Confirm: The Gang giving Nakuru county residents nightmares.

The 24-minute video is the culmination of an investigative six months work. It encompasses the voices of the civil society actors, local and county governments, Nyumba Kumi officials, reformed and current gang members, and gang victims with the interest of addressing this particular gang menace.

The gang, based in cosmopolitan town of Nakuru, was outlawed in 2016 by the then Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Co-ordination of National Government Joseph Nkaisery through a government gazette notice. Our research indicated that “Confirm” has grown into a complex network that increasingly funds its activities through money laundering and other illegal activities. The gang is gradually diverging from its original telephone phishing scams towards conventional organized crime including money laundering, drug trafficking, kidnapping, rape and armed robbery, which have left more than ten people dead over the last two years.

Residents and stakeholders believe the gang to be working with other gangs like the WaTz, Baghdad, Gaza, Makaveli and others reaching an estimated 20,000 youths believed to be recruitment ages eight and above. These kids mostly start as errand boys referred to as "Onyango's".

"The Gang members are known to make at least ksh600 daily, assured meals and different other moneys as they come in addition to money they manage to fleece unsuspecting Kenyans. On some good days around 20 of the top gang members will take home Ksh200,000", said the Art4Rights chairperson, Esther Njeri.

Political patronage is rife, with gangs swearing allegiance to prominent leaders and politicians who often bail them out or offer legal counsel on arrests. Ideally, the gangs come in handy during elections being used to intimidate and harass opponents and in some cases, outrightly threaten them. The atmosphere is ripe, as the 2022 elections draw near and politicians have been seen approaching gangs, requesting them to be part of their support system. State agencies, particularly some of the corrupt police officials, have also been accused of demanding hefty bribes from gang members on arresting them, or harassing and intimidating them in cases where they don't offer the amount dictated.

Among the approaches recommended in dealing with the CONFIRM gang are:

1. Employ multiple strategies and services in dealing with the gangs' issue. This encompasses educating the community on the dangers of gangs, improving the supervision of youths at the community-level and strengthening families at the grassroots levels to engage in providing solutions to gang problem.

2. **Develop positive alternatives – Encourage youth who spend their free time in gangs to involve themselves in artistic engagements, including the ones provided by Art 4 Rights. Involving them in projects like photography, art, graffiti, poetry and spoken word will not only help them expand their knowledge but will ensure that they have fun in the process.**
3. **Creating a network of CSOs, and I/NGOS across the county to spearhead community dialogues in coming up with tailor-made solutions in dealing with the gang issues.**

For any queries, kindly contact Art for Rights through our email: info@art4rightskenya@gmail.com or the GI-TOC on: info@globalinitiative.net.

About us:

Art 4 Rights- Art is a unique way to connect new audiences to the issues women and youths are facing around the world. Art is slowly gaining grip when it comes to addressing sensitive matters unlike before where people chose unconventional ways like taking to the streets. As art for Rights, we choose to work with the youths, children, and community at large in a safe conventional in collaboration with other stakeholders in Nakuru County.

The Resilience Fund complements and builds on the Global Initiative's ongoing work in incubating resilience in communities harmed or threatened by criminal governance. The Resilience Fund identifies and empowers key civil-society actors, and builds their operational capacity, intending to create resilience networks in communities impacted by organized crime and violence.

