



# FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS (FOCUS)

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## PRESS STATEMENT – 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015 THE GARISSA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TERRORIST ATTACK

The Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS-Kenya), the national umbrella body that brings together Christian Unions in 144 Institutions of Higher Learning in Kenya, is saddened by the unprecedented terrorist attack at Garissa University College. It is even more saddening to know that this heinous act targeted our young people; our future; those whose only crime was that the pursuit of dreams for themselves, their families, and indeed their country. We wish to state the following:

1. We join the many Kenyans and international friends who have condemned this evil attack on our Nation and people. We pray that as a Nation, our resilience in fighting such evils will not be shaken. We continue in earnest prayers for the leadership of our Nation, that God will grant them the wisdom and determination to lead the nation to ultimately overcome this threat.
2. We condemn the religious dimension of this particular attack at Garissa University. It has become absolutely clear that one of the first places invaded by the gunmen was the room in which the Christian Union members were conducting their morning prayers. This was for all practical purposes a place of worship, and the attack is an assault on freedom of worship. It is also unfortunate that religious profiling was a factor in the execution of the killings. We, therefore, strongly condemn this cowardly attack on a place of worship and the murder of individuals in prayer.
3. Many of the students killed or injured at Garissa University were members of the Christian Union and therefore part of the FOCUS family. On behalf of all Christian Union students in other Institutions of Higher Learning, and FOCUS stakeholders, we send our condolences to the families of all those killed in the attack. Tragic as it is, may the message of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, grant them hope and assurance that is bedrocked only in Jesus Christ. We at the same time pray for quick recovery for all the injured and traumatised.
4. While the attack has the potential to cause fear and hatred, we encourage students to continue meeting for worship as they have always done. More than ever we must embrace the cardinal rule of loving our enemies as exemplified by Jesus Christ himself. We cannot allow the terrorists the pleasure of even thinking that they have succeeded in intimidating us, and planting seeds of religious hatred among our students.
5. To the government and the rest of our society, we must not allow religious divisions in Kenya. We must appreciate that past terrorist attacks have tended to take religious dimensions; this is gravely worrying. This reality must be confronted collectively, truthfully and firmly so that we may remain as one indivisible nation.
6. As FOCUS Kenya, we shall be champions of a cohesive nation through the Christian student networks in our universities and colleges and as well as associates. We shall offer our support to the universities, and the government in efforts aimed at enhancing national unity.

May God bless the nation of Kenya and grant us peace.

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