In many places, police not only fail to protect people in poverty from violence, but they are perpetrators of violence themselves.

When police are professional and have the trust of the public, they are able to provide protection to the most vulnerable people in society. But millions of people in the world live in fear of police who extort bribes and brutalize innocent citizens. Children are often taught to run away from police, rather than going to them for help.

In Kenya, it’s easy for a corrupt or incompetent police officer to falsely accuse and imprison—or even kill—an innocent person who can’t afford to pay a bribe. Without a lawyer, the innocent person will often wait years for freedom. In the case of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, families have been left for years waiting for answers and the delivery of justice. Most of the time, police could expect to get away with these crimes.

1. Open Society Foundations, ² Kenya’s Independent Policing Oversight Authority, ³ IPOA.
OUR SOLUTION

In the face of abuse, IJM and our partners collaborate with local authorities to build communities where all people can expect to be safe and protected. Together, we:

Strengthen Justice Systems
We partner with government agencies to build effective oversight of the police. Together, we design improvements that serve survivors of police violence and deter other officers from abusing their power.

Rescue and Restore Victims
We identify people who are falsely accused of crimes or have survived police violence, and we provide legal representation to exonerate them or pursue accountability for abusive officers. During and after the trial, we provide survivors and their families support ranging from trauma counseling to physical security.

Bring Criminals to Justice
We work alongside law enforcement to ensure adequate evidence is collected to build a strong case against officers who abuse their power, and we support survivors who choose to share the truth in court.

Scale Demand for Protection
We convene and equip champions—from grassroots community leaders and survivors of violence to global corporations and development institutions—to call on governments to protect communities from police abuse.

JOIN US
Help us make justice unstoppable. Use your time, talents and passion to help protect people in poverty from violence today.
Join us at IJM.org/Get-Involved

WHERE WE WORK AGAINST POLICE ABUSE OF POWER

Kenya
Nairobi

COMMUNITY PROTECTION
Kenya

IJM supported the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to develop guidelines for prosecutors to follow when making decisions on charges against accused persons. The guidelines were rolled out in July 2020 and will serve to ensure an equitable and effective process behind the decision to charge.