

Summary of the PDF

Chapter-by-Chapter Summary --- ### **FOREWORD** - **Definition of Femicide**: The intentional murder of women because they are women. - **Rising Cases in Kenya**: Highlighted as a violation of women's rights, with data showing the need for intervention. - **Media's Role**: The media has been crucial in reporting femicide cases, pressuring government action. - **Legal Framework**: The right to life is protected under the Kenyan Constitution and international statutes. - **Media Critique**: Some media outlets (e.g., Anguo FM, Taifa Leo, The Star, Kiss FM) have been criticized for unprofessional, sensational, and insensitive reporting. - **Call for Ethical Reporting**: The Media Council urges media to adhere to ethical standards in reporting femicide. --- ### **I. INTRODUCTION** - **Public Outcry**: January 2024 saw a surge in femicide cases, including the murders of Scarlet Wahu and Rita Waeni. - **Patriarchal Society**: Kenya's patriarchal structure contributes to gender inequality and violence against women. - **Global Context**: Africa recorded the highest number of intimate partner and family-related femicides in 2022. - **Media Coverage**: The report examines media adherence to journalistic ethics and gaps in reporting femicide from January 1-24, 2024. --- ### **II. BACKGROUND** - **Definition and History**: Femicide, coined in the 1970s, refers to the killing of women because of their gender. It gained prominence through feminist activism. - **Global Statistics**: Approximately 66,000 women are killed annually worldwide, with 45,000 killed by intimate partners or family members. - **Kenya's Context**: Femicide violates Kenya's 2010 Constitution, with 150 cases reported in 2023. Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru counties report the highest incidents. - **Past Cases**: Media coverage of past femicide cases (e.g., Sharon Otieno, Ivy Wangechi) has sustained public interest but raised questions about professionalism. --- ### **III. LEGAL ANALYSIS** - **Kenyan Constitution**: Guarantees gender equality, the right to life, and protection from violence (Articles 19, 21, 27, 28, 43). - **Acts of Parliament**: Key laws include the Sexual Offences Act (2006), Prohibition of FGM Act (2011), and Children's Act (2022). - **Penal Code**: Prohibits violence but inadequately addresses gender-based violence. - **International Conventions**: Kenya is party to treaties like CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Rome Statute, which mandate action against gender-based violence. - **Government Response**: Lack of comprehensive measures and swift legal action has raised concerns about Kenya's commitment to protecting women. --- ### **IV. MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS** ##### **a. Broadcast Content Analysis (TV and Radio)** - **Agenda Setting**: Media framed femicide as a national issue, with panel discussions and expert opinions. - **Code of Conduct**: Some outlets (e.g., Anguo FM, Kiss FM) were criticized for victim-blaming and insensitive reporting. - **Voices of Activists**: Human rights groups, psychologists, and clergy were featured, but engagement was often short-lived. - **Awareness Creation**: Media highlighted femicide cases and provided updates on investigations. - **Institutional Coverage**: Organizations like FIDA, Zamara Foundation, and NGEK condemned femicide and called for action. - **Panel Interviews**: Discussions focused on root causes, signs of abuse, and the need for support systems. - **Follow-ups**: Media provided updates on investigations, arrests, and autopsies. ##### **b. Print Media Headlines** - **Sensationalism**: Outlets like Taifa Leo and The Star were criticized for insensitive and gory headlines. - **Ethical Breaches**: Violations of the Code of Conduct, particularly in intrusion into grief and shock. ##### **c. Digital Media (Trending)** - **Hashtags**: #Silencingwomen, #TotalShutdownKE, and #EndFemicideKE trended, highlighting the struggle for gender equality. - **Social Media Activism**: Used to advance social justice, but also revealed patriarchal attitudes and online harassment. --- ### **V. CONCLUSION** - **Media's Role**: The media played a crucial role in reporting femicide, setting the agenda, and providing a platform for discussions. - **Ethical Challenges**: Some outlets engaged in sensational, inaccurate, and insensitive reporting. - **Call for Professionalism**: The Media Council urged media to adhere to ethical standards and the Code of Conduct. --- ### **VI. REFERENCES** - **Sources**: Includes international treaties, Kenyan laws, and academic research on femicide. - **Key Organizations**: References to UN Women, WHO, African Union, and Kenyan legal frameworks. --- This summary captures the critical details of each section, focusing on the media's role, legal frameworks, and ethical challenges in reporting femicide in Kenya.