

Kenya Police News

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The team representing Kenya at a United Nations human rights hearing in Geneva on Wednesday dropped its plan to attack rapporteur Philip Alston and owned up to police killings. In a compromise hammered out in stormy negotiations late into the night on Tuesday and all of Wednesday morning, the delegation of five ministers and eight government officials surprisingly presented a joint statement. In it, the PNU and ODM ministers agreed that some police officers had illegally killed suspects — though not as part of a government-sanctioned policy — and refrained from accusing Prof Alston of breaching the UN code. The delegation also promised the UN that human rights workers will not be harassed and expressed regret over the murders of Oscar Foundation officials. The delegation acknowledged that there have been cases of unlawful killings by police and investigations into 53 of those cases had been carried out and completed and 81 officers prosecuted. Prof Alston praised members of the coalition government, including Mr Odinga, who had supported his findings. He added that while the PM condemned extrajudicial executions, President Kibaki was yet to do so. He, however, hit out at the police whom he said had remained a major stumbling block to the reform agenda.