



## DEATH OF 'SMUGGLER' HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEED TO TACKLE ILLICIT TRADE

NAIROBI, Tuesday 30 November, 2021 - STOP Crime Kenya (StoCK) today laments the latest loss of life resulting from illicit trade and calls on authorities to urgently address the problems at our borders to prevent further suffering and hardship.

Police in Busia are investigating the [death of a young man](#) who was shot by a Uganda Revenue Authority enforcement unit as he allegedly tried to smuggle wheat from Kenya.

The tragedy comes amid growing tensions over the [trafficking of contraband that is destroying Kenyan jobs](#) and depriving the Treasury of vital taxes.

StoCK chairman Stephen Mutoro said today: "This regrettable loss of young life is a reminder of the problem at our borders and of the urgent need to dedicate resources to addressing it.

"The current approach is clearly not working. Smuggled goods are flooding across our borders in a bid to evade taxes and urgent and targeted action is needed to halt the crimewave.

"The Kenyan government needs to work with our neighbours to minimise tax disparities that incentivise this illicit trade. Authorities must address enforcement weaknesses and we need a special policing unit with supporting legislation to tackle this growing threat to our national economy."

The Counter Extremism Project reported earlier this year that illicit trade in the region is [financing gangsters, warlords and terrorists](#).

StoCK's [own research](#) has shown that virtually everyone in the country has come across illicit goods, yet hardly anyone appreciates that smuggled and counterfeit products [deprive the nation of Sh153 billion in lost revenue annually](#).

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