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## INTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE KENYA POLICE SERVICE IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

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### Abstract

This paper uses data collected for an MA Thesis on factors affecting the operational independence of the Kenya police service in Nairobi City County. The study examined internal factors affecting operational independence of the Kenya police service in Nairobi City County. The objective of the study was to explore the extent to which police internal environmental factors affect the operational independence of the Kenya police service. In particular the study examined command and control structures in the police service; corruption within the service and inadequate human and material resources. The study established that operational independence of the police that filters down to rank-and-file officers, and takes the form of police discretion is abused through the police command and control structures. Corruption too, led to police conspiracy in obstruction of justice, concealment and suppression of evidence, brutality and arrogance by the police hence impairing their independence in administration and enforcement of law, fair and just treatment of the members of the public. Equally, operational independence of the police was greatly influenced by unavailability of both human and material resources. In order to address these challenges, it is recommended that the existing Internal Affairs Unit be decentralized to check on excesses in command and control with Public-Private partnerships to address issues of inadequate resources.

**Key Words:** Police independence, internal environmental factors, corruption, command and control.

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