**Theme of Symposium:** The Cultural and Scientific Impact on Extremism and Radicalism

**Sub-topic:** Religious Freedom and Terrorism

**Title of Paper:** The Implications of Terrorism on Freedom of Religion in Kenya

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**Abstract**
The Constitution of Kenya guarantees freedom of religion and provides a legal framework that governs the operations and relations of different religions in the country. Consequently, the country experiences an atmosphere of religious pluralism and diversity manifested in the presence of some of the main world religions such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and African Religion, among others. Followers of these religions have co-existed for eons and continue to co-exist peacefully and to tolerate each other, such that the country has not experienced any religious war in spite of the religious pluralism and diversity. However, the threat of terrorism poses a challenge not only to the freedom of religion in the country but also to peaceful co-existence among followers of different religions. This is because on one hand, individuals of some religions feel targeted for holding contrary religious opinions and beliefs, a situation that has been exacerbated by the increasing threat of terrorism. On the other hand, the government’s response to the threats of terrorism has not gone down well with sections of religious communities. They argue that the government’s actions lead to profiling of some religious communities, especially Muslims, and this make them susceptible to attacks from followers of other religions. This paper attempts to interrogate the implications of terrorism on freedom of religion in Kenya. The paper explores the following issues: constitutional and legal provisions of freedom of religion in Kenya; Religious demography as an expression of freedom of religion; terrorism and its implication on freedom of religion, and the government response to war on terror and its implication on freedom of religion.