

Africa Democracy Forum

***Building Democracy for Peace, Development,
and Human Rights in Africa***

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ADF Statement on post-Elections Violence in Kenya

The members of the Africa Democracy Forum would like to unite with our colleagues from the Kenyan Civil Society and express our deep concern regarding the post- electoral developments in Kenya.

We strongly condemn the violence and human rights abuses that have erupted across the country in response to the outcome of Kenya's presidential elections.

We express our deepest sympathy to all those who have been injured, raped or killed, those who have lost property or been internally displaced, and for those who continue to live in fear.

We are keenly aware that those suffering the most from the post-election turmoil are those that are least deserving of it, most notably, impoverished individuals in both low-income urban areas as well as rural areas.

We recognize that the violence in Kenya has taken three primary forms. First, disorganized protests have developed in response to the contested results of the presidential tally. Second, organized militia activity has taken form particularly in the Rift Valley, but also through the re-activation of Mungiki in Central and Nairobi and, now, Chinkororo in Nyanza.

Finally, excessive force and extrajudicial killings by Kenya's Police Force and General Service Unit are violating the most basic of human rights for Kenyan citizens; the rights to life, safety, freedom of expression and security.

It must be noted that the outbreak of violence is being used to justify the abridgement of the most fundamental freedoms and human rights. We appeal to the government of Kenya to maintain its constitutional and international legal engagements to respect the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association. We recognize the right of all Kenyans to exercise legal and legitimate forms of protest without fear of suppression.

We appeal to the political leaders involved in this dispute, that they remain responsible and restrained in their actions and messages to supporters during this critical period in Kenyan political history. We urge the political leaders to put

in place a **Neutral Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission** in order to address the injustices incurred by innocent Kenyan citizens. We encourage the effective commitment of the international community and International Panel of Mediation for a just, peaceful, and sustainable solution to this crisis.

We acknowledging the mediation efforts underway and encourage the dialogue between the President Kibaki and the opposition Leader RAILA ODINGA by the Chairman of the AU, HE John Kufuor as well as former UN General Secretary Mr. KOFFI ANNAN and other former Presidents in the East African Region .

We Appeal the International community for increased humanitarian assistance so as to aid in the construction of new homes and shelters for those displaced by post-election violence and assisting the Government of Kenya and other such governments by investing in the strengthening of national democratic institutions and legislatures (Electoral Commissions, Parliament, Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission etc)

We invite the Government of Kenya to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to reinforce sustainable way forward and avoid for ever this kind of situation in the country.

Finally, we make a call to all Kenyans to stand up for peace, security, and electoral justice. We likewise call upon all politicians and government personnel to respect the rights and freedoms of expression, assembly and association of all Kenyans, which will encourage and facilitate peaceful and legitimate forms of protest.

Nairobi 25th January 2008

HANNAH Forster

Chair person