



PeaceNet - Kenya

POST ELECTIONS UPDATES

Stop Violence!
28th January 2008
Issue No 7



A Post Electoral Violence Response Initiative project, 2008

Introduction

Dear Partners,

The Elections Violence Response Initiative (EVRI - 1) was launched on 29th December 2007 at PeaceNet Secretariat in Nairobi by peace building partners to address the violence and wanton destruction of property that erupted after the announcement of the 2007 presidential, parliamentary and civic elections. This publication aims at informing partners of unfolding events and mobilizing stakeholders for interventions.

Interventions

- ◆ The EVRI team has consolidated voices of Internally Displaced women from Eldoret, Nakuru and in Nairobi defining Peace, Justice and Democracy. It is anticipated that these voices will inform the process of reconciliation by highlighting what the women are going through. The voices were presented to the media and to the Network partners on Friday 25th January 2008 at PeaceNet Offices. The presentation was covered by an FM radio and a local television station.
- ◆ Former UN Secretary General met a group of youth on 26th January 2008 to deliberate on the current crisis facing the country from a youth perspective. Some members of Post Elections Violence Response Initiative (EVRI) team joined other youths who attended the meeting. The youth gave a presentation of their activities and initiatives they were undertaking to address violence witnessed so far. ODM and PNU youth representatives were also in attendance.
- ◆ There are concerns that IDP's camped in the various epicenters during the post elections have been asked or relocated to other areas. IDP's from Nairobi's Kibera slum whose houses were burnt down were reluctant to return.
- ◆ Community dialogue meetings continue in areas that have been adversely affected by post elections violence.

North Rift

- ◆ In Eldoret, Internally displaced women voiced their concerns to EVRI team that visited the Eldoret show ground last week. They described their feelings on peace, justice and democracy.
- ◆ Voluntary Youth Philanthropist youth group visited IDP camps in Eldoret and Nakuru on 22nd and 23rd January 2008 to speak to the children, youth and the elderly on the current situation of the displaced. The children expressed their feelings through art while the youth were engaged in discussions aimed at reconciling the communities living in the area.

Nairobi

- ◆ The prayer mass for 28 people who have since died in Kibera turned chaotic on 24th January 2008 at Ligi ndogo grounds, when police tried to control the moaning crowd and violence erupted. Angry youths lit bonfires on Ngong Road burning down two vehicles and setting ablaze the Post Office at Ngong Road.
- ◆ Leaflets were circulated in Mukuru Fuata Nyayo estate last week threatening one community to leave the area.
- ◆ Tension is still high Mathare, Huruma, Kariobangi and Juja Road since the violence that erupted on Thursday 24th January 2008. One policeman and three members of public were killed during the melee.
- ◆ Pamoja Trust convened a meeting for Mathare North tenants on 26th Jan 2008 at Choma Zone to deliberate on the situation. One of the resolutions from the meeting was to constitute a tenants residents association. Another meeting of landlords was held on 28th January 2008.
- ◆ Displaced women from Kibera voiced their concerns to EVRI team that visited them. They described their feelings on peace and justice by indicating what they understand of the two.

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Kindly forward any urgent information to the

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Nairobi



Nyanza

- ◆ Progress of activities towards healing and reconstruction continues in Nyanza. On 22nd January 2008, the Ugenya Peace Initiative met the District Information Officer where they raised the concerns over right to education for children, resettlement / emergency relief, security healing and reconstruction and political process.
- ◆ The Alego Usonga Peace Committee met the D.O 1 on 21st Jan 2008 to deliberate on security and business issues affecting them and to give youths entrepreneurship alternatives so as to shift their efforts from violence.
- ◆ A joint executive committee's meeting of Gem, Ugenya and Alego constituencies convened on 25th January 2008 to deliberate on reconciliation and peace building initiatives that have been started within the three constituencies.

Central Rift

- ◆ Situation is tense in Nakuru as a result of communities living within the environs attacking each other. Reports indicate that violence erupted in Kaptembwa, Free Area, Ponda Mali and Kwa roda estate and Gilan areas in the morning of 25th January 2008 and continued the whole day with gangs of youths barricading roads to western Kenya. The number of those killed have risen sharply after the violence that erupted over the weekend in Naivasha leaving over 90 people dead from the two areas in a span of three days. It is estimated that from the fresh clashes that started on Friday, over 15,000 people have been displaced and the number may swell up. Majority of displaced persons have camped in police stations, Afraha Stadium and at the show ground. A curfew of 7pm to 6pm has been put in place.
- ◆ Displaced women from central rift have voiced their concerns through a forum dubbed "Women voices" which is bringing out their feelings of the current situation in the country.

South Rift

- ◆ IDP's who had camped at Ololulunga were relocated to other areas. There are concerns of their security in the areas they have been relocated to.
- ◆ Reports indicate that tension is high in Maai Mahiu between communities living in the area.
- ◆ Arsonists set ablaze an office housing the Electoral Commission of Kenya documents on the night of 26th January 2008 in Kilgoris town. All ballot boxes and everything was reduced to ashes.

Coast

- ◆ IDPs camping in various locations in Mombasa relocated to ACK church among other places.
- ◆ Situation is currently calm but tension still persists in various pockets within the coast.

Central

- ◆ A community dialogue meeting was held on 25th January 2008 at Kongais, boarder line of baringo and laikipia. Resolutions from the meeting included co-existing of communities living in the area and discarding rumors that could trigger violence.
- ◆ Members of certain communities living in Nanyuki are being targeted on the basis where they come from.
- ◆ Tension is high in Nyahururu as a ripple effect of the unfolding scenario especially in Rift Valley.

EVRI forum has registered a website for purposes of sharing information and updates on Peace building and interventions.

Kindly send any information to: morten@peacenetkenya.org. For uploading

Visit the website at: www.peaceinkenya.net.

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