



PeaceNet - Kenya

POST ELECTIONS UPDATES

Stop Violence!

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A PeaceNet - Kenya electoral violence reduction project, 2007 / 8



Introduction

Dear Partners ,

PeaceNet - Kenya, launched an *'Election Violence Reduction project'* on Monday, 12th November 2007 in Nairobi, at a PeaceNet Regional Coordinator's consultative meeting. The aim has been to monitor incidents of violence preceding, during and post 2007 elections in order to inform partners of unfolding events and mobilize stakeholders for interventions.

The violence witnessed as a result of the Presidential announcement, has led to more than 500 deaths across the country according to Kenya Red Cross Society while internally displaced persons stand at 211, 513 according to official government statistics.

Interventions

- ◆ Over 10,000 people have been safely evacuated from Eldoret to Nakuru and other safer places under police and military escort. There are also efforts to rescue people affected in Keiyo, Marakwet and Nandi in North Rift Region.
- ◆ PeaceNet - Kenya is working with community mediators on conflict resolution strategies in Uasin Gishu to assist in addressing the situation.
- ◆ A crisis response group has been formed in North Rift (Eldoret) headed by Bishop Cornelius Korir to coordinate humanitarian and safety interventions
- ◆ In Nairobi, religious leaders have called on all stakeholders to promote peace at this crucial time in the history of Kenya.
- ◆ Desmond Tutu visited the country and expressed the need for mediation and reconciliation. He met Hon Raila Odinga and the President Mwai Kibaki individually between 3rd and 4th December 2008.
- ◆ Several IDP's stranded at Kapcherop in Marakwet have been ferried to safer places.
- ◆ Nine media houses issued a joint statement through the Media Council of Kenya condemning the way international media has been reporting the situation in Kenya. The media also dedicated 1 hour national prayers for the country on Sunday 6th January 2008 which was aired simultaneously by media houses. Different religious leaders interceded for peace and tranquility in the country and prayed for people suffering physically and emotionally across the country.
- ◆ The World Food Programme has released 670 tonnes of food as a humanitarian response to the current crisis.
- ◆ The Kenya Red Cross has since distributed 124 tonnes of food to the displaced in Eldoret.

Humanitarian Appeal

PeaceNet Kenya continues to appeal to all humanitarian organizations, religious organizations and well wishers to step in and assist many Kenyans who are in dire need of basic necessities at this critical hour.

- ◆ Internally Displaced persons (IDP's) who had been stranded in Eldoret as a result of barricaded roads were given police and military escort and evacuated to Nakuru on Saturday 5th January 2008. However some are still stranded in Eldoret while the need for humanitarian assistance has gone up in Nakuru. The displaced are camped at Nakuru show ground.
- ◆ In Coast, Internally displaced persons are seeking shelter at Moi International Airport football ground in Changamwe and in various areas in Mombasa.
- ◆ People evicted from their homes in Saboti, constituency, Transmara are starving and need food and other basic commodities. The displaced are camping at Kiungani, Kiminini, Sihendu, Liungani, and Kitale police station.
- ◆ About 100 people have been camping at Juja Police station since 5th January 2008 after receiving threatening leaflets. Several families from Gitambaya village have been camping at Ruiru Prison.
- ◆ Estimated 1,500 people have been stranded at burnt forest, at the junction to Kapsabet near the GSU post They are calling for humanitarian assistance.
- ◆ Over 5,400 Kenyans have fled to Uganda escaping the violence in Western and Nyanza provinces. There is an appeal for their safety in Uganda.
- ◆ Bodies of the people killed as a result of the post elections violence are lying at the Nakuru Provincial General Hospital mortuary since relatives are unable to bury them.
- ◆ Over 150 displaced persons are still stuck at Siaya Police station due to crisis of public transportation.
- ◆ Lugari DC is quoted in the media indicating that a total of 21,000 people are displaced and taking refuge at Lumakanda , Lugari and Turbo areas.

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