

**Open Letter to H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki, The Party of National Unity and Hon. Raila Odinga,  
The Orange Democratic Movement**

February 27, 2008

Dear Your Excellencies,

**THE TIME FOR COMPROMISE AND CLOSURE IS NOW: KENYA CONTINUES TO BLEED FOR  
YOUR LEADERSHIP**

We the undersigned, collectively representing thousands of Kenyan CSOs in this country, jointly call on your leadership to act now to resolve the constitutional, political, social and economic crisis currently facing our beloved Kenya. This is the first time we have come together to speak with one voice. We support and encourage the Mediation Team to continue pressing for a decision. We agree completely with the Chief Mediator H.E. Kofi Annan his team of Eminent of Persons that the talks cannot be resolved at the level of the PNU and ODM negotiating teams alone. Valuable days have been lost in concluding the fourth agreement. The failure of the negotiating teams to find an acceptable compromise places Kenya back on the brink of disaster. Your direct involvement in the talks is now a necessity.

We call on Kenyans to rise above the failure of the negotiating teams and exercise restraint, shun violence and maintain the spirit of co-existence that has slowly crept back into most of our lives. Despite the worrying evidence of militarization and the presence of militias in many of our urban settlements and rural villages, we believe that Kenyans on the whole are desperate for peace and stability. In this regard, you must support Kenyans who are calling for peace and justice by issuing a collective statement that urges calm to your supporters and censors the organisation and arming of militia by all.

We inform you that we will continue to monitor and hold you both personally and collectively accountable with your parties responsible for the successful completion of the mediation process and its implementation including that of February 1, 4 and 15<sup>th</sup> agreements. These include the following;

1. The disbanding and demobilisation of all illegal armed and militia groups (February 1)
2. The holding of joint rallies to promote peace and tranquillity (February 1)
3. The impartial, effective and expeditious investigation into all cases of crime and police brutality and use of excessive force (February 1)
4. Maximum protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and especially women, to return to their homes and places of work (February 4)
5. The establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission with the participation of international jurists among others. (February 4)
6. The establishment of an Independent Review Commission to investigate all aspects of the 2007 Elections (February 15)

For the moment, the capacity to bring this crisis to an end lies in your hands. Should you also fail to act decisively, you will both betray the remaining national space to bring Kenya back from the brink once more. As the clock ticks, Kenyans will slip into greater despair, anger and violence. In this scenario, your capacity to provide leadership is less clear. The time to compromise and find a solution is now.

Yours sincerely,

**National Civil Society  
Congress**

**Concerned Citizens for Peace**

**Kenya National Council of  
NGOs**

**Peace and Development  
Network**

**Kenyans for Peace, Truth and  
Justice Coalition**

**Women's coalition**

c.c. H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete, Chairperson of the African Union  
**H.E. Kofi Annan, Leader and Chief Negotiator of the Kenya Mediation and Dialogue Team  
including Eminent Persons H.E. Benjamin Mkapa and H.E. Graca Machel  
The Kenyan public**

## Organisations

### Women's Coalition

The Women's coalition has come together to bring express their sense of solidarity with women and girls affected by the violence and seek justice. They are currently organising Kenyan women to wear white clothes to symbolise peace and converge on the venue of crisis talks until a solution is found. Many women and children have been among the victims of post-election violence, which has killed at least 1,000 people and forced more than 300,000 from their homes.

**Contact: Florence Mpaayi Mobile: +254-(0)733811112**

### National Civil Society Congress

Over 50 civil society organisations including NGO's, CSO's, trusts and other registered organizations participate in the Congress. The organisations represented in the congress are guided by the principles of accountability, transparency, justice and fairness, integrity and professionalism. The congress seeks to provide Civil Society Organisations with a common voice on various issues affecting society as a whole. In the context of the post-election violence, the congress has supported the on-going mediation process and seeks a resolution to the crisis that is acceptable to all Kenyans.

**Contact: Peter Kariuki, Mobile: +254-(0)733615826**

### Concerned Citizens for Peace

The concerned citizens for peace initiative came into being on January 1, 2008 after violence erupted in Kenya following claims of rigging and a flawed election process in the country. The original five core members- who included Kenyan peace mediators and members of the civil society- started the group in order to rally for peace and tolerance and to call for dialogue after the country witnessed its worst post-election violence that led to political and ethnic killings and the wanton destruction of property. The group works for a Kenya without violence and a Kenya that is not divided on political or tribal lines.

**Contact: Dekha Ibrahim Mobile: +254-(0)733982529**

### Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice

Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice brings together a coalition of NGO's in order to understand and make public what happened with the counting and tallying process of the presidential vote, as well as the nature of the violence experienced across the country since. Their members include a wide range of leading human rights organizations who individually and collectively undertaken assessment missions, lobbying visits and released research on elections related issues and the violence that has erupted since then.

**Contact: Muthoni Wanyeki Telephone: +254-20-3874998/9, 3876065**

### PeaceNet and Election Violence Response Initiative (EVRI)

The peace and development network (PeaceNet) is a national umbrella body for over 150 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Religious organizations, Human Rights organizations and individuals dedicated working with the Electoral Violence Response Initiative (EVRI), consisting of civil society organizations Maendeleo ya Wanawake, PeaceNet Trust, International Development Centre for Research (IDRC), Amani Parliamentary Forum, and Nairobi Peace Initiative, The Kenya Private sector alliance (KEPSA) and the Media Council of Kenya among others.

**Contact: Francis Nguli Mobile: +254-(0)722350827**

### Kenyan National Council of NGOs

The Kenyan National Council of NGOs is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament in 1993. It is the membership body of over 2000 registered NGOs in the country. A recent election of a new Executive Council under the leadership of the Chairperson Simeon Kenani replaces the many years of crisis that had befallen the association.

**Contact: Simeon Kenani Mobile: +254-21690393**