

KENYA

Kenyan for Peace with Truth and Justice (KPTJ)

Press Release – Addis Ababa, 29th January 2008

The Kenyan for Peace with Truth and Justice is a coalition of over 80 civil society organizations which have come together in the aftermath of the presidential and general elections in Kenya. We have come to Addis Ababa, held meetings and made submissions to various organs of the African Union and several Embassies. We have made the following concise demands to the various AU organs: -

1. **On unconstitutional change of government**
 - We have urged the AU Assembly to suspend Kenya as provided by Article 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. This is further elaborated by Article 25 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.
 - We have urged the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to hold an urgent Session on the situation in Kenya, as well as its impact on the greater East African, Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region. In this session, we have sought to be heard as provided by Article 20 of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council.
2. **On gross and systematic violations of human rights**
 - We have urged the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights to urgently undertake a Mission of Inquiry into Kenya, to investigate the sources, causes and extent of the massive violations of human rights and identify the perpetrators.
 - Thereafter to hold an Extraordinary Session of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, at which further and effective measures should be taken.
3. **Lessons for Africa**
 - The reputation of the AU is at stake. Africans and the international community are waiting and watching to see whether the promise of non-indifference is indeed true.
 - There are at least three elections taking place in Africa this year, including Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry and Ghana. Ethiopia itself is holding local and civic elections. If the AU is unable or unwilling to satisfactorily resolve the Kenyan impasse, it will have grave ramifications for these countries and the rest of Africa. This is a test case for democracy in Africa.
 - Prolongation of the Kenyan impasse will continue to have grave negative effects on the economies and societies of its neighbouring land-locked states: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, (Southern)

Sudan and (northern) Tanzania. It will continue to disrupt trade and transit routes, and put an unmanageable refugee burden on those states. In addition, it will endanger the refugee populations that Kenya hosts, especially from Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

- This Kenyan election has dented local and international investor confidence. Every African election will invite suspension or deferment of investments.

On behalf of the Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice:

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