

Results of post election violence in Kenya

By Barry Paul

Republic of Kenya has been and known as home of peace in Africa since its independence in 1963. During the time of independence Kenyans were happy and enjoyed their independence in unity and any form of disparity was not seen along 48 tribes in Kenya. During the many years from independence, Kenyans were craving for democracy and justice which was observed as decaying. Multi-party democracy was the beginning of sign of democracy in 1992 after long years of one party state. Politics then became interesting with different tribes gathering along parties which are favoring them. In the last year general election whose results were disputed, the strong politician representing various tribes were along parties primarily Orange Democratic Party (ODM), party of national unity (PNU) and Orange Democratic Movement of Kenya (ODM-K). ODM contain Marjoly tribes from 6 provinces in Kenya, PNU contained a tribe from 1 province and ODM-K also contained a tribe from 1 province.

The formation of the ODM leading team known as "ODM pentagon" (which involved leaders who are influential in several provinces in Kenya) made it attain good and extreme support for his presidential candidate Raila Amolo Odinga.

PNU had Kibaki as his presidential candidate. Kibaki was the president at that moment and had support of politicians who yearned for political gain camped at his party plus government resources which was believed to have influence during election. All these made him favourable for presidency candidature for PNU party.

ODM-K whose presidential candidate had little influence and that explains why his party is not involved in the concern over disputes of elections.

In normal situation of elections in Kenya which involve voting and counting in Kenya take two days and then the third day Kenyans are made to know the winner. During the first days of counting of 2007 elections, Raila was leading Kibaki with more than 1 million votes. After two days counting and tallying stopped. This made Kenyans suspicious and believed election was being stolen. Three days past and even before announcement of results, 6 provinces in Kenya which were ODM (Raila Odinga) favorite, began demonstration and destruction of properties with claims that election was being stolen. Five last opinion polls in Kenya before elections placed Raila as Kenyans preferred presidential candidate and that he was leading in 6 provinces out of 8 in Kenya and ODM as the popular political party in Kenya.

Destructions continued and grew to a higher level that claimed lives of more than 1,300 Kenyans according to reports. At 29th December 2007 the election council of Kenya announces that Kibaki won. A picture that most Kenyans did not accommodate. Tribes of the 6 provinces which were stronghold of ODM started evicting kikuyu tribe. Kikuyu tribe is also Kibaki's tribe. The violence became stronger and kikuyu tribe also evicted tribes from ODM's stronghold from their province.

Effects of violence on children

Violence brought destruction of properties, assault of women, killings and theft. These interfered especially with children all over Kenya. Currently a number of displaced children are in refugee camps in major towns in Kenya (Kisumu, Nairobi, Eldoret and Nakuru). Over 3,000 children are displaced and are not going to school because their

homes and schools were destroyed and some torched. They are trying to learn and cope with the extreme situation in the refugee camps.

Right now it is rainy season in Kenya, which means it is cold. Most of the children can not withstand cold because they are residing in polythene tents. The situation in camps are getting worse since the numbers of people in the camps are so many. Very many people are, for example, sharing one toilet. Children are therefore predisposed to more infection and diseases as malaria, typhoid, cholera amongst others. These medical problems are then not withstand and can't be resisted since most of doctors and nurses amongst other medical personnel were also displaced.

We believe a number of children can be helped out of these problems propelled by politics of which they are still too young to understand. They did not even vote and don't even know the qualities of persons struggling for power in Kenya.

As a Kenyan witnessing the suffering of children amongst other Kenyans, I request any person who wish to support a child in Kenya to do so through HOLLANDHELPT Organization; www.hollandhelpt.org

Effects of violence on people who are HIV positive

A good number of Kenyans who are HIV positive have lived with hope since the introduction of anti-retroviral drugs and therapy. They were jovial and would plan for their future and the future of their family. There are currently more than 6,000 Kenyans who are in refugee camps. Some have fled from their home to other places in fear of attacks. For example people who have fled to Uganda and now live there in refugee camps. Considering the HIV infected population in Kenya, it means a good number of people living with HIV virus are in these camps and have lost contact with their HIV patient support centers. At these centers they were getting drugs and counseling. These so far has led to relapse on drug adherence and can lead to more deaths or secondary infection out of trauma and loss of hope.

Positive clients who are at home are also unable to access hospitals since the roads are insecure. Gangs of youths attacking vehicles and robbing passengers their items which has made them scared and are unable to access medication.

Future of Kenyans after elections

Kenyan has gone down economically. This is because a number of business enterprise were destroyed and workers rendered jobless, business investors from other countries have restrain themselves from Kenya and all these have prompted hike of prices of commodities in Kenya. This has also made life ladder-proof to almost all Kenyans.

Life and hope of Kenyans currently lie in the hands of the mediation team which is currently headed by former secretary general of United Nations. This team has taken more than 3 weeks and so far no solution has been found. If at all no solution will be found, Kenyan people fear Kenya will be like Rwanda which suffered genocide. Violence and killings will erupt again and Kenyans believe this time it will take long and stopping it will be difficult. Surprisingly the government is recruiting more policemen and not helping internally displaced persons.

Support a displaced child by sending your donations to HOLLANDHELPT Organization; www.hollandhelpt.org and save a life.