

# **Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Kofi Annan, Honorable Mutula Kilonzo and  
Honourable William Ruto**

**Nairobi Serena Hotel, 31 January 2008**

**(Non-Verbatim Transcript)**

### **Kofi Annan**

I am glad to be here with members of the Kenyan National Dialogue, which was launched 2 days ago, to mediate the crisis befalling the country. Today we have held constructive and accelerated talks. I am pleased with the progress and we are determined to resolve the crisis as soon as possible in order to bring stability and peace to the Kenyan people.

First and foremost we must see an end to the violence. It must stop, there is no excuse for any individual to take the law into his or her own hands and kill fellow citizens. Government must investigate these criminal acts and punish those responsible, whether they take the form of criminal acts or the excessive use of force by security forces. We need the help and support of the Kenyan people; the best way they can provide that help and support is by refraining from acts of revenge.

We know that the Kenyan people want results and that they want peace. That is why the process is so accelerated. The Kenyan people need to give their leaders and delegates time to resolve the issues. It won't be long, we hope it will be done within a reasonable period.

I am now going to ask members of each delegation to say a word.

## **Honorable Mutula Kilonzo**

Thank you fellow Kenyans. I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Kofi Annan and the others making this work possible. People will be amazed by our pace; we are doing a wonderful job, it is going very well. But we want take the opportunity to send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Hon David Too, MP for Aniamoi. We learned of his killing with extreme shock. We demand that the police issue a correct statement regarding the circumstances surrounding Mr. Too's death, especially seeing that there is conflicting information and we are told it was a criminal act.

As for our work, we have achieved a lot, we have settled on an agenda and started discussing it. But we continue to be interrupted by reports of violence. We ask PNU and ODM-K supporters and citizens to please stop the violence and to refrain from any attempts at retaliation or revenge. We will make peace as though there were no criminals taking the law into their own hands and we will deal with the criminals as though we were not making peace. There will be no compromise with that. We will ensure that enforcement agencies maintain law and order. For those supporting ODM, we plead with them to understand that the solution lies in this room; we have been mandated by your leaders, so please trust us, give us the opportunity to bring peace. Thank you.

## **Honourable William Ruto**

This afternoon is another sad one for the country. We have lost MP Daniel Too of Ainamoi. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and his constituency. He is one of hundreds of Kenyans who have lost their lives. We want to state categorically that we are determined to achieve a solution to the problems of the country; nothing will derail us from that. We ask the people of the country to stay on course until we find a lasting solution to the crisis and a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues. We are committed and will stay on course until our mandate from respective parties is executed.

This morning we covered much ground. There have been tremendous positive developments and we ask Kenyans to stay the course because we believe that this effort will yield a peaceful resolution. We are also asking the police and other security agencies to exercise their mandates within the law. Many people have lost their lives and we want a speedy and accurate resolution of

outstanding issues. Two Members of Parliament are dead so far and we don't want another life lost on account of what is happening in the country. As a team we ask the people of our country to give this effort under the mediation of Kofi Annan and his panel a chance because we believe that all of us together can reach a peaceful resolution of the problems in our country.

## **Kofi Annan**

Thank you. In conclusion we hope in your reports that you are careful with the words you use. Words can soothe, heal and inspire but they can also incite and inflame and we need to be very careful what words we use. They should be positive, encourage and inspire and not inflame, incite or lead to further atrocities. We need your help. In your reporting seek the facts and avoid printing rumours. We are in this together. Let's work hard. Because of what has happened today, your leaders are preoccupied so I have decided to postpone today's afternoon session and we will work all day tomorrow. This will give them time to attend to urgent matters with respect to their constituencies. Until tomorrow.

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