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## Kenya violence "spiraling out of control"

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31<sup>st</sup> January, 2008

## THE ARTICLE

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga has warned the world that his country is in danger of destroying itself. He pleaded for the violence that has broken out across the country since the presidential elections on December 27 to end. Odinga said: "Unless we ourselves resolve to act quickly to save our nation, there might be no nation left to save....The national fabric has been broken....Violence is spiraling out of control." President Mwai Kibaki also addressed his nation, saying in a televised speech: "I feel deeply saddened to know Kenyans are confronting one another violently." Violence broke out along ethnic lines after Mr Kibaki claimed victory in an election that his opponents say was stolen from them. It has resulted in Kenya's worst crisis since its independence in 1963.

The turmoil over the validity of the election results has caused once peaceful neighbours to turn on each other. Mr Odinga's supporters claim that President Kibaki's victory was largely due to vote-rigging. What started as peaceful political protests for an election re-run soon gave way to tit-for-tat killings along ethnic lines. This developed into an orgy of massacres as long-running tribal feuds among rival communities turned into localized forms of ethnic cleansing, something Mr Odinga says is "tearing Kenya apart." Over 900 people have been brutally slaughtered in the streets, often being hacked to death by their neighbours. Rape, looting and the torching of property has also become commonplace. Mediation by former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan has so far failed to quell the violence.

## WARM-UPS

**1. KENYA:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about Kenya. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*opposition leaders / self-destruction / elections / national fabric / violence / crises / turmoil / neighbours / protests / tit-for-tat / rivalries / ethnic cleansing / looting*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. NATIONAL FABRIC:** Talk with your partner(s) about what makes up the national fabric of your country. Use the points below to help you. Rank them in order of which creates the biggest tensions. Share your ideas with others.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ ethnic background
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ religion
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ language
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ caste / class
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ wealth
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ colour
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ sports team
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ family name

**4. NEIGHBOURS:** Talk with your partner(s) about the problems neighbours have. Do you have any of the problems below? How would you like your culture to change its attitudes toward these things? Change partners and share your findings.

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • noise                 | • garden              |
| • rubbish/trash/garbage | • nosiness            |
| • children              | • personality clashes |
| • cars                  | • other _____         |

**5. VIOLENCE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'violence'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. QUICK ROLE PLAY:** Student A **strongly** believes that no election is fair and international observers should check the fairness of all elections around the world; Student B **strongly** believes all elections are fair and there's no need for outside help. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Violence in Kenya is threatening to destroy the country.          | T / F |
| b. The violence started because the president said no to elections.  | T / F |
| c. An opposition leader said there was no fabric for sale in Kenya.  | T / F |
| d. Kenya gained independence over four decades ago.                  | T / F |
| e. Neighbours in Kenya are killing each other.                       | T / F |
| f. Ethnic tensions have lead to what people call "Kit-Kat killings". | T / F |
| g. Over nineteen hundred people have dies in the violence.           | T / F |
| h. Ex-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is mediating to end the chaos. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. pleaded     | a. end         |
| 2. resolve     | b. foundations |
| 3. fabric      | c. chaos       |
| 4. confronting | d. emergency   |
| 5. crisis      | e. sort out    |
| 6. turmoil     | f. conflicts   |
| 7. tit-for-tat | g. negotiation |
| 8. feuds       | h. challenging |
| 9. mediation   | i. revenge     |
| 10. quell      | j. begged      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. his country is in danger         | a. save our nation         |
| 2. resolve to act quickly to        | b. of destroying itself    |
| 3. The national fabric has          | c. ethnic lines            |
| 4. Violence broke out               | d. been broken             |
| 5. Kenya's worst crisis since its   | e. of the election results |
| 6. The turmoil over the validity    | f. along ethnic lines      |
| 7. Kibaki's victory was largely due | g. among rival communities |
| 8. tit-for-tat killings along       | h. independence in 1963    |
| 9. long-running tribal feuds        | i. property                |
| 10. the torching of                 | j. to vote-rigging         |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga has \_\_\_\_\_ the world that his country is in danger of destroying itself. He \_\_\_\_\_ for the violence that has broken out across the country since the presidential elections on December 27 to end. Odinga said: "Unless we ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to act quickly to save our nation, there might be no nation left to save....The \_\_\_\_\_ fabric has been broken....Violence is spiraling out of control." President Mwai Kibaki also \_\_\_\_\_ his nation, saying in a televised speech: "I feel \_\_\_\_\_ saddened to know Kenyans are confronting one another violently." Violence broke out along ethnic \_\_\_\_\_ after Mr Kibaki claimed victory in an election that his opponents say was stolen from them. It has resulted in Kenya's worst \_\_\_\_\_ since its independence in 1963.

*addressed*

*lines*

*resolve*

*crisis*

*warned*

*national*

*deeply*

*pleaded*

The turmoil over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the election results has caused once peaceful neighbours to \_\_\_\_\_ on each other. Mr Odinga's supporters claim that President Kibaki's victory was largely due to vote-\_\_\_\_\_. What started as peaceful political protests for an election re-run soon gave \_\_\_\_\_ to tit-for-tat killings along ethnic lines. This developed into an \_\_\_\_\_ of massacres as long-running tribal feuds among rival communities turned into localized forms of ethnic cleansing, something Mr Odinga says is "tearing Kenya apart." Over 900 people have been \_\_\_\_\_ slaughtered in the streets, often being hacked to death by their neighbours. Rape, looting and the \_\_\_\_\_ of property has also become commonplace. Mediation by former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan has so far failed to \_\_\_\_\_ the violence.

*torching*

*turn*

*way*

*brutally*

*rigging*

*quell*

*validity*

*orgy*

**LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.**

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga \_\_\_\_\_ that his country is in danger of destroying itself. He pleaded for the violence that has \_\_\_\_\_ country since the presidential elections on December 27 to end. Odinga said: Unless \_\_\_\_\_ to act quickly to save our nation, there might be no nation left to save...The national fabric has been broken...Violence is spiraling out of control." President Mwai Kibaki \_\_\_\_\_ nation, saying in a televised speech: "I feel \_\_\_\_\_ Kenyans are confronting one another violently." Violence broke out along ethnic lines after Mr Kibaki claimed victory \_\_\_\_\_ opponents say was stolen from them. It has resulted in Kenya's \_\_\_\_\_ independence in 1963.

The turmoil over the validity of the election results \_\_\_\_\_ neighbours to turn on each other. Mr Odinga's supporters claim that President Kibaki's victory \_\_\_\_\_ vote-rigging. What started as peaceful political protests \_\_\_\_\_ gave way to tit-for-tat killings along ethnic lines. This developed into an orgy of massacres as long-running \_\_\_\_\_ communities turned into localized forms of ethnic cleansing, something Mr Odinga says is "\_\_\_\_\_." Over 900 people have been brutally slaughtered in the streets, often being \_\_\_\_\_ their neighbours. Rape, looting and the \_\_\_\_\_ has also become commonplace. Mediation by former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan has so far \_\_\_\_\_ violence.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'opposition' and 'leader'.

opposition	leader

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• itself</li> <li>• pleaded</li> <li>• save</li> <li>• televised</li> <li>• confronting</li> <li>• crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• validity</li> <li>• largely</li> <li>• re-run</li> <li>• orgy</li> <li>• tearing</li> <li>• quell</li> </ul>
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## STUDENT NATIONAL TENSIONS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about national tensions in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## **DISCUSSION**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
  - b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'vote-rigging'?
  - c) What are your feelings about the situation in Kenya?
  - d) Where do you think this crisis is going?
  - e) Do you think the ethnic tensions will spill over into other countries?
  - f) Do you think Kenya's people can save their nation?
  - g) What national tensions are there in your country?
  - h) What's our opinion on the outcome of Kenya's elections in December?
  - i) What do you think of Mr Kibaki and Mr Odinga?
- 

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Are people peaceful in your country?
- c) What turmoil has there been in your country?
- d) Are elections in your country totally free and fair?
- e) Have you ever done anything that was tit-for-tat?
- f) Do you think what is happening in Kenya is ethnic cleansing?
- g) Do you think you could hate your neighbours enough to turn on them?
- h) What feuds with people have you had in the past?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga has warned the world that his country is (1) \_\_\_\_ danger of destroying itself. He pleaded for the violence that has broken (2) \_\_\_\_ across the country since the presidential elections on December 27 to end. Odinga said: "Unless we (3) \_\_\_\_ resolve to act quickly to save our nation, there might be no nation left to save....The national fabric has been broken....Violence is spiraling (4) \_\_\_\_ of control." President Mwai Kibaki also addressed his nation, saying in a televised speech: "I feel (5) \_\_\_\_ saddened to know Kenyans are confronting one another violently." Violence broke out along ethnic lines after Mr Kibaki claimed victory in an election that his opponents say was stolen from them. It has resulted (6) \_\_\_\_ Kenya's worst crisis since its independence in 1963.

The turmoil over the (7) \_\_\_\_ of the election results has caused once peaceful neighbours to turn on each other. Mr Odinga's supporters claim that President Kibaki's victory was (8) \_\_\_\_ due to vote-rigging. What started as peaceful political protests for an election re-run soon gave (9) \_\_\_\_ to tit-for-tat killings along ethnic lines. This developed into an orgy of massacres as long-running tribal feuds among rival communities turned into localized (10) \_\_\_\_ of ethnic cleansing, something Mr Odinga says is "tearing Kenya apart." Over 900 people have been brutally slaughtered in the streets, often (11) \_\_\_\_ hacked to death by their neighbours. Rape, looting and the (12) \_\_\_\_ of property has also become commonplace. Mediation by former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan has so far failed to quell the violence.

- |     |              |               |                |                   |
|-----|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) out of   | (b) big       | (c) out        | (d) in            |
| 2.  | (a) out      | (b) in        | (c) in and out | (d) in out in out |
| 3.  | (a) us       | (b) ourselves | (c) ours       | (d) themselves    |
| 4.  | (a) up       | (b) in        | (c) out        | (d) down          |
| 5.  | (a) deepest  | (b) deeper    | (c) deeply     | (d) in depth      |
| 6.  | (a) at       | (b) in        | (c) of         | (d) by            |
| 7.  | (a) invalid  | (b) validate  | (c) valid      | (d) validity      |
| 8.  | (a) largely  | (b) large     | (c) largest    | (d) largeness     |
| 9.  | (a) up       | (b) way       | (c) in         | (d) credit        |
| 10. | (a) frames   | (b) firms     | (c) farms      | (d) forms         |
| 11. | (a) be       | (b) being     | (c) been       | (d) was           |
| 12. | (a) torching | (b) touching  | (c) teaching   | (d) toasting      |



## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out about the situation in Kenya. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. NATIONAL TENSIONS:** What are the biggest tensions in your country? Make a poster about them. Include your solutions to address them. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. NEIGHBOUR RIVALRIES:** Write a magazine article about two neighbours who are huge rivals. Include imaginary interviews with them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Kenya's president Mwai Kibaki. Ask him three questions about the violence in his country. Give him three suggestions on what he should do to stop it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. F      c. F      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. pleaded     | a. begged      |
| 2. resolve     | b. sort out    |
| 3. fabric      | c. foundations |
| 4. confronting | d. challenging |
| 5. crisis      | e. emergency   |
| 6. turmoil     | f. chaos       |
| 7. tit-for-tat | g. negotiation |
| 8. feuds       | h. conflicts   |
| 9. mediation   | i. revenge     |
| 10. quell      | j. end         |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. his country is in danger         | a. of destroying itself    |
| 2. resolve to act quickly to        | b. save our nation         |
| 3. The national fabric has          | c. been broken             |
| 4. Violence broke out               | d. along ethnic lines      |
| 5. Kenya's worst crisis since its   | e. independence in 1963    |
| 6. The turmoil over the validity    | f. of the election results |
| 7. Kibaki's victory was largely due | g. to vote-rigging         |
| 8. tit-for-tat killings along       | h. ethnic lines            |
| 9. long-running tribal feuds        | i. among rival communities |
| 10. the torching of                 | j. property                |

### GAP FILL:

#### Kenya violence "spiraling out of control"

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga has **warned** the world that his country is in danger of destroying itself. He **pleaded** for the violence that has broken out across the country since the presidential elections on December 27 to end. Odinga said: "Unless we ourselves **resolve** to act quickly to save our nation, there might be no nation left to save...The **national** fabric has been broken...Violence is spiraling out of control." President Mwai Kibaki also **addressed** his nation, saying in a televised speech: "I feel **deeply** saddened to know Kenyans are confronting one another violently." Violence broke out along ethnic **lines** after Mr Kibaki claimed victory in an election that his opponents say was stolen from them. It has resulted in Kenya's worst **crisis** since its independence in 1963.

The turmoil over the **validity** of the election results has caused once peaceful neighbours to **turn** on each other. Mr Odinga's supporters claim that President Kibaki's victory was largely due to vote-**rigging**. What started as peaceful political protests for an election re-run soon gave **way** to tit-for-tat killings along ethnic lines. This developed into an **orgy** of massacres as long-running tribal feuds among rival communities turned into localized forms of ethnic cleansing, something Mr Odinga says is "tearing Kenya apart." Over 900 people have been **brutally** slaughtered in the streets, often being hacked to death by their neighbours. Rape, looting and the **torching** of property has also become commonplace. Mediation by former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan has so far failed to **quell** the violence.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a