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## **Kenya bars maids going to Middle East**

**24th June, 2012**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

The Kenyan government announced on Friday that it would temporarily suspend the recruitment of its citizens going to Middle East countries to work as domestic workers. The Foreign Affairs committee stated that increasing numbers of Kenyans, especially maids, are being mistreated. It says many people are promised jobs in Gulf countries that do not exist when they arrive. They are then at the mercy of shady agents who take their passports and place them in jobs with very poor working conditions. Many get no day off and some are never allowed to leave the house in which they work. Many maids report they are slaves and are treated as such by their employers.

The statement from Kenya's government read: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform that the government has temporarily suspended recruitment and export of domestic workers (housekeepers/maids) to Middle East countries with immediate effect." Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto said: "The government has noted with concern, the increasing number of Kenyan citizens who have sought employment in the Middle East...and ended up in distress." Kenya's Capital FM radio website stated: "Last month...Muslims for Human Rights estimated that there are more than 30,000 Kenyans working as domestic workers in the Middle East but termed it as human trafficking."

# WARM-UPS

**1. MAIDS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about maids. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

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

*government / announced / domestic workers / mistreated / at the mercy of / slaves / recruitment / export / concern / distress / radio / human rights / human trafficking*

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

**3. TRAFFICKING:** How do we stop it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Traffic in...	What do you know about this?	How do we help stop it?
workers		
drugs		
women		
ivory		
endangered species		
arms		

**4. HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Students A **strongly** believe human trafficking will end one day; Students B **strongly** believe it will never stop. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. JOB ABROAD:** Where would you like to work? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share again.

- Saudi Arabia
- Mexico
- Brazil
- Kenya
- Papua New Guinea
- Japan
- China
- India

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Kenya is sending workers to the Middle East to work in bars. T / F
- b. Kenya's government reports its citizens are being mistreated overseas. T / F
- c. Unscrupulous agents keep the passports of Kenyan workers. T / F
- d. Many maids in the Middle East must work seven days a week. T / F
- e. Kenya has permanently stopped Kenyans working in the Middle East. T / F
- f. Kenya's government said it is not worried about the domestic workers. T / F
- g. A human rights group said 30,000 Kenyans worked as maids globally. T / F
- h. The group likened maids working in the Mid-East to human trafficking. T / F

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

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. announced       | a. put on hold        |
| 2. suspend         | b. danger             |
| 3. mistreated      | c. dishonest          |
| 4. at the mercy of | d. observed           |
| 5. shady           | e. made public        |
| 6. temporarily     | f. instant            |
| 7. immediate       | g. labeled            |
| 8. noted           | h. abused             |
| 9. distress        | i. for the time being |
| 10. termed         | j. in the control of  |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. temporarily suspend the recruitment | a. shady agents            |
| 2. increasing numbers of               | b. concern                 |
| 3. at the mercy of                     | c. such by their employers |
| 4. very poor working                   | d. effect                  |
| 5. they are slaves and are treated as  | e. Kenyans                 |
| 6. The statement from                  | f. trafficking             |
| 7. with immediate                      | g. of its citizens         |
| 8. noted with                          | h. Kenya's government      |
| 9. sought                              | i. conditions              |
| 10. termed it as human                 | j. employment              |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

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

The Kenyan government (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday that it would temporarily suspend the recruitment of its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ going to Middle East countries to work as domestic workers. The Foreign Affairs committee stated that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ numbers of Kenyans, especially maids, are being mistreated. It says many people are promised jobs in Gulf countries that do not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ when they arrive. They are then at the mercy of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ agents who take their passports and place them in jobs with very poor working conditions. Many get no day (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and some are never allowed to leave the house in which they work. Many maids report they are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ as such by their employers.

*exist*  
*slaves*  
*increasing*  
*off*  
*announced*  
*treated*  
*citizens*  
*shady*

The statement from Kenya's government read: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to inform that the government has temporarily suspended recruitment and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of domestic workers (housekeepers/maids) to Middle East countries with immediate (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto said: "The government has (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with concern, the increasing number of Kenyan citizens who have (13) \_\_\_\_\_ employment in the Middle East...and (14) \_\_\_\_\_ up in distress." Kenya's Capital FM radio website stated: "Last month...Muslims for Human Rights (15) \_\_\_\_\_ that there are more than 30,000 Kenyans working as domestic workers in the Middle East but termed it as human (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*estimated*  
*effect*  
*trafficking*  
*wishes*  
*sought*  
*export*  
*ended*  
*noted*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

The Kenyan government announced on Friday that \_\_\_\_\_  
suspend the recruitment of its citizens going to Middle East countries to work  
as domestic workers. The Foreign Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
increasing numbers of Kenyans, especially maids, \_\_\_\_\_.  
It says many people are promised jobs in Gulf countries that do not exist  
when they arrive. They are then \_\_\_\_\_ shady agents who  
take their passports and place them in jobs with very poor working  
conditions. Many \_\_\_\_\_ and some are never allowed to  
leave the house in which they work. Many maids report they are slaves and  
are \_\_\_\_\_ their employers.

The statement from Kenya's government read: "The Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs \_\_\_\_\_ that the government has temporarily  
suspended recruitment and export of domestic workers  
(housekeepers/maids) to Middle East countries \_\_\_\_\_."  
Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto said: "The  
government has \_\_\_\_\_, the increasing number of Kenyan  
citizens \_\_\_\_\_ employment in the Middle East...and  
\_\_\_\_\_." Kenya's Capital FM radio website stated: "Last  
month...Muslims for Human Rights estimated that there are more than  
30,000 Kenyans working as domestic workers in the Middle East but termed  
\_\_\_\_\_."

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

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

human	traffic

- 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 how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• suspend</li><li>• increasing</li><li>• promised</li><li>• agents</li><li>• poor</li><li>• such</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wishes</li><li>• export</li><li>• effect</li><li>• increasing</li><li>• ended</li><li>• termed</li></ul>
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# MAIDS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

Write five GOOD questions about maids 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.



## MAIDS 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 term 'human trafficking'?
- c) What do you think of this story?
- d) Do you think Kenya is right to stop citizens working in the Middle East?
- e) Should Kenya take up issue of its citizens being mistreated with the countries they are suffering in?
- f) What should countries do to crack down on traffickers or those who take people's money on false promises of good jobs?
- g) Should people immediately go to their embassy if someone keeps their passport?
- h) What kind of people employ someone to work seven days a week and don't let them go anywhere?
- i) How widespread do you think slavery is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- j) Should people be punished for mistreating maids?

*Kenya bars maids going to Middle East – 24th June, 2012*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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## MAIDS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) How long do you think the suspension will last?
- c) Do you think the suspension could be just a token gesture?
- d) What would you do if you were in distress while working overseas?
- e) How do you think Middle Eastern countries take to the Muslims for Human Rights group saying trafficking exists in their countries?
- f) What would happen in the Middle East if all the maids and foreign laborers left?
- g) Should the UN ensure a minimum wage and acceptable working conditions?
- h) Is suspending recruitment an answer?
- i) Should Kenya educate its people more before they accept such jobs?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya\\_maids.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1206/120624-kenya_maids.html)

The Kenyan government announced on Friday that it would (1) \_\_\_\_ suspend the recruitment of its citizens going to Middle East countries to work as domestic workers. The Foreign Affairs committee stated that (2) \_\_\_\_ numbers of Kenyans, especially maids, are being mistreated. It says many people are promised jobs in Gulf countries that do not (3) \_\_\_\_ when they arrive. They are then at the (4) \_\_\_\_ of shady agents who take their passports and place them in jobs with very (5) \_\_\_\_ working conditions. Many get no day off and some are never allowed to leave the house in which they work. Many maids report they are slaves and are treated as (6) \_\_\_\_ by their employers.

The statement from Kenya's government read: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (7) \_\_\_\_ to inform that the government has temporarily suspended recruitment and export of domestic workers (housekeepers/maids) to Middle East countries with immediate (8) \_\_\_\_." Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto said: "The government has (9) \_\_\_\_ with concern, the increasing number of Kenyan citizens who have (10) \_\_\_\_ employment in the Middle East...and ended (11) \_\_\_\_ in distress." Kenya's Capital FM radio website stated: "Last month...Muslims for Human Rights estimated that there are more than 30,000 Kenyans working as domestic workers in the Middle East but (12) \_\_\_\_ it as human trafficking."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                 |                |              |                 |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) tempered    | (b) temporary  | (c) tempers  | (d) temporarily |
| 2.  | (a) heightening | (b) increasing | (c) upping   | (d) enlarging   |
| 3.  | (a) exist       | (b) there      | (c) be       | (d) have        |
| 4.  | (a) merit       | (b) method     | (c) mercy    | (d) merchant    |
| 5.  | (a) skimpy      | (b) poverty    | (c) poor     | (d) penniless   |
| 6.  | (a) so          | (b) such       | (c) it       | (d) not         |
| 7.  | (a) wishes      | (b) dreams     | (c) aspires  | (d) bids        |
| 8.  | (a) effort      | (b) affect     | (c) affront  | (d) effect      |
| 9.  | (a) scribbled   | (b) noted      | (c) doodled  | (d) written     |
| 10. | (a) wrought     | (b) ought      | (c) thought  | (d) sought      |
| 11. | (a) on          | (b) at         | (c) up       | (d) down        |
| 12. | (a) termed      | (b) spoke      | (c) cognized | (d) cut         |



# 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 more about maids in the Middle east. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Make a poster about human trafficking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. DOMESTIC WORKER:** Write a magazine article about a domestic worker who is abused by her/his employer. Include imaginary interviews with people her/him.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the boss of the United Nations. Ask him three questions about human trafficking. Give him three ideas on how to crack down on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

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

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. announced       | a. made public        |
| 2. suspend         | b. put on hold        |
| 3. mistreated      | c. abused             |
| 4. at the mercy of | d. in the control of  |
| 5. shady           | e. dishonest          |
| 6. temporarily     | f. for the time being |
| 7. immediate       | g. instant            |
| 8. noted           | h. observed           |
| 9. distress        | i. danger             |
| 10. termed         | j. labeled            |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. temporarily suspend the recruitment | a. of its citizens         |
| 2. increasing numbers of               | b. Kenyans                 |
| 3. at the mercy of                     | c. shady agents            |
| 4. very poor working                   | d. conditions              |
| 5. they are slaves and are treated as  | e. such by their employers |
| 6. The statement from                  | f. Kenya's government      |
| 7. with immediate                      | g. effect                  |
| 8. noted with                          | h. concern                 |
| 9. sought                              | i. employment              |
| 10. termed it as human                 | j. trafficking             |

## GAP FILL:

### Kenya bars maids going to Mid-East

The Kenyan government (1) **announced** on Friday that it would temporarily suspend the recruitment of its (2) **citizens** going to Middle East countries to work as domestic workers. The Foreign Affairs committee stated that (3) **increasing** numbers of Kenyans, especially maids, are being mistreated. It says many people are promised jobs in Gulf countries that do not (4) **exist** when they arrive. They are then at the mercy of (5) **shady** agents who take their passports and place them in jobs with very poor working conditions. Many get no day (6) **off** and some are never allowed to leave the house in which they work. Many maids report they are (7) **slaves** and are (8) **treated** as such by their employers.

The statement from Kenya's government read: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (9) **wishes** to inform that the government has temporarily suspended recruitment and (10) **export** of domestic workers (housekeepers/maids) to Middle East countries with immediate (11) **effect**." Kenya's Political and Diplomatic Secretary Patrick Wamoto said: "The government has (12) **noted** with concern, the increasing number of Kenyan citizens who have (13) **sought** employment in the Middle East...and (14) **ended** up in distress." Kenya's Capital FM radio website stated: "Last month...Muslims for Human Rights (15) **estimated** that there are more than 30,000 Kenyans working as domestic workers in the Middle East but termed it as human (16) **trafficking**."

## LANGUAGE WORK

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