



Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • FAX 202-541-3339
WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/SDWP

January 8, 2008

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is following the tragic events in Kenya with concern and sadness. We have been in contact with the Bishops' Conference in Kenya and have received their letter, "My Peace I Give You" (January 2, 2008). A copy is attached for your reference.

Our Conference has also taken note of your efforts to work with the international community to bring an end to the violence and to search for a solution to the political crisis that the Kenyan people face. We are encouraged by your efforts and assure you of our support. We ask that you take heed of the message from the Catholic Bishops of Kenya and take their ideas into consideration. As often happens in situations of conflict, it is the poor who suffer the most and deserve your greatest support.

In particular, as you consult and work with Kenyan political leaders, we urge you to reach out to the members of civil society and prominent religious leaders. Religious leaders can be the moral voice raised against the calls for death and destruction. They can also appeal for reason and calm in the face of violence and passion. The Catholic Bishops have called on the Kenyan people to exercise their power to resolve the crisis. It is important that you act to strengthen their ability to re-establish peace and stability in their own country. This strategy will lend credibility to the efforts of the international community.

Church leaders recognize that at the root of the outbreak of violence are the disputed results of the general elections. The Bishops have called on the Kenyan government to verify the elections either through the institution of a commission to audit the tallying of the election results or the work of an independent mediator. The Kenyan people seek and need the truth. They want to know that their democracy will ultimately respect the voice of the people. Discovering the truth is the best means to re-establish the credibility of the electoral process in Kenya. It is noteworthy that the Attorney General of Kenya, the Honorable Amos Wako, has acknowledged the wisdom of the Church's position and publicly has expressed his support for a proper tallying of the electoral votes.

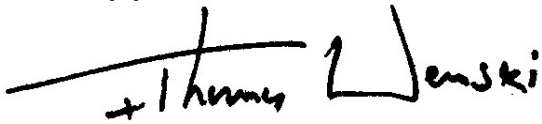
The Catholic Bishops of Kenya have also called on the two major political leaders by name to reach out to one another in dialogue. These leaders should set aside political interests for the common good in order to re-establish peace through justice and brotherhood.

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
January 8, 2008
Page 2

Our Conference has congratulated the Catholic Bishops of Kenya for their courage and integrity and for their stand against the forces of ethnic division and violence. We urge the U.S. government to reach out to the Catholic Bishops of Kenya in your efforts to re-establish justice and peace in their beloved country.

In gratitude for your efforts to assist the people of Kenya in this crucial moment of their history, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Wenski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski
Bishop of Orlando
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace

cc: Dr. Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

His Eminence John Cardinal Njue, Archbishop of Nairobi, Apostolic Administrator,
Murang'a/Nyeri and Chairman, Kenya Episcopal Conference



Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • FAX 202-541-3339
WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/SDWP

January 8, 2008

His Eminence John Cardinal Njue
Archbishop of Nairobi
Apostolic Administrator, Murang'a/Nyeri
Chairman, Kenya Episcopal Conference
Waumini House, Westlands
P.O. Box 13475, 00800
Nairobi, Kenya

Your Eminence:

At this time of crisis and suffering in Kenya, I write to express the solidarity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with the Kenya Episcopal Conference. Your Conference's recent letter "My Peace I Give You" is a powerful testimony to your brave leadership at a critical moment in your country's history when political leaders have abandoned dialogue and justice and neighbors have raised arms against each other.

We are particularly moved by your direct call to the two principal political leaders to reach out to each other in dialogue, seeking the common good and calling on independent mediation if needed. Your call to the people to be responsible personally for security and peaceful co-existence in Kenya was moving. We valued your emphasis on restraining violence, helping others to avoid destructive behavior and caring for the victims of violence. It is our hope and prayer that your words will touch the hearts of your people and lead them to reconciliation and peace.

We support your call to establish the truth of the elections by setting up an audit commission, and an independent mediation body to restore a spirit of dialogue and reconciliation between political leaders. We believe that these actions will help reestablish justice, relieve the suffering and restore the social fabric that binds all Kenyans into one human family.

We express our profound respect for your efforts and those of all men and women of good will who are the voices of peace and compassion in your beloved country. We accept your invitation to join our prayers to yours. May the Prince of Peace bless your people and heal their wounds.

With your approval, we have sent your message of peace to officials of the United States Government and asked them to take into account your calls for truth, justice, dialogue and reconciliation.

May God bless you in your ministry as teachers and pastors as you faithfully proclaim the Gospel and seek to guide your nation into a future of peace through reconciliation.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Bishop of Orlando
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace



KENYA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

WAUMINI HOUSE, WESTLANDS
P.O. Box 13475, 00800, Nairobi
4443133/4/5, 4443906, 4443917
FAX: 4442910, 4441758
Email: secgeneral@catholicchurch.or.ke

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

MY PEACE I GIVE YOU

Our Dear Kenyans, May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

We the Bishops of Kenya, with deep concern wish to address all our Christians and Kenyans in general, at this critical and crucial moment of our country.

We have witnessed with deep sorrow and concern the outbreak of violence and the breakdown of law and order that has led to, numerous deaths, injuries and destruction of property, creating fear and helplessness that has led many to flee from their homes.

We wish to make a passionate appeal to all Kenyans, men and women, old and youth, from all the political parties, and from all walks of life, to refrain from violence and from the senseless killing of our brothers and sisters!

Our dear people, Kenya is ours together! It is a time to stop and reflect on the consequences of our actions.

We have lived together for all these years as brothers and sisters. There is therefore no reason for us to be used to raise our hand against our neighbor because he or she belongs to a different ethnic group or political affiliation. Life is Sacred! We all belong to one family of God.

Our dear people, we must all be responsible for the security and peaceful co-existence in our country

- (a) Let us restrain ourselves from all violent, destructive or divisive behaviour remarks or comments.
- (b) Refuse to take part in any form of destruction, looting or even receiving stolen goods.
- (c) Do not think you are powerless. You can do something. Talk to relatives, friends, neighbours, people you know who can help resolve the current situations.
- (d) Encourage any person involved in or engaged in destructive behaviour to cease from doing so.
- (e) At this time of dire need be ready to share basic goods like food shelter and water with people with greater need than ourselves.
- (f) We especially urge our youth not to be enticed to take up violent means.

We are close to the many who have lost their loved ones in these skirmishes. As we console you, we pray for you to find peace in your hearts. We also feel with those injured, abused and displaced, as we journey with you at this difficult moment.

Once more we offer our mediation in this difficult crisis. We especially urge our priests and religious in our parishes and religious communities to facilitate as much as possible justice, peace and solidarity to those suffering at this moment.

We realize that at the root of the escalation of violence is the results of the recently concluded General Elections.

Several allegations of electoral malpractices have been brought forward. We urge that everything possible should be done in order to investigate and establish the truth of these claims, by other means other than violence and destruction of property. We make an appeal to all responsible to seek ways like establishing a Commission to audit and specifically review the tallying of the Parliamentary and Presidential polls.

We must uphold justice, especially in those aggrieved persons, those who feel their rights have been infringed. Those whose property has been looted. Let us open the channels of justice, and forge the proper instruments of making sure justice prevails. We also condemn the shooting of several innocent bystanders, as well as other Kenyans, and urge restraint among the Security Forces.

We appeal specifically to the political leaders (Hon. Mwai Kibaki and Hon. Raila Odinga) to reach out to one another through dialogue in order to seek a solution to the present situation. This country needs peace that is based on justice and true brotherhood. We further urge them to look for independent mediation if need be!

Kenya has always been an island of peace and we pray and urge all Kenyans to take upon themselves to come out clearly now to promote peace and safeguard our beloved Nation.

We finally appeal to all Kenyans to have recourse to prayer, and to organize special prayers for peace in our Churches whenever possible.

'Peace I give you, my own peace, I give you.

A Peace with the world cannot give,

This is my gift to you! John 14.27

"Let Justice be our shield and defender"

Signed:



**His Eminence John Cardinal Njue
Archbishop of Nairobi
-Apostolic Administrator, Murang'a/Nyeri
Chairman, Kenya Episcopal Conference**

-
- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Rt. Rev. Philip Sulumeti - Vice Chairman | - | Kakamega |
| 2. | Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth | - | Kisumu |
| 3. | Most Rev. Boniface Lele | - | Mombasa |
| 4. | Rt. Rev. Peter Kairo | - | Nakuru |
| 5. | Rt. Rev. Paul Darmanin | - | Garissa |
| 6. | Rt. Rev. Cornelius K. Arap Korir | - | Eldoret |
| 7. | Rt. Rev. Joseph Mairura Okemwa | - | Kisii |
| 8. | Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo | - | Homa Bay |
| 9. | Rt. Rev. Alfred Rotich | - | Military
Ordinariate |
| 10. | Rt. Rev. Maurice Crowley | - | Kitale |
| 11. | Rt. Rev. Norman King'oo Wambua | - | Bungoma |
| 12. | Rt. Rev. Peter Kihara, IMC | - | Marsabit |
| 13. | Rt. Rev. David Kamau Ng'ang'a – Auxilliary | - | Nairobi |
| 14. | Rt. Rev. Anthony Ileri Mukobo, IMC | - | Isiolo
Vicariate |
| 15. | Rt. Rev. Patrick Harrington | - | Lodwar |
| 16. | Rt. Rev. Francis Baldacchino | - | Malindi |
| 17. | Rt. Rev. Virgilio Pante | - | Maralal |
| 18. | Rt. Rev. Salesius Mugambi | - | Meru |
| 19. | Rt. Rev. Cornelius Schilder | - | Ngong |
| 20. | Rt. Rev. Luigi Paiaro | - | Nyahururu |
| 21. | Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Okombo | - | Kericho |
| 22. | Rt. Rev. Martin Kivuva Musonde
- Apostolic Administrator | - | Machakos
Kitui |
| 23. | Rt. Rev. Anthony Muheria | - | Embu |

2nd January 2008