

Kenya Police News

17 January 2008 (IRIN)

On 16 January alone, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW), five people were shot dead in the western city of Kisumu during attempts by supporters of the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) to stage a rally. Local television footage from the city showed a policeman pursuing two unarmed protesters, shooting them at close range and then kicking one of them before walking away. One of the men reportedly died.

"We are inquiring to know why [live bullets were used]. We have opened an inquiry so the truth may come out," Grace Kaindi, the police commander of Kisumu, told IRIN "The instructions are very clear. They [police] are to use tear gas and batons to stop the demonstrators," she said. A few days earlier, Kaindi told Associated Press that she had ordered the police to open fire on protesters in Kisumu on 29 December, two days after the election and a day before the incumbent president, Mwai Kibaki, was declared to have been re-elected, amid ODM charges of fraud. "It was an extreme situation and there was no other way to control them. I heard my officers were being overwhelmed. If we had not killed them, things would have got very bad," she said. According to records at Kisumu hospital, 44 people in Kisumu died from bullet wounds between late December and 14 January. Government spokesman Alfred Mutua blamed the violence on gangs of organised rioters out to loot and harass the public. He repeated Kibaki's call for the opposition to take their grievances to court, not the streets. The government remained adamant that it would not allow any protests to take place. Large numbers of armed paramilitary General Service Unit and Administration Police (AP) have been deployed across the country alongside regular police officers. The use of AP to control demonstrators is unusual. Their duties are normally to support the provincial administration and guard government facilities. Analysts said this shows how overstretched the police were by the scale of the unrest.

Under Kenyan law, there are no legal grounds for the kind of blanket ban on public assembly that the government has issued. However, those wishing to demonstrate must notify the police, who can reject their request on the grounds of public order.

January 18, 2008 ([The Nation, Kenya](#)).

Eight more people were killed in Nairobi and Kisumu as police battled with demonstrators on the second day of rallies called by ODM to protest at the disputed results of the December Presidential election.

Police shot a man identified by relatives as Felix Okong'o in Nairobi's Mathare North area in what they said was a confrontation between them and demonstrators. Another man was killed in Kibera while a third was burnt to death in a house in Nairobi's Ruaraka area. Anti-riot police were engaged in running battles in the city's Mathare, Kibera and Dagoretti areas in an effort to stop ODM supporters from making their way to Uhuru Park, the venue of the rally, which was sealed off by GSU officers. Calm was reported in other parts of the country as the ODM protest rallies entered a second day. The party claims its Presidential candidate Raila Odinga won

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the elections but the polls were rigged in favour of President Kibaki. Violence also broke out in Narok Town, Mwatate and Voi as police fought with protesters to stop the rallies. Business was disrupted in the city centre in the afternoon as police battled demonstrators.

In Kisumu, three people were shot on Wednesday night in Manyatta, Arina and Nubian estates while a fourth one was shot on the Kisumu-Busia highway as they staged a demonstration. And a bullet tore through a tin-walled dwelling in Bandani estate killing a single mother inside identified as Judith Namukuru. The deaths brought to six, the number of people killed in Kisumu since Wednesday. The shooting of a man on Wednesday captured on television camera sparked an uproar by Nyanza MPs who called for the officer's prosecution. Tension remained high in the town as police patrolled the central business district and the estates. Nyanza PPO Grace Kaindi said the victims were killed when demonstrators clashed with security personnel at Kondele, Manyatta and Arina estates. She said two others were shot last night after they broke into an abandoned house at Arina estate. In Eldoret, road blocks were set up at four points on the main roads leading to the town despite the tight security by the GSU personnel, regular and Administration police. Those closed included the Eldoret-Nakuru highway, Iten-Eldoret-road, Kapsabet-Eldoret and Eldoret-Webuye roads. Five workers at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital were injured when police fought demonstrators in the town. They were hurt as police dispersed demonstrators who appeared to have taken cover in the hospital's compound.