

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2307

<http://coleman.senate.gov>

January 11, 2008

The Honorable Jendayi Frazer
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of African Affairs
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary Frazer:

I am writing to you with respect to the situation in Kenya, which I have monitored with grave concern after the disputed elections and ensuing violence. It is my understanding that the post-election turmoil has left hundreds dead and several hundred thousand Kenyans displaced, setting the stage for a potential humanitarian crisis.

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your immediate response to the crisis by traveling directly to Kenya to mediate between President Mwai Kibaki and Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga. In order for Kenya to return to its democratic path, an agreement must be forged between these two leaders on how to move forward. I completely agree with your statement quoted in the Financial Times on January 7th that "the people of Kenya have been cheated. They've been cheated by their political leadership and the institutions." It is clear that major irregularities took place in the process of counting the ballots for the presidential election and announcing the results to the public. This is truly a shame considering that the other aspects of the elections leading up to the ballot count appeared to indicate that it had been a relatively free and fair process.

U.S. leadership is essential for pushing the various parties towards an appropriate resolution of the matter, as well as ensuring that the democratic gains that had been made in Kenya in recent years are not lost. Your trip to Kenya has been critical for laying the groundwork for a more substantive negotiation between the various parties. I hope that Kofi Annan and his team of eminent African leaders that have arrived in Kenya to lead the mediation effort will be able to build upon the progress that you, African Union Chairman John Kufuor and other leaders have made. I respectfully urge you to continue to exert U.S. leadership throughout this process so that the opposing factions in Kenya understand that they have no choice but to arrive at a peaceful accommodation that upholds democratic standards.

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

I was also pleased to hear of the \$5 million emergency assistance package announced by USAID on January 8th to help address the humanitarian situation resulting from the violence. This assistance for health, food security, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and temporary shelter activities is extremely important to prevent a further deterioration of the situation on the ground. At the same time, I would encourage additional assistance be provided in light of the fact that the number of displaced people is estimated to be around 250,000. As you know, Kenya is also home to thousands of refugees from neighboring countries such as Somalia and Ethiopia. I have heard concerns from their family members in my state that the humanitarian situation throughout the country will adversely affect them as well. In order to meet the full spectrum of humanitarian needs in Kenya, I would support the allocation of further resources to this end.

Once again, thank you very much for your leadership on the situation in Kenya. I appreciate your work and am very happy to support your efforts in any way that I can in my capacity as a Senator and member of the Foreign Relations Committee. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norm Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Norm" and last name "Coleman" clearly distinguishable.

Norm Coleman
United States Senate