



Letter of Solidarity Kenya

One of the main objectives of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) is to assist its student members by promoting and fostering solidarity, freedom, justice and peace. Therefore it is our duty, to make the people aware of the injustice going on in the world. As young students, the voices of the future, we want to stand up and support the many, many people living in conflicts situations.

The contact that the international level of YCS has with its brothers and sisters in Kenya has shown us, that the current crisis affects every part of the population. Violence reigns without making a difference between ethnicity, nationality or age. Especially young people suffer from this situation that has been triggered by consequences of alleged rigging of votes during the elections. Irregularities and injustices have led to massif violence and antagonisms within the country and between ethnic groups. Lack of abiding by democratic principles is among the key the causes of the crisis in a land which was seen as the hope for the democratic process in Africa.

We wish to express our solidarity with the Kenyan people and to do all in our power to promote a just settlement of the conflict. In that way we support all actions which try to resolve the crisis and lead to a truly democratic way of reconciliation.

We call upon the key political parties and their leaders to take into consideration the wider interests of the people of Kenya and ensure that violence, oppression and distrust will no longer rule in their country.

We call on the world powers and organisations to intervene in view of redressing the current situation and address key issues that have provoked more and more divisions and violence amongst the people, as well as throughout Africa. Kenya should not fall back into a new dictatorship of a tribe that is the cause of so many conflicts in Africa, but it should go forward in its way to true democracy and the reign of the population so that it can be a light of hope for all the other African people that suffer in injustice.

We call on Church leaders in the whole world to pray and play their prophetic role by reminding governments that the establishment of peace demands adherence to justice.

We call on all our YCS national movements to raise awareness among their members about the situation in Kenya and its consequences for Africa, and to embark on actions which will demonstrate their solidarity.

In this letter we emphasize on the conflict in Kenya, but we also refer to all other conflicts happening in the world because of injustice and oppression.

Our International Team will represent Africa at the UN and present all the questions concerning worst political situations in Africa and the Middle East to let them be heard.

Paris, the 17.01.2008