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August 2013 Newsletter

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KPTJ marks International Justice Day

July 17 was International Justice Day. Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice (KPTJ) and AfricOG marked the occasion by launching the internet version of KPTJ's latest publication 'A



Luxury Victims Cannot Afford: Meaningful Participation at the International Criminal Court. The report focuses on victims of the 2007-08 post-election violence, their participatory rights at the ICC and the factors hindering their participation in the ICC process.

The KPTJ report illustrates the way victims of the post-election violence are still struggling to put their lives back together as their justice, security, dignity and basic needs remain largely unmet. In this report, five victims recount their personal experiences of the violence and the impact it has had on their lives and those of their loved ones. The report is intended to encourage involved parties to take note of the concerns of the victims, including their immediate economic and social concerns, so that justice can prevail.

The launch was supported by our active Twitter feed, highlighting victims' concerns, the larger issues underlying the ICC cases, and highlights from the report. We are happy to report that the launch and other activities on Twitter reached almost 40,000 accounts through @KPTJ_Kenya, with close to 30,000 accounts reached through the @AfricOG Twitter handle, generating a total combined exposure of over 80, impressions for the day. We hope that KPTJ and AfricOG contributed to a focus on the voices and

concerns of the victims themselves, especially as we reflect on the role of the court and the advances and challenges for international justice as the cases finally reach the trial stage before the ICC.

International Justice Day is marked globally in commemoration of the adoption of the Rome Statute that paved the way for the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is also a day to remember victims of crimes against humanity, (including Kenya's victims of the 2007/8 post-election violence) of war crimes and of genocide.

The KPTJ report was also featured in the 18 July Daily Press Review compiled by the ICC.

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Poll reveals voter mistrust in the IEBC

AfriCOG recently commissioned Infotrak Research & Consulting to conduct a perception poll between 24 and 28 May this year. The poll was launched at a media briefing on 7 July, at which AfriCOG's executive director, Gladwell Otieno and Infotrak's CEO, Angela Ambitho, discussed the findings.



The survey was conducted in 32 of the 47 counties in Kenya. The research centred on voters' experiences and observations regarding democracy and integrity issues in the recent general election, as well as their confidence in institutions such as the Judiciary and the IEBC after the elections.

The majority of respondents pointed to anomalies during the voting process, which they attributed to inefficient management by the electoral body. Some respondents also indicated that they would not participate in the next general election, citing mistrust in the IEBC's ability to conduct free and fair elections. However, some of those questioned did respond more positively and considered that the election was carried out efficiently by the IEBC.

The poll findings were reviewed by academics, largely from the University of Nairobi, during a focus group discussion.

See: <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/politics/MPs-most-unpopular-leaders-poll/-/1064/1908092/-/wh6ng1/-/index.html>

AfriCOG and our partners

- Recently AfriCOG attended a meeting of its key partner, the Kenyan chapter of the **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)**. The donor roundtable meeting was called to share ICJ Kenya's mid-term assessment of its 2011–2015 strategic plan. The meeting brought together ICJ partners and reviewed their partnerships.
- AfriCOG staff took part in the July meeting of the **CSO Reference Group** on the Public Benefit Organisations Act. We will continue to follow both the development of the Act itself and the debate within the Reference Group as it affects KPTJ coalition members.
- On 17 July AfriCOG met with a group of post-doctoral students and Professor Kamari Clarke from **Yale University** to discuss tensions between African regional bodies and international justice institutions, with a view to creating an anthropology of justice which incorporates African perspectives. Their work is ongoing and they plan to return for further investigation in September when they will also be engaging with KPTJ partner organisations.
- AfriCOG staff attended a July SGBV (sexual and gender based violence) Public Interest Litigation stakeholders meeting convened by the **Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)**. KPTJ continues to follow ongoing SGBV cases, including those stemming from the 2007/2008 post-election violence, and is actively seeking new cases to support at this time.
- On behalf of KPTJ, Noelle Okoth attended the Police Reforms Working Group's latest meeting at IMLU (Independent Medico-Legal Unit) and will be taking an active part in their work on the proposed reforms and development of new vetting guidelines. Efforts to dismember the National Police Service Commission indicate a reversal of the gains made under the new constitution on independent and accountable

made under the new constitution on independent and accountable policing, with both security and governance implications.

- AfriCOG staff attended a one day taxation training seminar on "Preparing for the storm, Are you ready for the rapid tax changes?" hosted by the accounting firm, PKF Kenya.

AfriCOG in the press

On 17 July, International Justice Day, the Star newspaper published an article by James Gondi in which he highlighted the plight of political violence victims.

James Gondi is Programme Advisor for the Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice (KPTJ) coalition, whose secretariat is based at AfriCOG. He holds a Master of Laws degree from the Institute for European Studies (IES) in Brussels and has previously worked for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) among other positions, specialising in the area of international criminal justice.

See: <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-128485/plight-political-violence-victims>

Make a note - LSK holding public hearings into elections

The LSK is holding public hearings related to their investigations into the election, starting 30 July. Hearings are scheduled all week and will likely continue into the following week. LSK Chairman Mr. Eric Mutua said that the LSK constituted the committee to review and audit all aspects of Kenya's electoral process arising out of the 2013 general elections. He added that "The Committee also invites written submission, information, evidence (oral or documentary) on all aspects including, but not limited to demarcation of electoral boundaries and voter registration".

AfriCOG and The People's Court say thanks to...

Tashi Maseland and Tom Parker, who have been working as interns at AfriCOG for the past four months. They began working with AfriCOG during the recent election petition filed at the Supreme Court, assisting Dr. Seema Shah in her scrutiny of the IEBC figures. Since then, they have continued to work closely with Dr. Shah on the ongoing audit of the elections, as well as assisting other AfriCOG departments. In September, Tom goes to Nottingham, England to begin his LLB course, and hopes to specialise in international human rights law. Tashi will be going to Utrecht, the Netherlands to begin her liberal arts and sciences course, which will allow her to study pre-med, while still catering for her interests in law and human rights. She hopes to later contribute to the advancement of human rights through medical care.

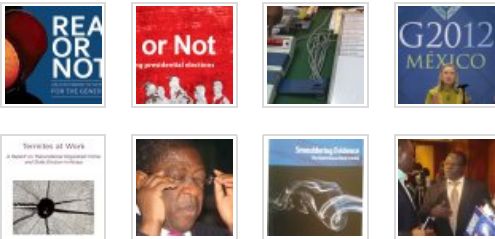
Both Tashi and Tom greatly enjoyed their time at AfriCOG and feel they have gained invaluable skills and experience. We look forward to seeing them again in the future.

We would also like to thank Mastewal T. Terefe (Mastish), an Ethiopian student studying at New York University, Abu Dhabi, who took over where Tom and Tashi left off. She is pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in Political Science and Social Research & Public Policy (SRPP). Previously she was an intern at the Brennan Center for Justice's New York City office and she also worked with the Egyptian American Rule of Law Association (EARLA).

Mastish, a Harambee Entrepreneur Alliance 2013 Associate, joined AfriCOG as a summer intern to learn more about the potential for evidence-based public advocacy in Africa's social and political future. She has now returned to her studies.



AfriCOG at a Glance



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