



**Diageo Awards**  
Reuters wins reporting award for best Africa Website 2007.  
[Read more](#)

Serving all your **corporate** and **personal** finance needs.



[Find out more >](#)

**ECOBANK** ...The Pan African Bank  
[www.ecobank.com](http://www.ecobank.com)

Fri 29 Feb 08 | 18:26 GMT

You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [Article](#)

**HOME**

**NEWS**

**News by Country**

**Sport**

**World**

**Oddly Enough**

**INVESTING**

**Markets**

**Metals & Mining**

**Energy & Oil**

**Agricultural Commodities**

**Quotes**

**Currencies**

**AlertNet**

Humanitarian News

**Do More With Reuters**

[RSS](#) 

[Interactive TV](#)

**Professional Products**

[Financial](#)

[Media](#)

[Support](#)

**About Reuters**

**Secure.  
Convenient.  
Reliable.  
Accessible.**

**ECOBANK**  
The Pan African Bank  
[www.ecobank.com](http://www.ecobank.com)

## Kenya's "women in white" to circle peace talks

Thu 21 Feb 2008, 14:33 GMT

By Wangui Kanina

[ - ] Text [ + ]

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Kenyan women wearing white clothes to symbolise peace vowed on Thursday to surround the venue of crisis talks until a solution is found to the east African country's worst turmoil since independence.

Many women and children have been among the victims of post-election violence which has killed at least 1,000 people and forced more than 300,000 from their homes in a country previously seen as one of Africa's most stable.



Cases of rape and sexual violence doubled within days of trouble erupting, according to the United Nations. In refugee camps, traumatised children in makeshift classrooms have been drawing burned houses and beheaded people.

"All of you -- wear your white dresses, carry your food. Tomorrow (Friday) we shall go to peace house," said Violet Mavisi, an activist with the Coalition of Women for Peace and Justice, referring

to the Nairobi hotel where talks are ongoing.

"We will circle their cars and make sure that those guys do not come out of there without a peace settlement."

In a possible breakthrough, a government negotiator said on Thursday his team had accepted in principle the creation of a new prime minister's post to accommodate opposition leader Raila Odinga, who says he was robbed of the December 27 vote by fraud.

About 150 of the self-styled "women in white" -- many wearing white scarves and flowing white African robes -- gathered at a Nairobi hotel on Thursday to coordinate plans.

"Just last night, a woman who was displaced gave birth in a police cell, where she had sought refuge," said Rukia Subow, head of Maendelo ya Wanawake (Women's Development) group.

"She is representative of the kind of violence that women are facing in Kenya."

In a statement, the women urged the male-dominated leadership of both government and opposition to ensure a comprehensive political settlement for sustainable peace.

"Kenyan women will accept nothing short of this and we will not relent until there is peace," it said.

Ted Olang, a 53-year-old woman from Odinga's west Kenya homeland, Nyanza, told how a gang burned her home because she backs President Mwai Kibaki.

"I will camp there (Serena) until there is peace," said Olang, who fled Nyanza to take refuge with friends in Nairobi.

"If I was not here I would be an internally displaced person in a camp, and a woman of my stature cannot go there," she said, wearing a green African print dress and gold ornaments.

© Reuters 2008. All Rights Reserved. | [Learn more about Reuters](#)

Serving all your **corporate** and **personal** finance needs. [Find out more >](#)



**ECOBANK** ...The Pan African Bank  
[www.ecobank.com](http://www.ecobank.com)

**POWERED BY REUTERS ALERTNET**

AlertNet provides news, images and insight from the world's disasters and conflicts and is brought to you by Reuters Foundation.

**LATEST ALERTNET CRISES NEWS**

[SOUTH AFRICA: Question marks over ARV tender](#)

[SOUTH AFRICA: Job creation, a work in progress](#)

[Kenyan leaders say coalition deal can work](#)

[Eleven die in road crash in northeast Nigeria](#)

[Q&A: Sudanese returnees benefit from Dutch lottery funds](#)

