

Catholic Task Force for Africa

Statement of Solidarity for Peaceful Election in Kenya

We, the members of the Catholic Task Force for Africa (CTFA) in the United States are following the Kenyan presidential electoral process with great interest and we wish to assure our brothers and sisters in Kenya of our solidarity and our prayers with you. Your constitution calls you to fulfill your civic obligations to elect your leaders. We join the people and friends of the Republic of Kenya who are working and praying fervently for a successful and peace-filled presidential election on March 4, 2013.



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Many remember the violence that erupted during the election of 2007. We encourage you, our brothers and sisters to reject any form of violence, refrain from hate speech and to avoid making ethnic tensions the center of this historic democratic exercise. We encourage you to use legal and peaceful mechanisms as you elect your next government.

We look to the words of the Catholic Bishops of Kenya to find solace and comfort:

The people of Kenya deserve better. To put the horror of five years ago behind us, we deserve the chance to hold free and fair elections and the chance to vote without fear and intimidation... Our dear Kenyans, we urge you to be peace loving people, promote peace and vote wisely according to informed and formed conscience...Let us all strive towards a united and peaceful Kenya.¹

During this time of Lent, be assured of our prayers.
Please join us in our daily prayer.

God of Peace and Reconciliation,

We call to you for great understanding and wisdom during this election season.

Keep each of us mindful of our actions, our words, our bodies and our hearts as they call for justice and equality. Give to each of us a mind for right relationship, our mouths for the words of love, use our bodies for the work of solidarity, and a heart to see our brothers and sisters next to us. Bring to us peace and reconciliation through our commitment to love and justice.

We look to our Messiah, your Son, Jesus to show us the examples we seek.

May we strive to be Christ's living embodiment of moving away from the temptation of injustice.

This Lent we seek to have a clean heart; to rend our hearts.

We know this only comes to us through Jesus' sacrificial death.

We ask this in your name, through the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. +

Members of Catholic Task Force on Africa

<http://www.afjn.org/about-afjn/collaborating-organizations/catholic-task-force-on-africa.html>

1. Press Release by the Catholic Bishops of Kenya. 24 January 2013.
http://www.kec.or.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=554:press-release-by-the-catholic-bishops-of-kenya&catid=114:latest&Itemid=275