

Dala Development, October 2017

Hello Friends,

Since the last time I sent an update, the political situation in the country has evolved quite a bit. Here's a little recap of what's been going on in case you were unaware:

The Kenyan general elections were held on August 8th and current president Uhuru Kenyatta was announced as the winner a few days later. The opposition had evidence that the elections were not fair or transparent so they took the matter to the Supreme Court. On September 1st Kenya made history when the Supreme Court nullified the elections! This is the fourth time in world history that an election was nullified and it was the first in Africa. And it all happened peacefully.

The repeat election is set for the 26th of October. That's this week. However, the opposition party had a list of "irreducible minimums" that must be met before they would consider a repeat election to be carried out with transparency and fairness. After insistence, protests, and demonstrations, the minimums were not met and the opposition candidate, Raila Odinga, withdrew from the election (which, according to him, would require fresh nominations before another election takes place, and more).

Most recently and very significantly, one of the electoral commissioners resigned saying that she does not want "to be party to such a mockery to electoral integrity." She made her resignation from NY (a safer place than Kenya as she felt her life was in danger) and said the commission is under siege and that there's no possibility of having a credible election next week. This led the Chairman of the commission to announce that an election can be carried out but he cannot guarantee it will be credible.

The current president has every intention of continuing with plans for this week (what does that say about a leader when he knows something will not be fair and wants to do it anyway?). The opposition will continue fighting to prevent it.

As a family, we have stayed in Kisumu through the protests and uncertainties. Tomorrow, however, we will head to the village where we know it will be calm.

Please keep Kenya in your prayers, peace is important but there will be no peace without justice. This is a critical time wrought with indescribable tensions, things could get very ugly.... or by God's grace, be very peacefully :). Pray also for us, that we would be wise in all the decisions we make and that God would continue to protect us and our staff.

With Love,  
Emily.