

the UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Kenyan Standing Committee on Human Rights which is about to publish its first report. With the release of the Apiny Odhiambo, the Government does not currently appear to be holding political prisoners.

The educational infrastructure has seriously deteriorated, particularly in rural areas. Employment of children is illegal and the Government works closely with the ILO to enforce the law. However, many children are forced to work on family farms or as servants. Officials estimate up to 45,000 thousand street children populate Nairobi alone, many of whom work as child prostitutes and the figure is increasing by as much as 10% annually. While constitutional and legal provisions generally do not discriminate against women, societal expectations about their role limit their education and employment opportunities.

### **CANADIAN POSITION**

Canada continues to engage the Government of Kenya on its stated commitment to improvements in human rights, good governance and democratic development. Kenya is not on the agenda of the UN Commission on Human Rights. During 1998, Canada continued to chair the Democratic Development Group (DDG) which engaged the Government on a series of human rights and good governance issues. As well, sixteen DDG missions including Canada observed the Makueni by-election on January 16, 1999.

The Canadian High Commission maintains regular contact with human rights organizations such as the Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Standing Committee on Human Rights and makes representations regularly, as for example, in the case of Lomoduro Amodia, whose case was raised with the Director of Public Prosecutions. The granting of TV and radio frequencies was raised with the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Authority. Canada sits on the Economic Governance Group chaired by the World Bank.

CIDA runs a five-year \$5 million Gender Equity support project, and established two \$500,000 funds in early 1998 to support democracy and good governance. Projects on civic education, voter education and the Ombudsman's office have been undertaken in coordination with other donors.