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MONIQUE LANDRY COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN KENYA

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, expressed concern today about the confrontations on March 3 and 4 between the Kenyan police and demonstrators. "I am saddened by this turn of events at a time when there is evidence that Kenya is turning towards a pluralistic democratic system," said Mrs. Landry. "The Canadian High Commissioner in Nairobi has conveyed our concerns to the Kenyan government. Our officials have similarly expressed our concern to the Kenyan High Commissioner in Ottawa."

"Canada welcomed the announcement of a return to multi-party democracy in December. The governing party, KANU, and the now legal opposition parties have been actively campaigning since," stated Mrs. Landry. She urged all parties to exercise restraint in the period leading to elections, and to show leadership by avoiding violence and provocation while campaigning. "Canada stands ready to assist Kenya as we have a number of other African countries preparing for multi-party elections," stated the Minister.

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