

Although personal security is still an issue, the situation is not as bad as it was a year ago. However, in the lead-up to the election, there has been an increase in violent robberies, with African Kenyans the primary targets. The Government's announced war on crime made little headway in face of the limited police resources and poorly paid police officers, many of whom supplement their incomes with bribes. In his December 12 Jamhuri Day speech, the President announced the formation of a committee to review salaries and working conditions.

The Government's "shoot-to-kill" practice and police treatment of detainees and prisoners continue to alarm both Kenyans and foreign observers. There are allegations of police torture during interrogations that have led to forced confessions. At the end of December, the Commissioner of Police was forced to step down after his officers used live ammunition to disperse two separate student demonstrations, killing three students in the process. The new Police Commissioner has defined the problem but has yet to implement a solution. Kenyan prisons currently hold more than twice as many inmates as they were intended to and the appalling conditions are life-threatening.

Kenyan electronic media are controlled by groups sympathetic to the KANU Government, which is reluctant to privatize the airwaves. However, there continues to be a surprising degree of freedom of the press, and criticism of the Head of State has grown increasingly bold, especially in the "Daily Nation" newspaper and "Economic Review" magazine. The "East African Standard" (Aga Khan) newspaper, one of three Nairobi dailies, seems to have kept its editorial independence even after its sale to a group with ties to the Government. Other independent magazines, also critical of the Government, are left alone.

In Nairobi, enrollment in primary schools has dropped by half in public schools, due to lack of Government funding. Some members of the Kikuyu and Luo communities, the traditional heavy users of the educational system, complain that their children are adversely affected by the Government's efforts to improve educational levels among other tribes. Many parents can no longer afford to pay school fees for their children due to Government increases. The number of street children in Kenyan cities has grown considerably (approx. 100,000). Child prostitution and sex tourism, especially along the coast, is a Government concern. According to UNICEF, Kenya has at least 30,000 Aids orphans and the number could rise to 1,000,000 by the year 2000. In his Jamhuri Day speech, President Moi announced the establishment of a foundation to aid street children, but if the idea bears fruits at all it will not be until well into 1997.

While constitutional and legal provisions generally do not discriminate against women per se, societal expectations about the role of women affect their educational and employment opportunities. Lack of access to property, polygamy and teenage pregnancy remain problems, in particular of rural women. Physical abuse is not condoned but occurs. Women continue to be highly under-represented in government, although the Minister of Culture and Social Services is a woman and President Moi has just named the first female to the powerful position of District Commissioner in Malindi.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada continues to call on the Kenyan Government to demonstrate its commitment to improved human rights, strengthened democratic development and improved governance in both bilateral and multilateral fora. Canadian officials regularly meet with senior Kenyan