



we care 4

- Verein für benachteiligte Kinder
c/o Natalie von Eisenhart, Lorenweg 3, 8610 Uster
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Situation in Kenia

Liebe Spender, Paten, Mitglieder, Freunde und Interessierte

Seit dem 27. Dezember 2007 befindet sich Kenia in einer tiefen Krise. Die Presse hat über die Geschehnisse berichtet. Wir sind sehr bestürzt über die Vorkommnisse und machen uns grosse Sorgen um unsere Kinder und unsere Freunde. Die Heime, die wir unterstützen befinden sich genau in den Krisenregionen Nakuru und Kisumu. Während den letzten Wochen standen wir in regelmässigem Kontakt mit unseren Bezugspersonen vor Ort. Wir glauben, dass Ihnen die folgenden Texte mehr Einblick in die momentane Situation in Kenia geben, als wir dies mit eigenen Worten tun könnten:

Folgende SMS haben wir von Monica Okwaro, Rektorin der Maseno School for the Deaf, Kisumu erhalten:

17.01.08: *Hi Natalie, how are you? Hope you received our Xmas Card. Hope you've started off New Year well. For us it has been hell. We started New Year with gunshots and demonstrations! We cannot move freely and pictures shown on TV are terrible. Students are still at home with parents since everybody is scared. Currently all E-Mail services in Maseno are not working. We will send you detailed info's soon. Imagine we have become refugees in our own country! Foodstuff is not affordable...*

28.01.08: *Hi, thanks for your concern. Your message was so encouraging. Imagine, as peace talk is going on, civil war is on and hundreds of people are being killed. There is war in Kisumu now and even in Maseno properties are being burnt and people are really scared. I have 20 children with me here. I can't send them home because roads are blocked. Will just die with them here if the worst comes to the worst. Keep on praying for us dear. Kenya has really changed!*

29.01.08: *Dear Natalie, how are you? Thanks for your message. Situation a bit calm though can't be sure of what will happen next. I've reported to police and they've promised to provide security. Cost of foodstuff has really gone up. One Student... TTL orphan lost everything to fire. Their house has burnt to ashes. More reports yet to come. Will keep you informed. The School car is available but risky to use as they can be burnt.*

15.02.08: *How are you? Thanks for your beautiful Christmas gift (wir haben ihnen ein Fotoalbum von unserem letzten Besuch geschickt) the photos are beautiful and we really appreciate them. Things have cooled a bit and people waiting for mediation results. ¾ of children have come back to school and learning is going on. Reports on dormitory will follow. Love Monica*

Lagebericht von Shamsheer Gilani, Chairman von SCANN, Nakuru:

Gesendet: Donnerstag, 31. Januar 2008, 09:35

SCANN AND NAKURU UPDATE

Hello Everyone,

Many thanks to many of you who have e-mailed me and thanks for your prayers and Good wishes. Last time I wrote, I mentioned Nakuru was safe and well and that we were lucky to miss the clashes.



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However, on Thursday Night (24th) last week, All Hell broke loose in Nakuru. The mayhem continued unabated until Monday Night. Thank God it is now much better though all areas are Curfew from 7.00pm to 7.00am for the last 5 days. There are still Gun Shots heard at Night in certain areas – Police firing in the Air to disperse Groups of Youths gathering to cause trouble.

Since Thursday Night, Hundreds of Homes were burnt, Thousands were robbed of all their Belongings – including Furniture, Clothes, Cooking Utensils etc and as you can imagine Tens of Thousands displaced looking to Transport their belongings and families to safer places.

In the last 3 days I have moved in our Trucks 21 families of our Employees using Armed Guards (Hired Policemen). Most have moved to our Company Warehouse grounds where we have pitched 3 large Tents. So far two of our staff lost everything when their houses were Burnt and about 5 Lost all their belongings to youths and even women armed with Machetes. One former SCANN Child who we trained to be a Cook now living independently and employed at our Restaurant found all his belongings stolen and a stranger living in his rented room.

Almost 20% of our 350 Staff has still not reported to work as some have gone to their Ancestral homes, some busy re-locating and some too scared to get out of their homes. Our Company has already Donated Cash to all our affected Staff to help replace their losses and rebuild their lives. We have also allowed our Staff to take early Advances and Interest Free Company Loans.

The Highways to Eldoret, Kisumu and even Nairobi were blocked with Rocks, Posts, Trees etc by Gangs of Youths who would stop and check every Vehicle and demand I.D. Cards. If you were the "Wrong" Tribe many were severely beaten and many Hacked to Death! It was the same story in various highly populated Residential Estates. Gangs of Youths – sometimes as many as 200 to 500 were going from House to House, Killing and Burning Homes of People of Different Tribes.

We have heard harrowing stories from our Staff of how innocent people were just slaughtered and shot with Arrows. My brother Zahir from his House saw 4 people Hacked to Death in one day including a Fireman driving our only Fire Truck in Nakuru. The Fire Truck was also burnt to the Ground. The Police were overwhelmed and have now brought in the Army to help curb the violence. Roads to all places out of Nakuru are still not safe as Youths would appear out of nowhere and block the Roads.

Two days ago in Kericho along the Nakuru – Kisumu Road 5 Buses were stopped, passengers forced out and all 5 were burnt to the Ground. The Buses were travelling in a Convoy with Armed Police Escorts! Many Trucks and Cars also burnt and destroyed.

Our Nakuru Showground where "Refugees" are housed – many on an open field and some in Tents is bursting at its seams. We now have over 10,000 people there. A second Centre at the Stadium has been set up with I believe 5,000 people. They don't have enough Shelter or Food or Cooking facilities – it's just a Mess. The Government is pushing hard to close down all such Centres around the Country. There are Hundreds of Thousands of people camped at Police Stations, Prisons, Schools, Churches etc. With their homes Burnt, and nowhere to go, what will happen? Only God knows! The Red Cross is doing its best but just can't cope.

We continue to provide Food, Blankets, Fresh Vegetables etc to these Camps daily – Question is how much and for how long?

Yesterday Red Cross through the Government Children's Office sent us 14 Case Histories of displaced Children needing assistance. SCANN has resolved to take all 14 and we have today asked them to bring the Children to us. In spite of all that is happening, I am pleased to inform you all our SCANN Children are safe and well and so is everyone in the Gilani Family.



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Though Schools have opened officially, many still remain closed. Most SCANN Children are in School, however we have about 10 Boys in Secondary Schools in areas we consider "Not Safe" as yet so they stay back. However if all goes well, they should all be back by Monday.

In view of all that is happening the Chaos, Panic, Tension, Emergency Needs, please understand I am unable to write or reply individually – however please keep e-mailing – we need your support and prayers. We are also late in sending Packages and requests for Renewals of SCANN Sponsorships – we hope to get to these once life gets back to normal – soon we pray.

Finally, to all of you, thanks for your support to us and our SCANN Children, for your Prayers and Good wishes and to a Number of you who have sent Donations to help our Needy and our SCANN Children – God Bless you and may you be rewarded many folds.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Shamsher Gilani, Chairman SCANN

Da wir nur ein kleiner Verein mit beschränkten Mitteln sind, haben wir uns bei der Gründung gesagt, dass wir nicht in der Katastrophenhilfe tätig sein werden, weil wir weder die Ressourcen noch die finanziellen Mittel dazu haben. Wir können und wollen aber nicht untätig zuschauen und unsere Kinder und Freunde alleine lassen. Unsere Mails, Anrufe und SMS haben ihnen sicherlich schon grosse moralische Unterstützung gegeben, doch wir möchten mehr tun!

Die grösste Schwierigkeit momentan ist, an Nahrungsmittel und Wasser zu gelangen. Die Strassen sind blockiert, die Preise steigen ins Unermessliche. Inländische Geldgeber ziehen sich immer mehr zurück, weil sie selbst von den Unruhen betroffen sind und ihre eigenen Probleme zu lösen haben.

Helfen Sie uns dabei, die Grundversorgung der Kinder bei SCANN und der Maseno School sicherzustellen. **Spenden**, die auf das **Konto 0559-943481-41; BC 559, IBAN: CH70 0483 5094 3481 4100 0 bei der CREDIT SUISSE Zürich** eingehen, werden umgehend an unsere Projekte verteilt, um weiterhin das Nötigste an Nahrungsmitteln und medizinischer Grundversorgung gewährleisten zu können. Wir würden uns sehr freuen, dabei auf Ihre Unterstützung zählen zu dürfen. Vielen Dank!

Wir hoffen, Ihnen bald wieder bessere Nachrichten aus Kenia zu überbringen und verbleiben

mit herzlichen Grüssen

Michèle Gmünder

P.S.: Sollten Sie Interesse daran haben, generell der Krisenregion um Nakuru finanzielle Hilfe zu leisten, stehen wir für weitere Auskünfte gerne zur Verfügung.