

This morning, following a fairly peaceful and restful night, I awoke at 0645 to the sun shining and birds singing as usual. Within 30 mins the peace was disturbed by groups shouting and chanting followed shortly after by gunshots, explosions which I presume were from teargas canisters. The gunshot sounds gradually moved ever closer reaching the surrounding fields and lanes, and from the front balcony I could see police at the main road in a crouching position firing at groups of people. Last night before dark immediately after Mwai Kibaki was declared the presidential winner and very quickly reinstated as President, fires were burning all around us, one house on fire just some 200 metres away. This house was owned by a Kikuyu, who had several heavy lorries in his compound and who employed several local people. The lunacy of all this is astounding.

News broadcasts, only satellite like Skye, though the best coverage is on Aljezeera News, are reporting at least 15 people killed today in the country. The government have imposed a news blackout and banned all live broadcasts. Here we believe, from passed word that there is a curfew in place from 0600 to 1800 hrs.

We seem to be safe if remaining in the compound though incredibly a few went out this morning without permission and with the guard opening the gate for them, at a time when gun shots were not that distant and which as I said above were getting ever closer. It is horrifying to see and hear all this and

to know the suffering that is taking place; bonfire night will never be quite the same again!

We have not been able to leave the house to go any distance since Friday and clearly food etc is a growing concern. In the house we have enough rice and beans to last for about 5 days - sadly, though not for me, we are out of Ugali flour so I'm not sure how our boys will survive without that for so long.

My phone credit is now also getting low and with this as with basic commodities we cannot get to shops; - small duka's are shut up and also their stocks are running out.

On the question of the election one just does not know. The election itself went incredibly peacefully up until the final counts for the President. Presidential election results whatever the truth must have produced a fairly equal split between the two main contenders, Kibaki and Raila, and sadly unlike the previous election voting was very much on tribal lines.

Obviously I, like virtually everyone else, only know what the media and politicians tell us, but looking at the chaotic electoral commission of Kenya (ECK) scenes yesterday reporting on constituency results, and the apparent discrepancies between their figures and that of the returning officers/observers it does appear that many voting figures were changed in favour of Kibaki. Sensible analyst's on TV yesterday, when things were beginning to get out of hand, were suggesting that the ECK publicly and in front of TV camera's etc go over approx 40 constituency results which

were being challenged, not to recount the votes but to compare the figures that they had announced with those of the official forms given to party observers on completion of each count. It was said this would only take about two hours and would once and for all settle the disputed figures. ECK clearly rejected this, and more or less in private went ahead with giving the poll counts and within one hour of the final declaration by ECK Kibaki was sworn in in private again as President.

Whatever the truth of the figures the delay, 3 days, and the way it went in the final hours gave credibility to the suspicion that the whole thing was being rigged in his favour. Where this nation goes from here I do not know. Raila has said he is forming and will run a parallel government. If he goes ahead with this it can only split this now very divided country even further and where that leaves all of us I do not know. It is so sad and depressing.

I am now hearing that 45 people are reported killed here in Western Kenya.

1210hrs gun shots are around us again.

We were without power again from last night until 1030 this morning only fuelling the suspicion that this was deliberate to keep people in the 'dark' over things.