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## **Militants divide Kenya miners by religion, then begin killing**

The New York Times (02.12.2014) - The Kenyan miners were marched off in the predawn dark on Tuesday, some barefoot, others shirtless.

The Somali militants methodically separated the Christian workers from the Muslims and took the Christians to the side of a hill, near a gravel pit. Then they ordered the disbelievers to lie face down.

According to the Kenyan authorities, the militants killed 36 people, most of them young men. Many were shot in the back of the head, at close range, and some were decapitated. It appeared all the Muslims had been spared.

The killings, which followed a similar sequence on a passenger bus less than two weeks earlier, unnerved the Kenyan public and led to the ouster of Kenya's top security chiefs.

"Innocent Kenyan lives have been lost, in a most harrowing manner, to these animals," said Kenya's president, Uhuru Kenyatta.

But, he said, "We will not flinch."

Kenya has been severely hampered by Somali militants next door, a problem that never seems to go away. It started in the 1960s and became acute in the early 1990s, when Somalia's government collapsed and hundreds of thousands of refugees, and waves of gunmen called shiftas, fled into Kenya.

In the past few years, the Shabab militant group, an affiliate of Al Qaeda operating from southern Somalia, has been terrorizing Kenya with dozens of attacks, from rolling grenades into bus stops to slaughtering shoppers, as happened last year in an upscale mall in Nairobi.

On Tuesday, the Shabab asserted responsibility for the gravel pit killings, saying, as they have before, that they had executed disbelievers and crusaders in response to Kenya's deployment of peacekeeping troops into southern Somalia.

Analysts say that the Shabab, who have recently been hit by scores of defections, are now trying to foment a religious war and that the Kenyan security forces must not rise to the bait.

In past crackdowns, Kenyan police officers have rounded up thousands of Somalis, brutalizing civilians and locking innocent men, women and children in a stadium. At the same time, several Muslim preachers have been assassinated, setting off antigovernment riots along Kenya's coast. A secret counterterrorist unit of the Kenyan police is widely suspected of killing the preachers, which seems only to have increased tensions.

"From a propaganda standpoint, I suspect that Shabab is trying to play the role of a Robin Hood, swooping in at random to avenge the wrongs done to the Muslim communities," said Bronwyn Bruton, deputy director of the Africa Center of the Atlantic Council in Washington.

The goal of the Shabab, she said, is "to draw down indiscriminate fire on the Muslim population" and to goad the Kenyan security forces into counterproductive dragnets and purges.

In Kenya, the Shabab have now become the enemy everyone fears. They have been cast out of nearly all of their former strongholds in Somalia by a coalition of East African forces, including the Kenyans, and in September, American commandos killed the longtime Shabab leader.

The group has lost all the major income-producing ports it once controlled. With the Islamic State gaining strength in Iraq and Syria, the Shabab are no longer a magnet for foreign fighters.

But clearly, the Shabab are not finished. The group still fields hundreds of gunmen, many young and enthusiastic, and its sympathizers across East Africa have carried out their own deadly attacks. Kenya has become the prime target, especially the loosely governed north, where the quarry and bus attacks took place: a vast, arid, sparsely populated area where public services, especially security patrols, are few.

According to Kenyan police reports, around 20 gunmen crept into the quarry area Tuesday at 1 a.m. Most of the miners were asleep. Two were beheaded in their tents.

Even before this attack, Kenyans were infuriated with the breakdowns in public safety, recently holding a protest in Nairobi, the capital, accusing Mr. Kenyatta of weakness.

On Tuesday, hours after the quarry attack, he responded by accepting the resignation of the national police chief and dismissing the internal security minister, a former hotel manager described by many Kenyans as alarmingly unqualified.

Mr. Kenyatta did not immediately name a new police chief, but he announced that Joseph Ole Nkaissey, a retired general, would be the next internal security minister. Mr. Ole Nkaissey is from the same ethnic group, the Masai, as his predecessor. Commentators instantly accused Mr. Kenyatta of playing ethnic politics at the expense of security reform.

Afyare A. Elmi, a political science professor and Somalia specialist at Qatar University, said Kenya's next move was crucial.

"Anything that has the appearance of collective punishment will only help the Shabab," he said. "Kenya's response should be measured."

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## **Minaa and Swafaa mosques in Mombasa closed after another dawn raid**

Daily Nation (19.11.2014) - <http://www.nation.co.ke/counties/mombasa/Two-mosques-in-Mombasa-closed-after-another-dawn-raid/-/1954178/2527980/-/91myeq/-/index.html> - Police in Mombasa County on Wednesday mounted another dawn raid on two mosques in Kisauni - where machete-wielding gangs attacked residents on Monday night - and arrested 109 people.

After the operation at Minaa and Swafaa mosques, the [officers](#) displayed an assortment of paraphernalia, including a hand grenade, nine petrol bombs and two 9mm rounds of ammunition.

The police also said they found a bomb detonator, an explosive booster, three machetes, a knife and literature on Muslim teachings.

Kisauni OCPD Richard Ngatia said there was no resistance during the raid, which started at midnight, and that the mosques would remain closed until they are done with their investigations.

The police requested worshippers to instead pray in other mosques.

"As of now, the mosques are crime scenes and nobody should tamper with them. We are also aware of the aftermath and we have taken that into consideration to deal with it," he added.

Two other mosques - Masjid Musa and Sakina, where police conducted an earlier operation on Monday and arrested 251 youths - will also remain closed.

"We [received](#) intelligence information that some mosques in Kisauni were radicalising youths, training them in jihadism.

"We conducted an operation in the entire Kisauni Sub-County with specific attention to the mosques that featured in the intelligence report," said Mr Ngatia.

Police told journalists that in Minaa mosque they arrested one person and seized three machetes and a knife.

Mr Ngatia said no arrests were made at Masjid Swafaa because "the youths escaped through the back by scaling a perimeter wall".

"At Masjid Swafaa, which was recently in the limelight after youths took it over, we recovered a hand grenade, some petrol bombs, (a) bomb detonator and booster and equipment associated in training in jihadism and literature expressing hatred towards the media.

"It is obviously clear that a lot more than preaching and prayers (is) taking place in these mosques. We shall not relent, we shall pursue these radicals to every corner," Mr Ngatia warned.

The OCPD said police were already screening the 109 people to ensure that the innocent ones who were netted in the swoop are released.

He urged parents to find out where their children go to worship, saying that they should take charge of their children.

"Think twice and ponder where your children go to worship - as parents you must not allow your children to walk into any place just because it is a place of worship," the Kisauni police boss said.

By the time of filing this story, the police were yet to arrest any politicians, who County Commissioner Nelson Marwa claimed were providing support for the youths who killed four people in Kisauni and injured seven others on Tuesday.

The victims include three who were stabbed to death at three bus stops in Kisauni and have been identified as Joshua Muteti, 35, Fadhili Juma Yuyu, 33, and Zephania Njeru Nyagah.

Mr Yuyu was buried on Tuesday, while the bodies of the other two are at the Coast General Hospital mortuary, where they were taken by police.

Mr Fanuel Mogesani and Juma Ameena Mbere were on Wednesday still nursing their injuries at the hospital.

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## **Kenyan coast Christians fear for lives as local politicians appear to be linked to Al Shabab**

World Watch Monitor (01.08.2014) - After at least 65 people were killed a month ago on June 15 in the predominantly Christian town of Mkepetoni, 40km inland from Kenya's mainly Muslim coastal strip, attacks in the area have continued.

Now residents are sleeping in a nearby prison because they are scared to stay at home.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, in a Hindi village, 20 km from Mkepetoni, up to 20 attackers killed at least 13 people with guns and knives. Among those killed was Kenya Kazungu, who was found with a Bible on his back in a pool of blood, according to eyewitnesses. Another victim was reported to be Ken Mangara, a 12-year-old student at Kibiboni primary school.

One survivor said the assailants told non-Muslims to leave the area. "The attackers talked in Somali and Swahili, saying non-Muslims should get out, and if not they should convert to Islam."

Two nights after the Hindi attack, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, assailants arrived at Covenant c

hurch, 3km north of Hindi, as a Bible study ended. As participants fled, two men, Joseph Kangethe and Kenda Masha, who instead chose to hide, died when the attackers set fire to the building.

A Catholic church building in the village of Gamba, in neighboring Tana River County, was also razed the same night.

This on-going pattern of attacks is particularly terrifying because the Somali Islamist militant extremists Al Shabab appear to be claiming responsibility. But Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has also been blaming local leading politicians, including the opposition Governor of the local county, Lamu, whose arrest - on charges of murder, terrorism and eviction of residents - the President ordered after the Mkepetoni attacks.

The Kenyan President appears to accuse the Governor Issa Timamy (now released on bail, awaiting trial) not only because he is an opposition politician, but also partly because Timamy is from the local coastal community. The Mkepetoni attacks appeared to be directed at Kenyans from other ethnic groups who settled in the area from their ancestral homes in the surrounding area decades ago, including Kikuyus, Uhuru Kenyatta's ethnic background.

Timamy told reporters outside the court: "I am not responsible for those attacks. Why would I kill my own people in my own county? I am innocent and if they (police) think I actually committed the crimes, then they should not have released me."

A Deputy Inspector General of Police, Grace Kaindi, has told reporters that preliminary investigations of the latest attacks in Hindi and Gamba point to a separatist group, the Mombasa Republican Council.

The message also suggested the attackers support opposition leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

There have been various reasons given for the sharp rise in insecurity not only in Kenya's coastal region, but also in other parts of the country like Wajir and Mandera in the north, close to the Somali border, among others.

Key among them have been the claims that Al Shabab is behind the killings with claims that the Kenyan forces deployed in Somalia as part of the peacekeeping troops (with an aim of stamping out the militant group) are the group's main target. Al Shabab view the Kenyan forces as invading their country. But there are those in Kenya who question this view.

"Why is it only Kenya that is being attacked for taking troops to Somalia? Ethiopia and other African countries have their troops in Somalia, but they have not been attacked. We need to find out what Ethiopia and others are doing to avoid these attacks taking place in their countries," says Sheikh Juma Ngao, the National Chairman, Kenya Muslims' National Advisory Council (KEMNAC).

When the Mpeketoni attacks took place in Kenya for the first time on June 15, 2014, there were claims that Al Shabab had sent a tweet stating that they were behind the killings. This view was quickly refuted by the President who said that this was a Kenyan political issue. (A man was later arrested and charged with operating the fake Al Shabab tweet account that asserted involvement in the killings).

While the attacks in Kenya have grabbed international headlines, resulting in travel advisories for overseas tourists, local ethnic rivalries have festered for decades in Lamu and neighbouring Tana River. More than 100 people were killed in 2012 and 2013 in fighting over water and grazing land.

Ethnic violence has erupted in the past in Kenya, notably after a contested 2007 election when about 1,200 people were killed in tribal clashes.

Now it appears as if an intricate web of overlapping political and religious agendas is thickening in the region, with interlocking and clashing interests over land, religion, ethnicity and politics becoming ever more closely bound up, and ever harder to disentangle.

"We need to understand radicalization. The presence of terrorists is here among us. They are threatening all the people in the region no matter which faith you are in. It's time for the Christian church to understand our neighbours from different faiths and

realise we are not living in a vacuum," says Rt. Rev. Julius R.K. Kalu, the Anglican Bishop of Mombasa.

Radicalism in the region is also an area of concern for the Muslim community as Sheikh Juma Ngao, the National Chairman, Kenya Muslims' National Advisory Council confirms: "I do not support extremism. No one should be forced to join a religion they do not want to ascribe to."

The political temperatures in the country have raised concern among various religious groups in the country.

"We the Catholic bishops, compelled by our desire for peace for our nation, fervently ask the political leaders of our country, both of the government and the opposition, to put aside their personal and party interests, in order to address critical issues which are affecting our country," cites a statement released by Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops on 25 June.

This statement came shortly after another one by church leaders, meeting under the umbrella of the Anglican church, which decried the insecurity situation in the country on 20 June.

"We have watched in recent days as politicians who promised and swore that never again would Kenya walk the sad road of ethnic violence of 2007/2008, move around inciting Kenyans against one another and causing unnecessary tensions," said a joint statement by Christian leaders.

These political tensions have been rising due to the calls for the main opposition Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD) calling for the main ruling party Jubilee Alliance to have a conversation on what is going wrong in the Kenyan society. One of the key issues they have raised is insecurity.

This has been against the backdrop of growing instability since last year, when there was a series of terrorist attacks including the Westgate Mall in the capital Nairobi in September, where 67 people died and many others suffered immense loss.

"It grieves to helplessly witness the spate of insecurity undergo a metamorphosis from the awakening of outlawed militia groups, to infiltration of illegal immigrants, to radical religious insurgents and blatant terrorist attacks. The situation has spiralled to affect other key industries in the Country including tourism, trade and international relations," the church leaders added.

"The terrorism advisories by Western countries such as the UK and US are unwarranted as it is curtailing markets," said Sam Ikwaye of the Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers. He further added that the advisories came during the low tourism season; however, there has been a negative impact already.

"There are about 4500 people who are now out of employment. If this trend of the advisories against the coastal area continues up to late July when the tourism season is expected to peak, then there is a possibility that business in the coastal region may not pick up," Ikwaye reiterated.

He noted with concern that "the country appears to be in a campaign mode as the opposition conducts various county tours calling for dialogue. This mode is not positive for encouraging the tourists to come as is evident every five years when the country conducts elections".

Ikwaye however, noted that the various stakeholders in the coastal region are working together towards setting up standard operating security systems that take into consideration new technological advances.

The coastal region has seen many religious leaders being killed; there are now concerted efforts by the clerics in the area to dialogue together and speak out on insecurity as a common voice.

This is being achieved under umbrella bodies such as the Interfaith Council among others in the region. The clerics are also working at grassroots level towards dealing with issues that affect communities together such as attending burials together when alleged terrorist attacks occur.

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## **Al-Shabaab went from door to door killing non-Muslims**

Daily Mail Online (17.06.2014) - 'My husband told them we were Christians and they shot him in the head': How al-Shabaab militia went from door to door killing non-Muslims as Kenyan village watched World Cup

Somali militants who murdered 48 people in a Kenyan village as they watched the World Cup went door to door asking residents if they were Muslim or spoke Somali - and shot them dead if either answer was 'no', witnesses revealed today.

The attack on the coastal village of Mpeketoni, about 30-miles southwest of the tourist centre of Lamu, came at the end of a weekend of bloodshed that has exposed the world to the shocking depravity of terrorists, apparently emboldened by each other's acts.

Witnesses told how about 30 gunmen - believed to be members of Somali terror group al-Shabaab - arrived in the town in minibuses at 8pm yesterday before bursting into residents homes, shooting dead any man they thought was not Muslim.

'They came to our house at around 8pm and asked us in Swahili whether we were Muslims,' said Anne Gathigi. 'My husband told them we were Christians and they shot him in the head and chest.'

Another resident, John Waweru, said his two brothers were killed because the attackers did not like that the brothers did not speak Somali.

'My brothers who stay next door to me were killed as I watched. I was peeping from my window and I clearly heard them speak to my brothers in Somali and it seems since my brothers did not meet their expectations, they sprayed them with bullets and moved on,' said Waweru.

In Kenya, dozens of extremists attacked a Kenyan coastal town for hours, killing those who weren't Muslim and those who didn't know the Somali language, officials and witnesses said today. At least 48 people were killed and two hotels were set on fire.

The assault in Mpeketoni began on Sunday night as residents watched World Cup matches on TV and lasted until early on Monday morning, with little resistance put up by Kenya's security forces. Cars and buildings still smoldered at daybreak.

Authorities blamed al-Shabaab, Somalia's al-Qaida-linked terror group, who have vowed to carry out terror attacks to avenge the Kenyan military presence in Somali. Along with its Somali fighters, the group also has many Kenyan adherents. By midday Monday the group had not claimed responsibility.

Like the gunmen who attacked Nairobi's Westgate Mall last year, the Mpeketoni attackers gave life-or-death religious assessment, a witness said, killing those who were not Muslim.

At the Breeze View Hotel, the gunmen pulled the men aside and ordered the women to watch as they killed them, saying it was what Kenyan troops are doing to Somali men inside Somalia, a police commander said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to share such details of the attack.

Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku said the attackers fled into the nearby wilds, known as the Boni Forest after a 'fierce exchange of fire' with security forces.

He said 20 vehicles had been set on fire.

At a news conference, Ole Lenku was forced to defend the government's security record after a string of attacks. He also warned opposition politicians against inciting violence, saying it was possible the attack was linked to politics. The claim was immediately dismissed by security experts who are now a staple of Kenyan news shows.

Mpeketoni is about 20 miles (30 kilometers) southwest of the tourist center of Lamu. Any tourism in Mpeketoni is mostly local, with few foreigners visiting the area. The town is 60 miles (100 kilometers) from the SKenya has experienced a wave of gunfire and explosive attacks in recent months. The U.S., U.K., France, Australia, and Canada have all recently upgraded their terror threat warnings for the country. U.S. Marines behind sandbag bunkers are now stationed on the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

The Interior Ministry said that at about 8 p.m. on Sunday, two minivans entered the town. Militants disembarked and began shooting. Kenya's National Disaster Operations Center said military surveillance planes were launched shortly afterward.

Lamu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the country's oldest continually inhabited town. The region saw a spate of kidnappings of foreign tourists in 2011 that Kenya said was part of its motivation for attacking al-Shabaab in Somalia. Since those attacks and subsequent terror warnings, tourism has dropped off sharply around Lamu.

At least 67 people were killed in September when four al-Shabaab gunmen attacked an upscale mall in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Kenya sent its troops to Somalia in October 2011.

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## **Kenya: Six dead in gun attack on church near Mombasa**

CSW (24.03.2014) - The death toll in a gun attack on 23 March on the Joy in Jesus Christ Church in Likoni, near the Kenyan port city of Mombasa, has risen to six, after four victims died in hospital.

At least two gunmen are reported to have been involved in the attack, which occurred at around 10 am. According to eyewitnesses, the men mingled with the congregation before opening fire indiscriminately with a pistol and an AK-47 machine gun, killing two people and injuring 21 others, eight of whom are still hospitalised. Eyewitnesses report that after opening fire, the men casually walked away from the scene, mingling with the public. According to one local media source, the gunmen subsequently attempted to storm another church, but left quickly after realising that it was guarded by police officers.



Although no group has as yet claimed responsibility for the attack, it is widely suspected to be the work of the Somali Islamist terror group al Shabaab or its sympathisers. One hundred suspects have reportedly been detained for questioning by the police in connection with the attack; however the main culprits are suspected to still be at large.

The attack on Likoni comes a week after Mombasa police seized a stolen car full of powerful explosives and arrested suspected terrorists, two of whom were later charged with terrorism-related offences. It is the third significant religiously motivated attack to occur in the Likoni area. On Christmas Eve 2013, assailants torched Christ's Outreach Church in the Mweza area of Likoni Constituency. In June, at least 16 people were injured when an explosive device was thrown at an outdoor event at Earthquake Miracle Ministries in the Mrima area by two people on a motorcycle.

According to Kenyan police and intelligence sources, a combination of an active Al Shabaab cell and militant separatists is the source of much of the violence, particularly in Mombasa.

Other religiously motivated attacks in the area include an attempt to burn down the Baptist Church in Kisauni in October 2013. This was followed by the killings of Redeemed Gospel Church Pastor Charles Matole in Kisauni and Pastor Ebrahim Kidata of East African Pentecostal Church in Kilifi. Prior to his death, Pastor Kidata reportedly received threatening text messages and had informed his wife that his life was in danger. The pastors' murders followed rioting by Muslim youths angered at the killing of radical Sheikh Ibrahim Omar and three others on a road near Mombasa. In early December 2013 a text message suspected to have been leaked by Kenyan intelligence warned that jihadis led by a Mr Hassan Suleiman Mwayuyu, a wanted terrorist who was gunned down soon thereafter, were planning an arson campaign against churches in Likoni, Kisauni, Changamwe and Kwale. Subsequently, on 14 February 2014, Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge, an assistant pastor at Glory of God Ministries Church in Mombasa, was murdered while guarding the church building.

Daniel Sinclair, Communications Director at Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), said, "We extend our condolences to the families bereaved in the appalling attack on the Joy in Jesus Christ church service yesterday. The dangerous elements targeting the Christian community also represent a threat to security and rule of law in the country, which affects every citizen. We urge the Kenyan government to ensure that churches in Mombasa are adequately protected. We also urge the government to act swiftly to bring the gunmen to justice and deal robustly with the militant elements who are not only determined to deny the full enjoyment of freedom of religion to local Christians, but who also endanger the peace and security of the nation."

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## **Mombasa church gun attack kills at least six, injures 21**

### ***Radical Islamists suspected as Kenyan coastal city unrest continues***

World Watch Monitor (25.03.2014) - At least six people have died since masked gunmen stormed a church on Sunday in Kenya's second city Mombasa, injuring about 21 others.

The armed men, believed to be three or four in number, struck the Joy Jesus Pentecostal Church in the Sinai area in Likoni, on the mainland just south of the island heart of the city during the morning service, killing the church's Assistant Pastor Philip Masela Ambesta. Two of the attackers had forced their way into the church through a backdoor, after killing a 60 year old watchman.

"It is painful that someone can walk into church and spray bullets, killing people including children. This is totally unacceptable and the Muslim community have to do something to bring it into an end," Bishop Benson Muthama of Pentecostal Church Act on Mombasa Island told World Watch Monitor in an interview the morning after the attack.

The Catholic Bishop of Malindi and Apostolic Administrator of Mombasa, away at the time, confirmed this to the Fides news agency: "According to what I was told, a gunman came shooting out of the back door of the church, while the other two accomplices were at the main door to prevent the faithful from escaping. Four people died on the spot and 21 were injured."

Recently churches in the city have come under increased threats and attacks from suspected Islamists, according to church leaders.

From these trends, according to Benson Muthama, the radical Islamists seem to be sending a signal that they would no longer tolerate Christians on the island.

Only last week, Mombasa police arrested two people driving a car with two hidden improvised bombs, after a tip-off. The target has not yet been identified, but the incident led to a continuing heightened state of alert.

The two faith groups had co-existed peacefully for years, until Kenya sent troops to Somalia in pursuit of Al-Shabaab Islamic militants who have control of much of Kenya's eastern neighbour, leaving it as a 'failed state'. When Kenya sent in its army, in October 2011, it accused the Somali militants of attacking, killing and abducting its citizens and foreign aid workers. There were also high-profile cases involving snatching tourists from Kenyan resorts which damaged Kenya's international profile and economy. As reported by a US private intelligence agency in May 2012, Al-Shabaab leaders immediately warned that blood will flow in Kenyan cities and towns, Nairobi's skyscrapers would come down and Kenyan "fragile" citizens would "mourn in pain".

Since then, a series of attacks involving grenades and improvised bombs have hit churches in Nairobi, Mombasa and Garissa (close to Kenya's Somali border). In September 2013, radical Islamists claimed responsibility for the Westgate Shopping Mall terrorist attack in Nairobi, where Al Shabaab gunmen killed at least 67 people and injured 175.

As Christians began trooping to churches for their Sunday services, the attackers had begun by hunting for a church to attack in the area, according to the Rev. Wilybard Lagho, the Vicar-General of the Mombasa Roman Catholic diocese.

Their first destination was the Consolata Roman Catholic Church and then the famous Pastor Wilfred Lai's Jesus Celebration Center, a part of Redeemed Gospel Churches (RGC) in Kenya, according to reports of suspicious-looking visitors to both churches which had been passed onto Lagho. Finding the police on guard, the attackers left to find the Joy Jesus Church apparently unguarded and so attacked it. This is the sixth or seventh time this church has been attacked, one of the church's pastors told journalists.

In October 2013, an RGC leader in Mtopanga, near Mombasa, was shot dead in church as he prepared for services. His death came days after Mombasa witnessed its worst rioting

in recent years after the drive-by shooting of a Muslim Imam, Ibrahim Rogo, itself in the aftermath of the Westgate mall attack).

According to Rev. Lagho, this latest attack on Sunday 23rd March was well planned.

"I think it is meant to cause fear among the Christians, but we urged our faithful to remain calm and not lose hope," he told World Watch Monitor. "We also think it is made to drive a wedge between Christians and Muslims in the region, and also to drive away tourists."

Pentecostal Bishop Muthama is concerned about this too. "Many times it is said sheikhs and pastors are talking to try to defuse the tensions... but I think it's all hypocrisy. We insist the Muslims must find a way of control their people. Christians have never attacked any mosques. If they continue, I don't rule out Christians retaliating.

"Nobody is going to wait for a church to be attacked. The churches are not built by the government. We collect money to build them," he stated.

The attack comes amid concerns over growing radicalization of Muslim youths on the Kenyan coast. Last month, the police stormed the Masjid Musa Mosque in the Kisauni area to stop an alleged recruitment by Al-Shabab. More than 100 people appeared in court in Mombasa accused of being members, as we reported. Police spokesperson Zipporah Mboroki has said security agencies are treating such recruitment as a criminal activity.

"The area of Mombasa is considered the stronghold of an Islamist movement of secession" added the Catholic Bishop to the Fides agency. "These groups even threaten the local Imam, he's accused of being moderate.

"In Kenya it is believed that these groups are funded by some businessmen in Mombasa. The majority of the members of these groups are young people from Somalia, but there are also local youths who shoot and kill just for money, not because they are religious fanatics...Pray for us and especially for the conversion of the hearts of these young people, so they do not commit violence", concluded Bishop Barbara.

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## **Kenyan bishops protest against pay-to-preach law**

### ***Clergy could be charged for preaching outside of their churches***

World Watch Monitor (18.02.2014) - Three hundred bishops in Central Kenya confronted a county governor last week to protest against a new bill that could see clergy charged for preaching outside of their churches.

The bishops, who say they represent as many as 1,200 churches within Nyeri County, marched to the governor's office on Feb. 12 to protest against the Nyeri County Finance Bill, which includes a section on charging preachers for speaking in public.

The bill, which is yet to be debated by the local government or signed by the county governor, states that clergy must pay 10,000 Kenyan Shillings (approx. €85) per day to preach inside a stadium, 8,000 KES (€68) outside a stadium and 5,000 (€42) in rural areas.

Charles Muchiri, priest of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Ruiru, near Nairobi, and chairman of the 300 bishops, said that churches should not be commercialised and treated like

businesses, and that the bill would leave clergy dependent upon funds to reach beyond their churches.

“The services rendered by the church to the people are free and such a high tax imposition will greatly affect the spreading of the gospel,” he said.

In Kenya, it is common for churches to hold evangelical events in stadia that can last from three or four days up to a week.

The Nyeri governor, Nderitu Gachagua, was out of office on the day of the protest, but the bishops were addressed by Finance Executive Martin Wamwea, who promised a response from the County Assembly Finance Committee within seven working days.

Nyeri is not the first county to consider such measures. Nairobi County proposed a similar law last year that would charge clergy for the use of public parks.

The two largest parks in Kenya’s capital, Uhuru and Kamukunji, are popular venues for evangelical meetings, but under the proposed law churches could be forced to pay 50,000 KES (€423) per day to preach from the main stand or 40,000 KES (€338) elsewhere in the park. Under Nairobi’s proposed bill, street evangelists would also be forced to pay 2,500 (€21) to preach.

Similar proposals were made in Busia County in Western Kenya, but the bill was dropped after protests from clergy.

Christians in Kenya are divided on the issue. Some argue that it is wrong to charge preachers, but others say clerics should pay the fees, a view that is bolstered by reports that clergy have been exploiting their positions to make money.

Recent reports claimed that one pastor had been charging 1,500 KES (€13) for the promise of salvation, while another reportedly sold holy oil for money.

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## **Pastor killed as riots hit Mombasa**

World Watch Monitor (07.02.2014) - An assistant pastor at a church in Mombasa, Kenya was killed on Feb. 2 while guarding his church during the night.

Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge, 59, assistant pastor at the Glory of God Ministries Church, died at about 2 a.m. Witnesses reported seeing two men fleeing the area.

Senior pastor Andrew Msumbi Kioko told World Watch Monitor that no arrests have been made but police are investigating.

“It is very hard for me because we worked very closely together,” said Kioko. “His family has been hit very hard. All of us, the family and congregants, need prayers as we grieve his loss – we need God’s comfort. Please pray for us.”

Kadenge leaves behind a wife, Lydia, and 13 children. His burial is scheduled for Feb. 8.

The motives for the murder remain unknown, but there are suspicions that it may be related to the recent Mombasa riots.

The situation in Kenya's second largest city remains tense after riots last weekend, in which one person died and many were injured.

Police had stormed the controversial Musa mosque in the Majengo area of the city in an attempt to stop alleged jihad classes.

In protest, angry youths barricaded roads and stoned vehicles. Police arrested 125 youths, who will be kept in custody until Feb. 7 to allow police to complete investigations.

The government said on Feb. 4 that it is considering closing the Musa and Sakina mosques for being associated with extremist preaching and Al-Shabaab recruitment.

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