

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 71/00 (AFR 32/05/00, 22 August 2000) and follow-up (AFR 32/06/00, 29 August 2000) - Ill-treatment / Fear for Safety

KENYA Pro-democracy activists

Following intense national and international pressure, the pro-democracy rally held in Mombasa on 9 September went ahead peacefully.

The rally had been postponed from 26 August after the police had refused opposition MP James Orengo, who organized the meeting, permission for it to go ahead. The reason given was that another rally was being held in Mombasa on that day.

Amnesty International had feared that the police would try to prevent the rally from going ahead. The police had violently disrupted an earlier pro-democracy meeting, also organized by James Orengo, in Nairobi on 19 August, killing at least one person and injuring many others.

Elections are due to be held in Kenya in 2002, but it is rumoured that the government is planning to call an early election at short notice. Given the banning and violent disruption of pro-democracy rallies that occurred in the run up to the 1997 elections, Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of those organizing or attending rallies in future.

No further action is required. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.