

From: <no-reply@barackobama.com>

To: laurie.malia@gmail.com

Date: Jan 4, 2008 1:59 PM

Subject: Response to Your Message to Senator Obama

Dear Laurie,

Thank you for contacting me. I have been deeply troubled by the recent news out of Kenya. The instability and tragic violence pose an urgent and dangerous threat to the people of Kenya, and to Kenyan democracy. My family's thoughts and prayers go out to all who have suffered, and to the families of the victims.

The Kenyan people have a proud history of supporting the growth of democracy in their country. Their thirst for democracy was on display in this most recent election, when they turned out to vote in record numbers, and in a peaceful and orderly way.

Despite irregularities in the vote tabulation, now is not the time to throw that strong democracy away. Now is a time for President Kibaki, opposition leader Odinga, and all of Kenya's leaders to call for calm, to come together, and to start a political process to address peacefully the controversies that divide them. Now is the time for this terrible violence to end.

Kenya's long democratic journey has at times been difficult. But at critical moments, Kenyans have chosen unity and progress over division and disaster. The way forward is not through violence - it is through democracy, and the rule of law. To all of Kenya's people, I ask you to renew Kenya's democratic tradition, and to seek your dreams in peace.

Thank you again for contacting me, and for your concern.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama