

ReliefWeb

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Following is the text of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moons address to the Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa [on] 31 January:

(...) Sadly, I have to start the substance of my address to you with a reminder of the alarming developments in Kenya. More than 800 people have already lost their lives in the increasingly ethnic clashes triggered by the aftermath of the recent elections. Violence continues, threatening to escalate to catastrophic levels. Kenyan leaders, President Mwai Kibaki and ODM leader Raila Odinga, in particular, have the responsibility to do everything possible to resolve the sources of the crisis peacefully.

(...) In the meantime, increased emergency assistance needs to be provided to alleviate the suffering of Kenyans affected by the violence.

Close partnerships are crucial for addressing the continents peace and security challenges. The United Nations and the African Union have a long-standing and fruitful collaboration in this field.

(...) On my way to this Summit meeting, I visited Rwanda, where the international community learned a painful lesson. We should not repeat such atrocities. I am fully committed to keep the momentum that you the leaders have made at the 2005 World Summit and will spare no effort to operationalize the **responsibility to protect**. (...)

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