

**Ndiku Mutua  
Paulo Nzili  
Jane Muthoni Mara  
Wambugu Wa Nyingi  
Susan Ngondi**

**c/o Leigh, Day & Co  
Priory House,  
25 St John's Lane,  
London,  
EC1M 4LB**

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP  
10 Downing St  
London SW1A 2AA

24 June 2009

Dear Mr Brown,

*"Muingatwo na kihoto dacokaga; muingatwo na njuguma niacokaga."*

*He who is defeated with unjust force will always come back, he who is dealt with justly will never come back.*

*Gikugu Proverb*

We are Kenyans in our 70s and 80s who have travelled to London from our rural villages to tell the world of the torture and trauma we lived through at the hands of the British colonial regime. With the support of the Kenyan Human Rights Commission, we have come to London to issue our legal claims. This is the first time that we have left Kenya and so, for us, this is a defining moment in our lives.

During the struggle for Kenyan independence in the 1950s and 1960s, we were detained and accused of being members of, or having assisted, the Mau Mau movement. We were moved from detention camp to detention camp, most of us were never charged or brought before a court of law and all of us were tortured. Two of

our number were castrated, the two women suffered sexual and physical abuse. One of our number was beaten so badly that he was left for dead for three days at the Hola Camp in 1959. This was all done by, or under the direct supervision of, British officers.

It is not an exaggeration to say that our lives have been devastated by what we have been through. Many of us live with injuries from that period and are unable to pay the medical bills for necessary treatment. Because of our injuries, many of us have not been able to have children or to marry, others have been unable to provide for and educate their families. The effects of the brutality we were subjected to are felt by our children and our children's children.

Sadly, our experiences were not isolated incidents. Thousands of Kenyans were detained during the Kenyan Emergency and we know that thousands were tortured and treated inhumanely. We represent the forgotten people of Kenya whose story has finally emerged and whose cry for justice has become too deeply felt to remain unheard. And we have discovered now that this violence was known about and authorised at the highest levels of Government in London at the time. Our claim for justice is on behalf of all those who were abused and tortured at that time.

Our impression since we arrived in London is that the British people are hospitable and generous. We feel now that we can get justice in Britain because what happened in Kenya in the 1950s is not what the current British Government would have supported or condoned.

Sir, this is not a case about colonialism or about politics. It is about a group of people who were tortured and who struggle to live with the consequences of that torture to this day. First and foremost, we seek recognition of the historic wrong which was done to us and an apology from the British Government. In addition, we urge you to order an inquiry into the numbers of elderly Kenyans who live with the effects of ill treatment by the British Colonial Regime and to establish a financial scheme to help them and their families. We have commenced legal proceedings because we are determined to see this issue resolved whilst we are still alive. We would, however, far prefer to meet with your Government across a table than across a court room.

We ask you, Mr Brown, to consider our case sympathetically, because we are now friends, we are no longer enemies. And we would like to invite you to visit Kenya and meet our communities and families who were so affected by the brutality of those times.

Yours sincerely,



**Ndiku Mutua**



**Paulo Nzili**



**Jane Muthoni Mara**



**Wambugu Wa Nyingi**



**Susan Ngondi**