

SCRIPT REFUGEE NAKURU

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PRESENTATION

In Kenya now the situation seems calm after the violence that erupted after the presidential elections of December last year.

There is new cabinet in place that promised to put the country back on its feet. 1,200 people died, and 300,000 got internally displaced.

Many of them still live in camps across the country.

For them nothing changed so far.

That shows from the story of the 28-years-old refugee John Otieno.

He and his family are in a camp in the town of Nakuru now for three months, and they can't even think of going home.

BETA

SOUNDBITE CHOPPING FIRE WOOD

John Otieno lives with his wife and two children in a tent.

Together with another 1,500 refugees there in this football stadium for three months.

SOUNDBITE RADIO IN KISWAHILI

At the Moi International Airport in Mombasa, there was a power shortage.

Through the radio they hear a bit about the outside world.

John wishes he could go back there.

Where he had a laundry shop that enable him to sustain his family.

QUOTE JOHN OTIENO

What I was doing there by that time has burned. I don't have any money to go and start my business again.

For John nothing much then waiting remains.

In the camp there is not so much more to do.

The residents spend their days washing,

queuing at the only water point,

or cooking something small on charcoal.

Meanwhile praying for a solution.

SOUNDBITE CHOIR IN IMPROVISED CHURCH

'We are serving the living God.

We are serving the living God.

Hallelujah, Jezus Christ.'

Sunday, the tribune today serves as church.

SOUNDBITE PRIEST

When you know God...

Strengthened maybe by the service,

John decides to visit his home area for the first time again.

It's not even 5 kilometres away from the camp.

The shops of chased Luos are still closed.

John can feel that the people here are not really happy to see him.

QUOTE JOHN OTIENO WALKING

***Maybe they're fearing something that I am going to come back there,
and go on doing I was doing there that time.***

QUOTE JOHN OTIENO WALKING

This is the place where I used to do my business.

All the people you can see behind me,

they know me very well like our neighbours.

John is shocked to see that his shop is taken by someone else.

On the inside it didn't change much.

QUOTE JOHN WATCHING HIS SHOP

***What is not there is only my washing machines,
and my clothes.***

The owner of the building says she doesn't know.

Then John asks her whether he could come back.

She says there are no vacancies.

QUOTE JOHN OTIENO

***I think, you can remember what I told you before,
there is something behind it.***

- Tensions?

Yes.

On my heart I don't feel anything bad.

I know how the situation was,

and I am not the only one.

The government has enable an emergency plan to help these people.
But because there are 300,000 refugees the implementation takes time.
For John it means he will have to stay in the camp for a while longer.

This is Ruud Elmendorp, from Nakuru - Kenya.