

## **Kenya: Will Citizen Media participate to ensure peaceful elections in Kenya in 2012-13?**

Written by: [Ephraim Kenyanito](#)

Country: Kenya

Topics: Elections, Peace, Citizen Media

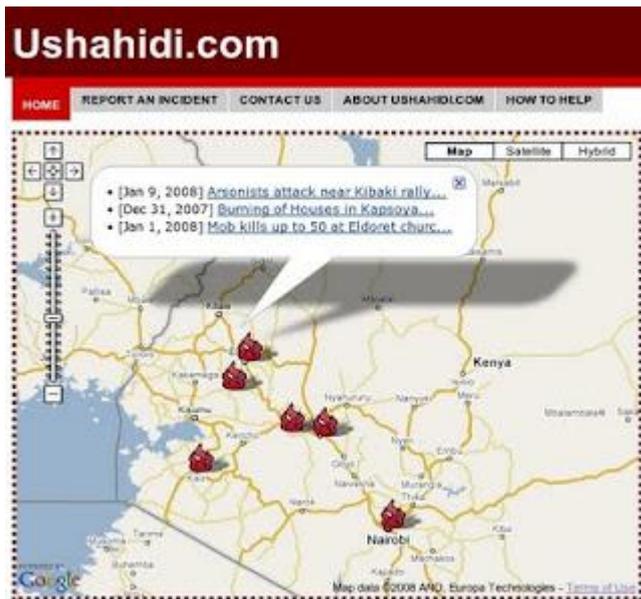
Language: English

During Kenya's general elections of 2007, residents of this East African nation [went into post-election violence](#).



[Ushahidi's Ory Okolloh](#), [David Kobia](#), [Julia Rotich](#) and [Eric Hersman](#) saw these developments as an opportunity to launch a website that would ensure [leverage](#) is achieved by citizen media during the post-election violence.

The results of this website were the best demonstration of the immense power that the world's citizen journalists can have and how they can facilitate [empowerment](#) and community self-sufficiency.

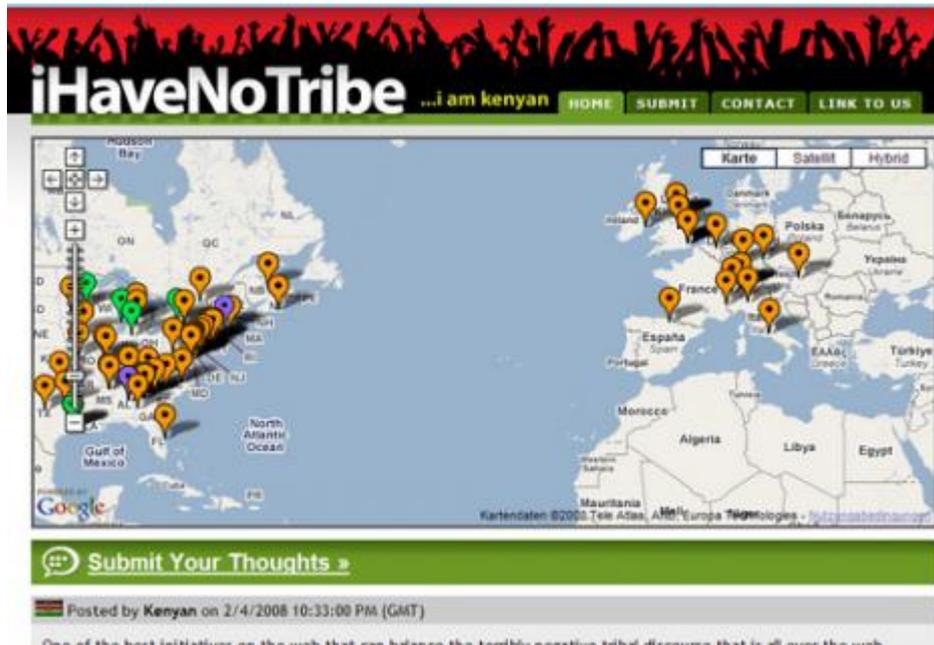


While many Kenyans are unsure of whether there will be peace during Kenya's elections of 2012-13, it seems that the online community is trying to encourage the citizen media to play a proactive role in [encouraging peaceful elections](#) and not just reporting on the outcome of the elections.

[Alice W. Munyua](#) is of the opinion that in order to prevent the extent and power of genocidal information is to have [more positive and analytical information](#). [Sarah Bakata](#) shares the same view and even goes to the extent of stating that [election violence was hatched in the Kenyan blogosphere](#).

Apart from providing positive and analytical information, in order to ensure peaceful election in Kenya in 2012-13, citizen media can provide early warning signs as [Patrick Meir](#) states in his [case study on the role of citizen journalists](#) in crisis environments.

Actions of [David Kobia](#) to [shutdown Mashada](#) after it became [overwhelmed with divisive and hostile messages](#) are just but some suggestions of radical measures that citizen media can take in order to ensure peaceful elections in Kenya in 2012-13. His subsequent launch of the site "[I have no Tribe](#)" should be a wakeup call to all citizen media that his was the first step that we need to take in the journey to peaceful elections in Kenya in 2012-13.



This task is being addressed by many global citizen journalists and [Picha Mtaani](#) is one notable initiative that seeks to “[train and equip a new generation of Kenyan journalists to produce professional-quality alternative media content on issues that matter most.](#)”

The most important challenge for citizen journalists; is to ensure peaceful elections in Kenya in 2012-13. If each of us in this community takes steps to ensure peace is maintained, then there shall be lasting peace indeed.

Written by: [Ephraim Kenyanito](#).