

Violence-free and fair elections

By: Anonymous - Africa

In the past the Registrar General's Office, which falls under the government, monitored the parliamentary and presidential elections. There was a lot of outcry from the general public because they were not satisfied with how the whole election was being handled. There were cases of rigging, unfair treatment of voters, and threats commonly reported.

People were not happy and some had decided not to vote at all since they knew that the election process was full of violence. Women's organizations tried to intervene but at first they were not given the chance. They kept on insisting and finally an independent body was put in place that monitors the election process. Things have changed tremendously for the better for everybody.

My organization takes part in the whole process of election monitoring. We face difficult situations at times but now people are at least interested in exercising their voting rights again. The Women Peacemakers Program in my country is also a member of this independent body.