**Kenya and the ICC**

**Kenyan politics is shaken up by the indictment of several heavyweights**

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THE International Criminal Court (ICC) on January 23rd announced the prosecution of four well-known Kenyans for crimes against humanity. The charges date back to a post-election spree of violence in 2008, which killed 1,500 people and displaced 300,000 more. Among those facing trial are Francis Muthaura, the country’s top civil servant, and Uhuru Kenyatta, the finance minister. Both men resigned three days later. They are from the Kikuyu tribe, while the other accused are from the rival Kalenjin: William Ruto, a former cabinet minister, and Joshua Sang, a radio-show host.

Politics is likely to get messy as a result. Messrs Kenyatta and Ruto may still plan to stand in presidential elections this year. Mr. Kenyatta, who says he will co-operate with the court, would likely be the main challenger to Prime Minister Raila Odinga. Mr. Ruto has little chance of being elected, but could play the role of kingmaker if the result is close.

The court’s indictments are unlikely yet to be much of an impediment on the campaign trail. President Mwai Kibaki had originally planned to ask the men to step down for the duration of the case. But a recent speech indicates he lacks the stomach—or the power—to act against Mr. Muthaura, his closest aide.

After four years, Kenya has done almost nothing to get justice for victims of the killing spree. Only a handful of people have been prosecuted in domestic courts. Initially, the government welcomed international involvement, but with trials in The Hague now imminent, that has changed. Githu Muigai, the attorney-general, has appointed a legal team to examine the ICC case. Some Kenyans believe a mostly Kikuyu establishment is trying to protect its own.

An attempt to delay the elections until next year has added to the sense of uncertainty in the Kenyan capital and is symptomatic of a country often unprepared to take hard decisions. Especially where they cut across tribal lines.

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