

## U.S. Navy Announces Alternative Arrangements for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Requests Public Input



On January 15, 2008, the Department of the Navy accepted alternative arrangements, approved by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These alternative arrangements specifically address the use of mid-frequency active (MFA) sonar and its effects on marine mammals during Navy exercises in the Southern California (SOCAL) Operating Area. These exercises include Composite Training Unit Exercises (COMPTJEXs) and Joint Task Force Exercises (JTFEXs) scheduled to occur between January 15, 2008 and January 23, 2009. A Decision Memorandum documenting the Navy's acceptance of these alternative arrangements was published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2008.

Information on the Navy's proposals for the SOCAL Operating Area including the full text of the Decision Memorandum is available at [www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com](http://www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com).

The Navy will prepare a post-exercise assessment after each exercise. By this Notice, the Navy requests input from the public on the process for reviewing the post-exercise assessments. The Navy is also offering the public the opportunity to discuss the implementation of these alternative arrangements. Input on reviewing the post-exercise assessments and any requests to meet with Navy and CEQ representatives about the alternative arrangements may be submitted by contacting Mr. Alex Stone at (619) 545-9128 or in writing to:

Naval Air Station North Island  
Attn: Alex Stone, CPF Environmental  
McCain Boulevard, Building 678, Room 218  
San Diego, CA 92135

For more information about the Navy's Decision Memorandum, visit [www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com](http://www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com)

## Violence in Kenya claims life of promising politician

By Jeffrey Gettleman  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NAIROBI, Kenya — Melitus Mugabe Were, a freshman member of parliament, could have been one of the keys to unlocking Kenya's crisis, but he never got the chance.

He was a moderate opposition politician, a self-made businessman who grew up in a slum and bridged the ethnic divide. His wife is from another ethnic group, and as Kenya slid into chaos this past month after a disputed election, he shuttled among various communities and tried to organize a peace march.

Yesterday, as Were pulled up to the gate of his home just after midnight, he was dragged out of his car and shot to death.

"Whoever did this has killed the dreams of many," said Elizabeth Mwangi, a friend.

The shooting appears to

have been a hit, not a robbery. Word spread fast and led to violence, with opposition supporters rioting across Nairobi, the capital.

Militias from opposing ethnic groups have been battling in several towns, and Kenyan army helicopters fired warning shots yesterday to disperse them. There have been reports of forced circumcisions and beheadings.

The economy is paralyzed. More than 800 people have been killed since the Dec. 27 election. U.N. officials say the government has failed to protect civilians, including girls who have been raped at camps for the displaced.

Were, 39, was a successful home builder, ran an orphanage, and had a footbridge and soccer stadium built in the slum where he grew up. He also sponsored teenage mothers to allow them to go to college.

Yesterday, President Mwai Kibaki began formal negotiations about the disputed election with his rival, opposition leader Raila Odinga. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has been in Kenya for a week trying to bring the two sides together.



Melitus Mugabe Were

## Authorities in India break up an extensive kidney transplant ring

By Amelia Gentleman  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

GURGAON, India — As the anesthetic wore off, Naseem Mohammed said, he felt an acute pain in the lower left side of his abdomen. Fighting drowsiness, he fumbled beneath the unfamiliar folds of a green medical gown and traced his fingers over a bandage attached with surgical tape. An armed guard by the door told him his kidney had been removed.

Mohammed was the last of about 500 Indians whose kidneys were removed by a team of doctors running an illegal transplant operation, supplying kidneys to rich Indians and foreigners, police officials said. A few hours after his operation on Jan. 24, police raided the clinic and moved him to a government hospital.

Many of the donors were day laborers, like Mohammed, picked up from the streets with the offer of work, driven to a well-equipped private clinic, and duped or forced at gunpoint to undergo operations. Others were bicycle rickshaw drivers and impoverished farmers who were persuaded to sell their organs, which is illegal in India.

Although several kidney

rings have been exposed in India in recent years, police said the scale of this one was unprecedented. Four doctors, five nurses, 20 paramedics, three private hospitals, 10 pathology clinics and five diagnostic centers were involved, said Mohinder Lal, the police officer in charge of the investigation. "We suspect around 400 or 500 kidney transplants were done by these doctors over the last nine years," said Lal, who is also the Gurgaon police commissioner.

The case has enthralled India's newspapers. Editorial writers have been particularly incensed by the failure of the police to capture the main doctor, who has many names but was known most recently as Amit Kumar.

He was arrested in 1994 or suspicion of running a kidney transplant racket in Mumbai but jumped bail, changed his name and set up work again from several clinics hidden in residential apartments in Gurgaon, a prosperous city outside Delhi.

Police raided one clinic in 2000, but somehow he was allowed to continue working.

On Jan. 24, a donor who said the operation had ruined his health went to police, setting off the latest raids.

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