

More information:

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Jambo, dear KiD friends!

You probably weren't expecting to hear from us again so soon. How does that saying go? "No news is good news." Unfortunately, that's true in our current situation. For this reason, as we promised, we needed to inform you immediately about the latest developments. You surely would have preferred better news. Believe us, please - so would we! But now, as we work to resolve our ongoing challenges, we appreciate your support even more than usual - it gives us heart. So, of course, we consider it a priority to keep you well informed.

Naturally, we intend always to report to you objectively and fairly. We don't wish to impugn anyone. So we will stick to the facts, and to our own observations.

To gather these facts, in september two members of our German KiD team flew again to Kenya to implement decisions that we had already made. For example, we made sure that our older KiD schoolkids would be accommodated by "Mekaela Academies" (Watoto) and by "Rainbow 4 Kids" school. We probably would have allowed ourselves more time before visiting again, had we not received exorbitant invoices for - amongst other things - school supplies, demanding immediate payment. We have never had reason to nitpick such expenses, and we wondered if we had simply mistranslated the correspondence. However, even by European standards, these bills were so inconceivably high that we needed to clarify these demands for payment. Unfortunately, it was impossible to settle matters with a phone call. By this point, sadly, our suspicions were growing. And so it was decided: we must see the bills in person. Off we went.

Also unfortunate: the traffic - both on land and on the ferry between Mombasa and Diani - has become much worse. We had many appointments to keep with our lawyer in Mombasa, to ensure that all our plans are legally above-board, and so we decided to stay in Mombasa. From there, we could contact the principals of the two schools mentioned above.

For quite some time now, we have had no contact with our „director“ Edward, so we asked Joshua (several times) if he would be so kind as to join us in Mombasa, so that we could talk with him. We would have liked to clear up possible misunderstandings. Unfortunately he refused repeatedly, and told us that we were free to come talk to him in Diani Beach. In the end, our understandable anger turned to sadness. Not the kind of discouraging sadness that leads to inaction, but a clarifying sorrow, one that showed us quite plainly exactly what we should do. After all, to do less would have been irresponsible both to you and to the children.

Thus, we let Joshua know that it was imperative that he come to Mombasa so we could meet and discuss the facts; otherwise, we could not authorize payment. Sadly, again, he refused. Thus, in the interest of avoiding a possible confrontation in front of our children and teachers - we decided we could not visit the KiD sites during this trip.

So many obstacles, or „stones“, as we say in German, have been put in our way. But instead of deterring us, or causing us to stumble, we have started using these „stones“ to build the future of our children. We are committed to caring for our students beyond KiD. For this reason, during our trip to Mombasa, we met with the principals of the other schools to draft an information sheet for the parents describing, in English and Swahili, what has happened, but without going into details. The „Mekaela Academies“ (Watoto) plans to hold an information meeting for the parents of the schoolkids supported by KiD, where they will distribute the flyers. All parents can choose which of the two schools their children will attend in future. Except for the location and the route to school, nothing will change for our senior kids. As before, we will take care of them, so they can finish school. For the time being, our kindergarten will continue as ever.

So that's where we stand **for the moment**. We can well imagine that, having read all this, some of you are feeling distressed. Believe us, now and again we feel the same. But in all our journeys to Kenya during the past 23 years we have learnt - we had to learn - that life there moves on a different schedule, and likewise, there's is a different way of dealing with conflicts. Therefore we have, for the moment, returned to Germany to be at a geographical and also emotional distance. Here, we can think calmly about our next steps, to measure them and then to take them.

Rash decisions (but which??) might give us adults - you the donors as well as us at KiD - some immediate satisfaction but, **FIRST AND FOREMOST**, whatever we decide must be for the good of the children. We must take care of them in the best possible way, and not abandon them at the KiD school site. Thus, we are in contact with our lawyer's office in Mombasa, with kind people in Diani who feel very close to the children and to our shared project, and last but not least with the principals.

We cannot tell you how this will resolve, or when. But we can promise that we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that the children are well, that we will make prudent decisions in favor of the children, that we will continue to keep you well and truly informed. Finally, we promise that, for the sake of the long-run, we won't allow anybody to walk all over us.

At the same time, we maintain hope that we can someday resolve the disputes and confusion we describe above. We hope that you will also continue to keep the faith!

In the meantime, we thank you very much indeed for your continued faith in our vision and for your trust in our ability to make it a reality. Your confidence is a gift to us, and right now it is more important to us than ever.

Warm greetings to you all!



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