

Chiromo Funeral Parlor (CFP) Receives Bodies of Students Killed at the Garissa University College Terror Attack.

The Chiromo Funeral Parlor received all the bodies flown in from Garissa following terror attacks at the Garissa University College. Embalming and reconstruction of the 144 bodies received was performed by staff who worked day and night from the Thursday night of 2/4/15. The embalming and storage facilities at the CFP and main Department of Human Anatomy were used to facilitate the treatment and viewing of the massive number of bodies.

The University of Nairobi University Management Board led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellors Prof. H. Mutoro and Prof. I. Mbeche, Principal College of Health Sciences, Prof. Isaac Kibwage were on the ground throughout to support efforts by the Department of Human Anatomy and the CFP to manage the challenge. The Dean School of Medicine, Prof. Fred Were directed the operations. Other University units included academic departments of Psychiatry and Human Pathology. The MD UNES – Mr. Kenduiwo, UON chief security officer - Mr. Wahome and the Student Welfare Authority Director Mr. Lugwe mobilized their units to support.

As usual, many Kenya Red Cross volunteers led by the Secretary General Mr. Abbas Gullet were at hand and managed registration areas, counseling stations, water points as well as queues and viewing areas. Medical and technical staff from Kenyatta University, Kenyatta National Hospital, office of the Chief Government Pathologist and the Kenya Police were present. Counsellors dealt with many people who required their services while volunteers were always ready to handle those who collapsed after viewing the bodies. The tents, seats and ablution facilities provided by *Wonderjoy* made crowd control manageable.

Although emotions were high for the relatives and friends who arrived in their hundreds to look for their departed ones, the process of identification of bodies lying at CFP and the main department using both photographs and physical identification went on smoothly. The CID, Kenya Police and pathologists from the City mortuary assisted in the biometric fingerprint identification of the bodies. The process was slowed by the physical alterations occasioned by decomposition that had already set in due to the hot weather of Garissa.

The cabinet secretary of Health Mr. James Macharia addressed the media on 5th and 6th April 2015. The principal secretary of Education Prof. Belio Kipsang, Members of Parliament, artists, heads of academic Institutions were among those who visited the mortuary to console families of the victims. We appreciate the support from Prof. Olive Mugenda of Kenyatta University and the hand of

support from artist Juliani. Many other Kenyans visited Chiromo Funeral Parlour to console the families of the victims and donate supplies.