

## Visit of King Charles to Kenya and Kenyan Police's action on Protestors

October 30, 2023

October 30, 2023: **King Charles** and **Queen Camilla** arrived in Kenya for a visit to the British colony on Monday. Their visit is aimed at solidifying Kenya-UK relations. They are expected to spend four days in Kenya, visiting **Nairobi** and **Mombasa**. The King and Queen will receive full military honors and a formal ceremonial welcome at State House on Tuesday morning, followed by talks with **President William Ruto**.

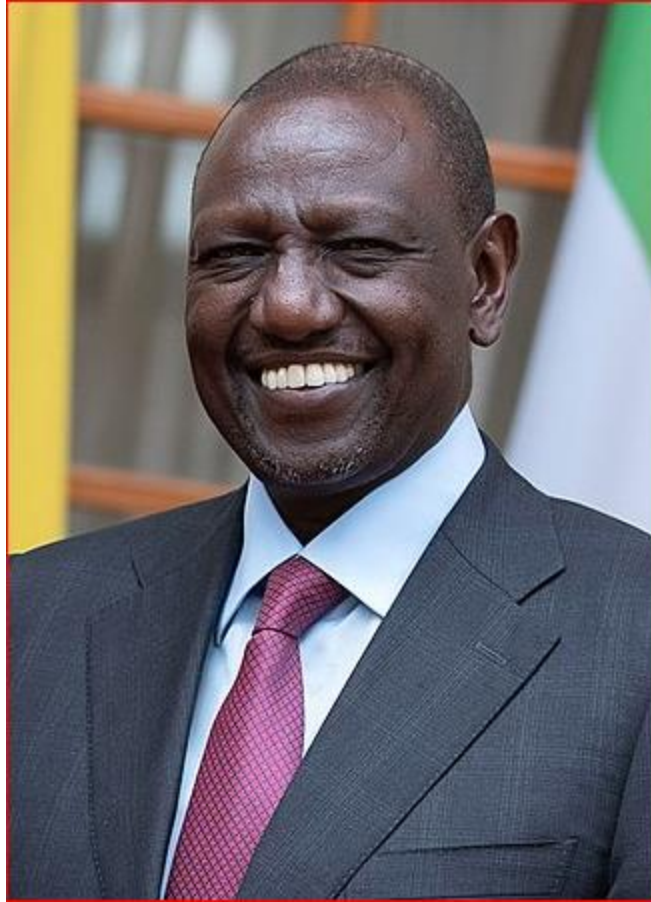


*King Charles and Queen Camilla*

According to the itinerary, the King and Queen will meet a diverse range of Kenyans reflecting the strong people-to-people ties between the two nations, with a particular focus on Kenya's **young people**. They will also spend time with **conservationists, environmental activists, artists, entrepreneurs, veterans, the Kenya Wildlife Service**, as well as **schoolchildren**.

At the coast, Her Majesty will spend time with survivors of gender-based violence while His Majesty will engage with religious leaders who are working with UK-funded programs to promote community cohesion.

The visit comes ahead of the 60th anniversary of Kenya's independence from Britain, on **December 12, 1963**, after a British rule of about 60 years.



*Kenya's President from 13 September 2022: **William Kipchirchir Samoei arap Ruto***

Buckingham Palace had said that the King's visit would acknowledge "painful aspects of the UK and Kenya's shared history". But Kenyan authorities prevented a press conference from taking place in Nairobi on October 30th, which was set to address allegations of human rights and environmental abuses committed by British troops in Kenya. The conference was scheduled to take place just hours before **King Charles** arrived for a four-day state visit.

MAU MAU Rebellion or Movement: Although the two nations have enjoyed a close relationship since, the violent colonial legacy of the Mau Mau uprising of 1952-60 remains a sore point for many. Kenya's Kikuyu tribe established the **Kenya Land and Freedom Army (KLFA)**, also known as the Mau Mau to fight the British colonialists. The British authorities declared a state of emergency in October 1952.

The conflict was characterized by brutal violence on both sides. The conflict resulted in the deaths of thousands of people. While official figures suggest that 1,819 Native Kenyans were killed by the Mau Mau, some estimates suggest that more

than one hundred thousand Africans, mostly Kikuyus, may have died in concentration camps and emergency villages. The colonial legislation branded the Mau Mau as terrorists.

Despite this, the movement remains an important symbol of resistance against colonial repression in Kenya's history.

**Lolldaiga** area of central Kenya: GRIEVANCES against BRITISH ARMY'S TRAINING UNIT: The residents accused some soldiers from a nearby British army training unit of being responsible for a destructive wildfire in 2021, which resulted in significant damage to a nature reserve. They also claim that the unit left behind dangerous materials that harmed members of the community. Additionally, there are allegations of the unit's involvement in the 2012 murder of **Agnes Wanjiru**, young single mother, who was last seen in the company of British soldiers. Her body, bearing signs of physical assault and stabbing, was discovered in a hotel septic tank. These details were reported in an inquest conducted by a Kenyan magistrate in 2019.

**James Mwangi**, head of a human rights group supporting the alleged Lolldaiga victims and **Tom Macharia**, a lawyer based in Nairobi who represents the Lolldaiga community, expressed his disapproval of the police's actions, describing them as "bad optics." Macharia emphasized that when **King Charles** aims to rebuild and reset the relationship with Kenya, the Kenyan Police's action should not have set a negative tone from the start. Meanwhile, a parliamentary committee in Kenya is actively investigating the allegations made against the British forces.

*EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) expects the British Government to graciously offer its regrets for the excesses, that had been committed by the then colonial authorities. Kenyan leaders, after 60 years of independence, must take full responsibility for good governance and for ensuring that Kenya becomes a developed country within a few decades so that Kenyan citizens can lead a life of dignity, with all the necessary facilities that should be available to a citizen of today's world.*