

Kenyan Students and Volunteers Reflect on Last Month's Shooting

Hayley Holmes
Staff Writer

A UA student from Kenya said his government isn't doing enough to protect civilians from the terrorist group that held shoppers hostage in an upscale mall in Nairobi, Kenya last month.

Charles Muturi, a Kenyan student whose family still lives in Nairobi, said he is concerned for his family and country.

Before military intervened, gunmen held shoppers, diners and other civilians hostage inside the Westgate shopping mall in an attack by the Somali-based militant group Al-Shabaab.

"The Al-Shabaab are a terrorist organization bent on killing innocent civilians to further their agenda," Muturi said. "They believe that Kenya was wrong to invade Somalia and that the forces should leave immediately, but the reason why Kenya is in Somalia is to stabilize the country, stop illegal flow of money from piracy and make the country secure so that its 400,000 refugees can return to a land they once called home. They are prominent in Kenya, and they have been using mosques in Nairobi and Mombasa to recruit their members."

Muturi said Al-Shabaab has attacked Sunday schools, churches, bars, bus station and buses.

"I am worried about my family," he said. "We have lived in Nairobi for quite some time and no one feels more insecure when they are going on about their business. People are genuinely concerned that the government is not doing enough to cater to their well being."

Muturi said he believes that the government ought to respond, but he believes it is difficult fighting Al-Shabaab, or terrorism, because it is not a traditional enemy.

"You cannot pinpoint who is a member and who is not," he said. "They are recruiting wom-

en as well as foreigners, so it is hard to ward off attacks no matter how great your security is."

Muturi said the government should join together with several security agencies and modernize security in order to provide order and justice in light of the situation.

The government should have one agency that brings together all the security agencies like the National Intelligence Service, Criminal Investigative Department and the Anti-Terrorism Unit to be able to track, avert and protect the Kenyan people, he said.

"The president should stamp out corruption since it's easy for one to transport weapons and drugs into the country," Muturi said. "Lastly, modernize our security forces, retrain and allocate money toward the disaster management fund."

Cambry Knies, a senior at UA, has spent the last two summers in Kenya working with a program called African Christian Outreach. Through this program, American students work with children's homes and learn discipleship by working alongside Kenyan college students.

"I do think the government of Kenya should get involved," she said. "The more publicity and protection services that get involved to figure out preventative methods so something like this never happens again is a need. This was a tragic event that happened and may not have been able to be prevented, but could have been put to a stop in a more timely manner."

The ACO summer intern program has been cancelled for this year because of the attacks.

"My heart is completely broken over this terroristic attack in Kenya," Knies said. "Not only have I spent many days hanging out at the Westgate Mall, I also knew a missionary family who was held captive in that mall during this terrible attack. My heart breaks for everyone involved, affected and the country as a whole. My prayers are with Nairobi during this time."

Students Use Personal Research More Than Housing Advertisements

Berkeley Anderson
Senior Staff Writer

Despite aggressive marketing campaigns, many students said they rely on their own research rather than advertisements when choosing where to live.

Pictures of the apartment complexes are very important, said sophomore Hannah Shameh, but she also used the Off Campus Connections website to make sure that apartments allowed pets and were reasonably priced.

"After choosing a couple of apartments that would perhaps work for my roommate and me, I used an online crime database to evaluate the safety of the apartments," Shameh said. "A home should always be a place where one feels secure."

Other students said that while advertisements might draw in new residents, they made the decision where to live based on personal preferences and local listings.

Freshman Bridget Keiter said she has seen flyers in her dorm advertising different apartments.

"The flyers have made me think about living in an apartment," she said.

Although Keiter said she wants to live on campus next semester, she said she thinks the flyers work for people that want an apartment, but don't know where to start.

"I live in a condo that I purchased by following up on a standard real-estate listing after I shopped around at sev-

eral other locations," said junior Ricky Nolen. "So, advertising wasn't a factor in my decision."

Although advertising did not change Nolen's decision, he said he noticed the large marketing presence of The Domain.

The Domain's marketing tactics, however, left Nolen unimpressed.

"Creating an experience people talk about the next morning, without being paid to do so, is far better advertising than cheap sunglasses or the word of students who were paid to promote a facility," Nolen said.

Some of the apartment complexes geared toward UA students host events and contests to attract students. In February, Sterling Frisco hosted the All Red Party at Grubs, which featured live music and a chance to win a scooter. Hill Place's calendar of events offers residents opportunities for free ice cream, tailgating and Halloween porch decorating contests.

"The most effective advertising for me has been word of mouth," Nolen said. "I've never lived at the Grove, but I know they host pool parties because my friends who live there talk about the fun they had."

Many of the student-oriented apartment complexes, such as The Grove, The Vue and Hill Place, also use a social media presence to appeal to students. The Vue has links to its Twitter, Facebook and Youtube accounts on its website, and Hill Place has a Pinterest and Instagram accounts.

Homecoming Unites Students and Community

Cynthia Benson
Staff Writer

Every year UA student organizations coordinate homecoming events leading up to the football game that unite students and community members and promote school spirit, officials from the Student Alumni Association said.

Several activities are scheduled throughout homecoming week, followed by the crowning of a homecoming queen Friday.

Each year the Student Alumni Association chooses a homecoming theme that is

universal and relates to all students and alumni at the university, said Alexa Albrecht, the organization's president. This year's theme is Hog Heroes.

Events began Oct. 7 with a banner contest followed by several competitions including a dodgeball tournament, which is a new event this year. There will also be a chili cook-off at the Union Mall, a lawn decorating competition and a parade and talent show in the Union Theatre.

Sororities and residence halls come together during homecoming week to build parade floats and compete in events on campus, Albrecht

said. Any organization can participate in the homecoming competitions and all students are encouraged to attend the events.

"Homecoming brings the university and community together because everyone comes to take part in the events and celebrate the traditions and history of the university together," Albrecht said.

She said some proceeds of the homecoming events go to various charities in the community.

The homecoming queen will be announced at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Greek Theatre during the pep rally.

The nominees for home-

coming queen are: Elaina Blando, a senior psychology major nominated by the Panhellenic Council; Kapriha Fields, a senior advertising and public relations major nominated by the National Society of Black Engineers; Holly Hilliard, a senior industrial engineering major nominated by Pi Beta Phi; Autumn Lewis, a senior political science and economics major nominated by Associated Student Government and Young Democrats; and Maggie Jo Pruitt, a senior agricultural education, communication and technology major nominated by the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

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