

Security Concerns Linger Post-Westgate Attack

As Kenyans Remain Divided on The ICC

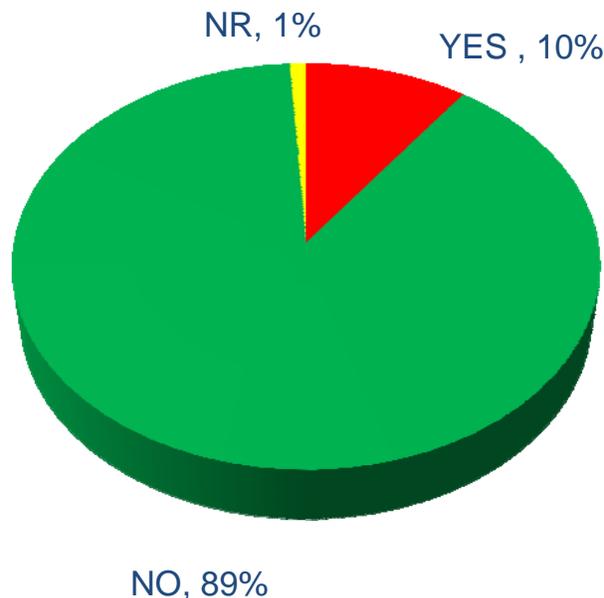
A new public opinion poll by research firm Ipsos based on fieldwork conducted 1-9 November 2013 and released today covers the following topics:

- Personal Security: Crime & The Police
- Westgate Attack
- Somalia Security Issues
- Muslim Clerics' Killings
- ICC Process

Personal Security/Crime

10% of Kenyans have been victims of crime in the last three months; this figure remains basically unchanged over the last seven years.

“Have you been a victim of crime in the last three months?”
(By Total)

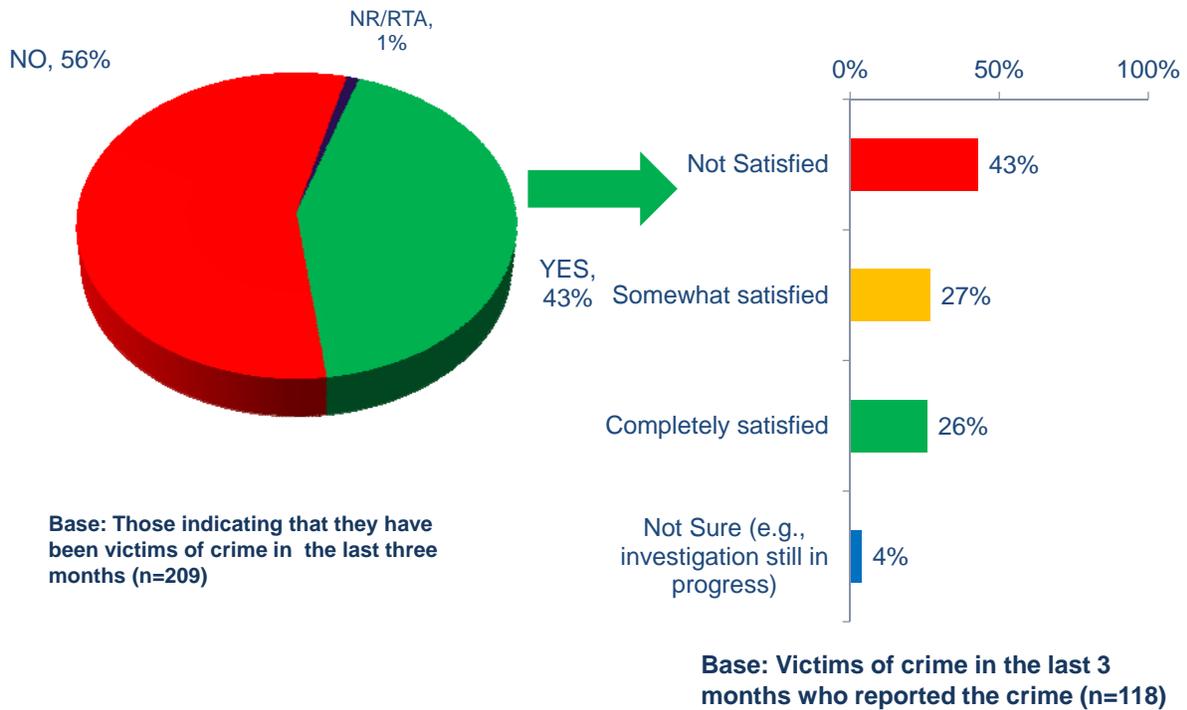


Base: All Respondents (n=2,060)

The proportion of crime victims ranges from highs at the Coast (18%) and Nairobi (14%), to lows in Central (6%), Rift Valley (6%) and North Eastern (4%).

A majority of crime victims are still reluctant to make reports to the police, and among those who did report, only a quarter (26%) were completely satisfied with this response, whereas nearly twice as many (43%) were completely unsatisfied.

“Did you report the crime to the police?”

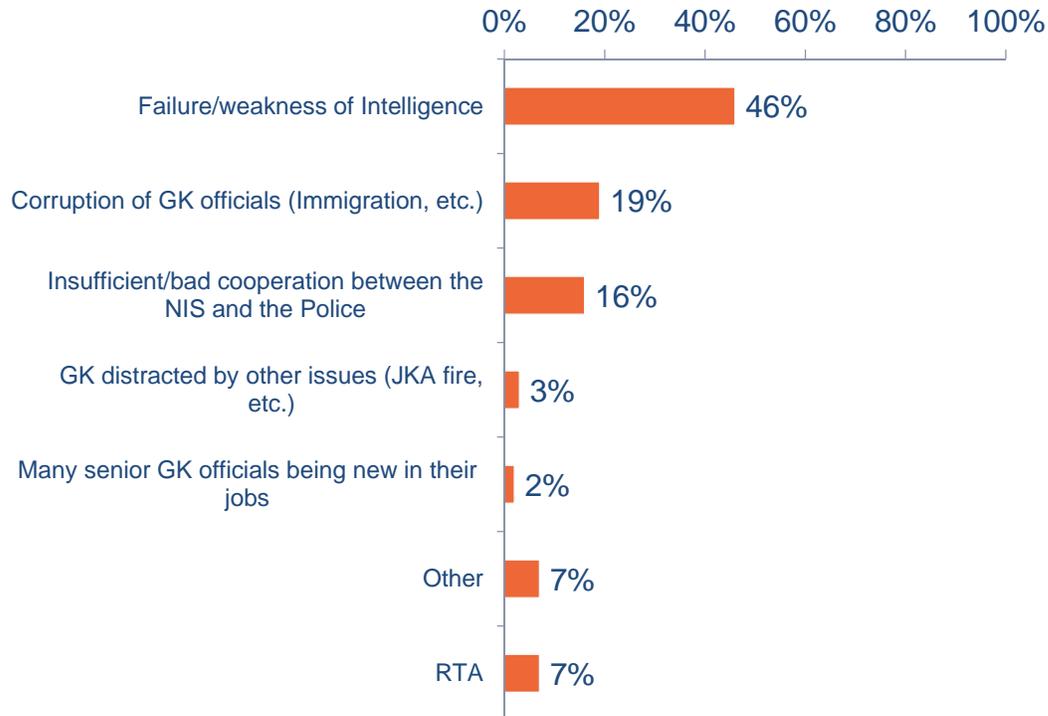


Westgate Attack

92% of Kenyans identified Westgate mall as the location of the recent attack by Al-Shabaab terrorists. Of these, two thirds (67%) think that the attack could have been prevented.

When asked to identify the main reason for the attackers’ success, Kenyans identified the following: failure/weakness of intelligence (NIS) at 46%, corruption of government of Kenya officials (19%), insufficient/bad cooperation between the NIS and police (16%) with the remaining (19%) citing other reasons or declining to answer the question.

“What do you think was the main reason that allowed the attack to happen?”



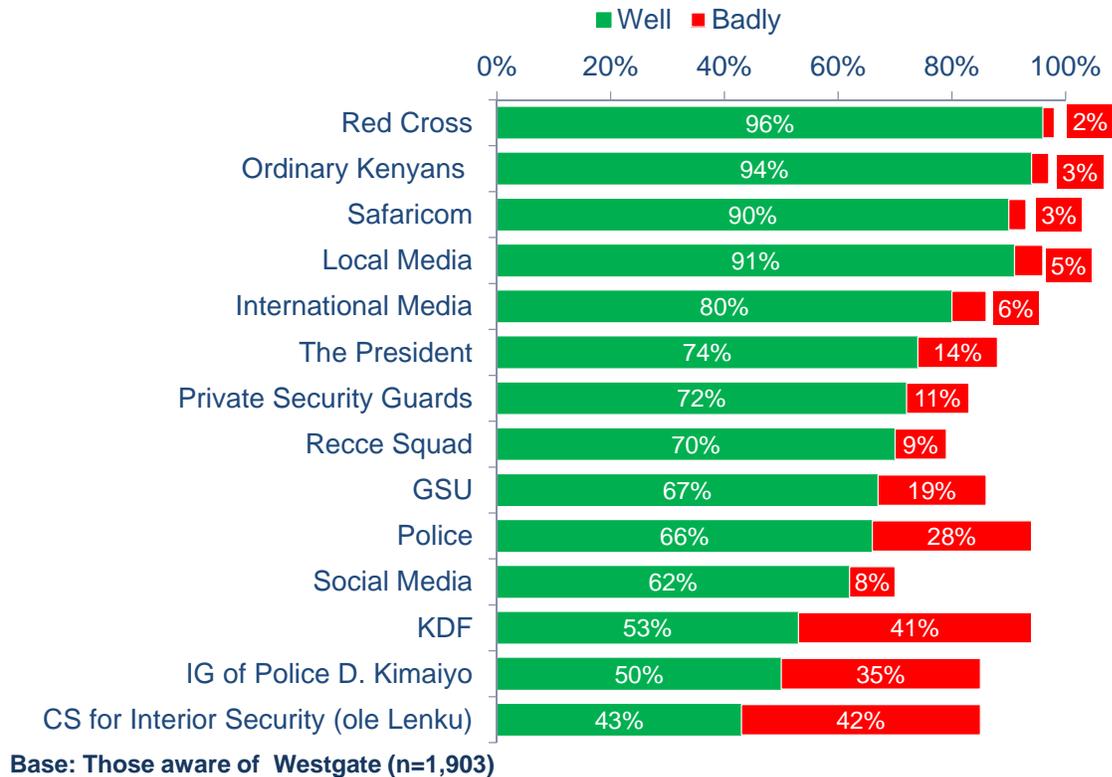
Base: Those aware of Westgate (n=1,903)

Nearly two thirds (63%) believe that the attack could not have succeeded without the participation of at least some (other) Kenyans.

Nearly three quarters (71%) of all Kenyans attribute the motive of the attack to the presence the KDF in Somalia (now part of AMISOM), either as punishment for past actions or to convince them to withdraw.

When asked to rate the performance of various organizations and persons in responding to the attack, Kenyans give highest marks to the Kenya Red Cross (96%) and “ordinary Kenyans” (94%) and the lowest to the Inspector General of Police (50%) and the Cabinet Secretary of Interior (43%).

“Which of the following officials/institutions performed well and which badly in dealing with the Westgate attack?”



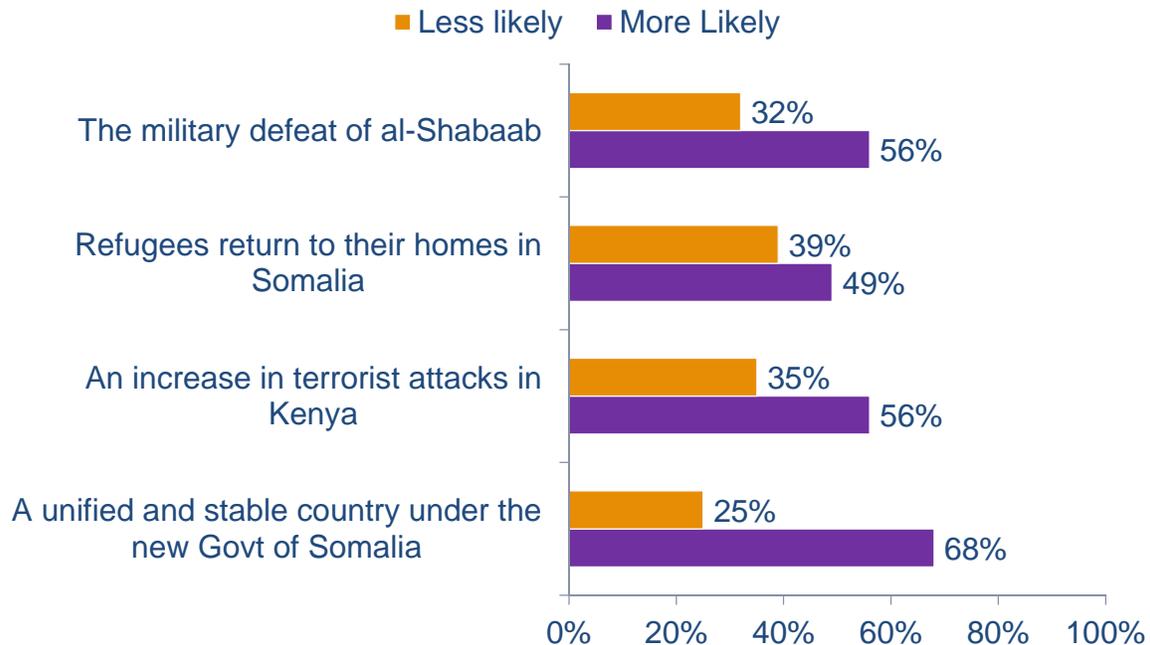
When asked what questions they have about the attack in the response to it, Kenyans more than four thousand mentions, the vast majority comprising 11 questions. These range from the most frequently mentioned questions – “How many attackers were there?” (44%) – to “What is the future of the Westgate mall building?” (2%).

Somalia Security Issues

86% of all respondents could name Somalia as the “neighboring country in which the KDF is deployed.” This represents an 8% increase from the figure obtained 2 years ago (80%).

Whereas modest but clear majorities continue to believe that the KDF’s participation in AMISOM is beneficial (i.e., with regard to: the defeat of al-Shabaab, the return of Somali refugees, the stabilization of the new Somali government), a similar modest majority (56% vs. 35%) believe that such presence heightens the risk of future terrorist attacks in Kenya.

Do you think this military operation will make the following: more likely, or less likely?” (By those aware of KDF in Somalia)



Base: Those aware of Kenya’s military presence in Somali (n=1,762)

Altogether, nearly two thirds (61%) prefer that the KDF action is in Kenya’s best interest; however, this represents a significant decrease from two years ago when more than three-quarters of those polled (79%) held this view.

In addition, three-quarters (75%) of Kenyans who are aware of any refugee camps (63% of those sampled) feel that the refugees residing in them should now return to Somali.

Muslim Clerics’ Killings

Slightly over half of all respondents (55%) are aware of the mysterious recent killings of Muslim clerics at the Coast. Two main leaders were involved here. More than three-quarters (79%) could name one (Sheikh A. Rogo) and half (51%) could name the other (Sheikh I. Rogo). Although a plurality was unable to suggest who might be responsible for these killings, the most frequently mentioned among those identified are Kenyan security officials (39%).

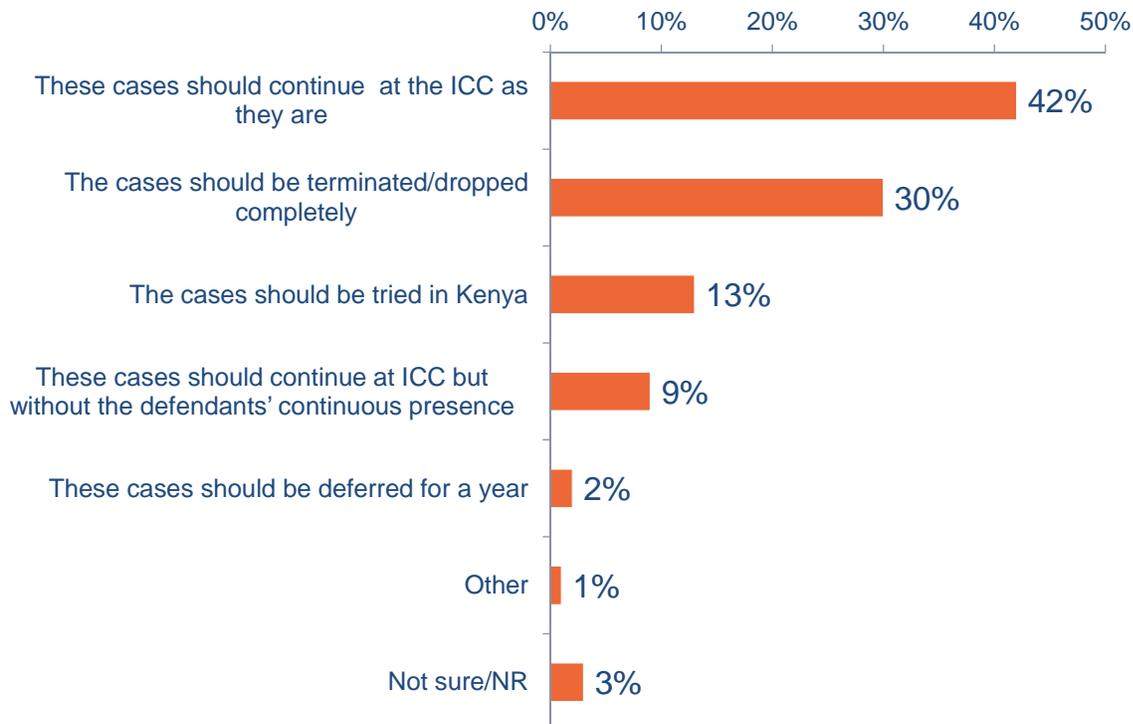
Among those aware of the killings, half neither believe that the killers will ever be brought to justice (51%) nor will they ever even be known (47%).

The ICC Process

Nearly all Kenyans (97%) appear to be aware of the ICC cases.

Just over half of all Kenyans prefer that the ICC cases continue (51%), but one-fifth of these (9%) do not want them to require the presence of two of the defendants who are now the president and deputy-president of Kenya. By contrast, nearly a third (30%) desire that these cases be dropped completely (a statistically identical figure to that obtained in Ipsos' June survey – 29%); even smaller proportions prefer that the cases either be tried in Kenya (13%) or be deferred for a year (2%).

“What would you like to happen regarding these cases?” (By Total – Single Response, Unprompted)



Base: Those able to name at least one or all defendants (n=2,011)

Following the court's decision to allow the president to be absent for some of the sessions, two-thirds of all respondents (67%) feel he should attend his trial when necessary, but a quarter (25%) would rather he not attend.

Those opposed to the continuation of these trials cite three main reasons: that the defendants are innocent/evidence against them is compromised (20%) that the trials are likely to destabilize the country (19%), and that trials interfere with their leadership obligations (18%).

Those of the opposite view regarding these trials likewise give two main reasons: that only the ICC will deliver justice to the PEV victims because of a lack of faith in the Kenyan judiciary (40% + 24% = 64%), and that such prosecutions are necessary to end impunity, thereby preventing future violence (23% + 5% = 28%).

Survey Methodology

The target population for this survey was Kenyans aged 18 years and above. The sample size was 2,060 respondents living in urban and rural areas. The margin-of-error attributed to sampling and other random effects of this poll's sample size is +/- 2.2 with a 95% confidence level. The fieldwork for this survey was conducted between 1st and 9th November 2013. Data was collected through face to face interviews using hand held devices (smart phones). Ipsos Synovate funded the survey.

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