

Tear gas used on Kenyan vote protesters

by UPI

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Police in Nairobi used water cannons and tear gas on hundreds of Kenyans at a banned rally Thursday protesting alleged vote fixing in the presidential election. Opposition leader Raila Odinga defied a police ban on the rally against Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-election on Dec. 27, South Africa's Durbin Post reported. The protesters chanted "peace" and sang the Kenyan national anthem as police blocked off the area around the downtown Uhuru park in a bid to prevent more people from assembling, the report said. More than 300 Kenyans have been killed in violence since the election, which Kibaki won by a very thin margin, Nairobi's Nation newspaper reported. Odinga told reporters he would accept international mediation and proposed setting up an interim power-sharing government to prepare for a re-run of the vote he said should be conducted within three months. Thursday, South Africa's Bishop Desmond Tutu arrived in the city to act as mediator between Odinga and Kibaki.

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