

Annan threatens to leave Kenyan talks

by UPI

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Former U.N. leader Kofi Annan threatened to walk away as mediator in the tense Kenyan talks if a power-sharing agreement isn't reached soon, an aide said. Negotiators for Kenya's government and opposition leaders met for about a half-day Monday. Sources told CNN discussions are at a standstill, prompting the former U.N. secretary-general to express exasperation. "After four hours of intense negotiation this morning, the team made almost no progress on reaching an agreement on government," Annan said in a statement. "I had to conclude that they were not capable of resolving the outstanding issues." Annan is leading efforts aimed at diffusing the violent situation in Kenya since the re-election of Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki over opposition leader Raila Odinga. A senior aide to Annan said the mediator believes if the sides exhibited "genuine political," a resolution would have been reached by now. "He has suspended a lot of important activities to help Kenya," the aide told CNN. "And if this foot-dragging continues it is unlikely that he will be able to hang on." Both sides said the government agreed to the opposition Orange Democratic Movement's demand to have the prime minister's job but the post's details haven't been developed.

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