

# *Dialogue with the Devil*

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Let's look at two scenarios and see if we can tie some of these issues together. Terrorism, that is something that we were confronted with starkly after the August 7th Bomb blast, West-gate attacks and most recently the blood bath at Mpeketoni. What sort of a problem is terrorism in the eyes of Kenyans? What do you have to say about the way the government is conducting the war against terror? There are a lot of different questions embedded in that one and Yes, Let's dis-load them.

First of all, it's very important to emphasize that terrorism was a big problem for Kenyans before 9/11. As you know, in 1998, al Qaeda blew up the United States Embassy in Nairobi. What happened on 98 that is so important is that they proved beyond doubt that they were not the Somali bandits that couldn't gun straight, which is what we thought was the case before 98. When we realized just how competent and dangerous they were, we then began to hypothesize what might happen if they got a hold of people's hearts and minds, and



particularly, if they got a hold of people's fear of which they've done to some extent. So what should the Kenyan government do? This war is not our war, why should we keep on fighting a war that is not our own. But what has changed over the past year is the magnitude of the threat. We understand that we're up against a much more formidable and much more dangerous adversary than we thought was the case "Wisdom demands that we follow a path where we minimize the loss of innocent lives,"

Lets go ahead and just do it, lets talk to the militant al-shabaab, let's do it secretly or publicly but let the people live. wars are not won by force, wars are won by surrender, lets surrender the fact that we are losing this war, paranoia and fear cannot run our lives, Malls security are like airport security, churches have become fortresses and the society has become a police state.

The past is prophetic in that it asserts loudly that wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows. However, there is no question that terrorism is a phenomenon that will play itself out in the next coming years Now, the final stakes is that the Jubilee government is running a wrong approach towards terror. Their approach of use of force is unrealistic, by

dropping bombs on small villages in Kismayu killing innocent men and women is such a tragedy. The believe that if we hope to win the war on Al-Shabaab, what we have to do is win the hearts and minds of Somalis in Kenya, Somalia and overseas.

There's no doubt that to some extent the use of force works for a short cause, leading to a rise of more young suicide bombers ready to spread their cause. Use of force is very subjective, so i'd rather see Godane shake hands with Uhuru Kenyatta at Serena Hotel for a peace summit than Al-Shabaab declare jihad on Nyeri Town. It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow-men, the devil would die in his own tracks of boredom