

# Mau Mau case against Britain back in court

Three elderly Kenyans have launched a second round of legal action against the British government over allegations that they were tortured by colonial-era authorities during the 1950s Mau Mau uprising

## MAU MAU HISTORY

▶ **1950s:** Mau Mau militant African nationalist movement originates among Kenya's **Kikuyu** people, advocating violent resistance to British colonial occupation of land

▶ **1952:** In response to attacks against white settlers, Britain declares state of emergency and begins four years of military operations against Kikuyu

▶ **Death toll:** 11,000 rebels killed according to official figures. Kenya Human Rights Commission estimates 90,000 Kenyans executed, tortured or maimed, and 160,000 detained, during crackdown

*British High Court judge ruled in 2011 that three claimants – (l to r) **Wambugu Wa Nyingi**, **Jane Muthoni** and **Paulo Nzili** – had arguable case*



Area of  
Mau Mau  
activity



▶ **Abuses:** Britain alleged to have used detention, torture and beatings in bid to crush uprising. Current UK government denies liability, saying colonial authority ended with Kenyan independence in 1963

▶ **Aftermath:** Despite their role in Kenyan independence, most former Kikuyu fighters now live in poverty – and they fought for was given mainly to pro-British African “loyalists”

