

The Mau Mau Warrior Oath

I swear before God and before the people who are here that

I have today become a soldier of Gikuyu and Mumbi and I will from now onwards fight the real fight for the land and freedom of our country till we get it or till my last drop of blood. Today I have set my first step (stepping over a line of a goat's small intestine) as a warrior and I will never retreat.

And if I ever retreat

May this soil and all its products be a curse upon me!

If ever I am called to accompany a raid or bring in the head of an enemy, I shall obey and never give lame excuses. ...

I will never spy or inform on my people, and if ever sent to spy on our enemies I will always report the truth. ...

I will never reveal a raid or crime committed to any person who has not taken the Ngero Oath (Oath of Violence or crime) and will steal firearms wherever possible. ...

I will never leave a member in difficulty without trying to help him. ...

I will obey the orders of my leaders at all times without any argument or complaint and will never fail to give them any money or goods taken in a raid and will never hide any pillages or take them for myself. ...

I will never sell land to any white man. And if I sell:

May this soil and all its products be a curse upon me!

Source: Donald L. Barnett and Karari Njama, Mau Mau from Within (New York: Modern Reader, 1966), 131-2.