

**STATEMENT OF PASTORALISTS INDIGENOUS NGOS FORUM (OBS 457) ON THE
CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF PASTORALIST AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
IN TANZANIA**

**AT THE 61TH SESSION OF AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES RIGHTS
RIGHTS HELD IN BANJUL GAMBIA, FROM 1-16TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Madam Chair,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on the ongoing violation of human rights to Indigenous peoples in Tanzania

Madam Chair,

I wish congratulate the newly appointed United Republic of Tanzania Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Kingwangala for showing initial gesture to address the current violation of human rights and intention to address countrywide conflicts and violations inflicted to pastoralists on grounds of protected areas. His gesture is unprecedented in the recent atrocities encountered by indigenous peoples. His order on 26th October 2017 when in Loliondo, for release of all pastoralists livestock under his jurisdiction until conflict are resolve, is a relieve to Indigenous peoples who have recently become a subject of violation of human right by the conservationists.

Madam Chair,

The situation of indigenous peoples in Tanzania is of serious concern in the whole country. Evictions and land dispossession is taking place in different parts of the country in the name of conservation and business investment. Serious cases are taking place in Morogoro Region- Kilombero, Ulanga and Kilosa Districts, Makao WMA in Meatu District and Alienation of 1,500km² Loliondo involving land grab for hunting by OBC hunting Company that had several time been brought to the attention of the commission.

Madam Chair,

National wide hate and mobilization campaigns as well propaganda to remove pastoralists from the so called protected areas is being made by different government official and particularly by the ministry on Natural resource and tourism. Serious actions have been made by the government since January 2017 to forcefully remove indigenous peoples and pastoralists from areas bordering conservation areas despite the contested boundaries of their land and the protected areas. The areas that indigenous peoples are being evicted are mostly village land or have conflicts of boundaries with the game reserves, national parks or game control areas. These include area bordering Serengeti National park, Tarangire National Park, Mkomazi National Park, Mkungunero Game reserve, Kitulo National park, Kilombero Ramsa site among many other

Madam Chair,

These evictions have been conducted with orders from the Minister of Natural Resource and Tourism or through Regional commissioners with no siting or reference to any particular laws. They are associated with orders to vacate their land on ground that they have invaded protected areas with use of military,

police and rangers by use of violence. Houses are burned, indigenous peoples are injured and their livestock confiscated.

Madam Chair,

There are numerous reported cases evidenced by Unlawful arrest, prosecutions, Unlawful fines, Loss of livestock and other properties, Violation of children and women rights among other serious violations all over the country

Madam Chair,

We have serious failure to comply with court rulings and legally binding decisions of the courts involving indigenous peoples as in the cases of

- Vilima Vitatu, Civil Appeal No. 77, 2012.
- Mabwegere, Civil Appeal No. 53, 2010
- Kilindi, No. 165, 2012.
- Kilombero Case No.219, 2012. All of which courts have made positive determination to the rights of the pastoralists

Madam Chair,

Let me bring to your attention the matter that have been brought before you in several occasions on the Loliondo case of which since 2009 it was reported before your commission.

Madam Chair,

The issues of Loliondo evictions and violation of human rights continued despites calls and attempt in court, media and international mechanisms alerts.

The burning homesteads, confiscation and auctioning of pastoralists livestock, harassment, prosecution, confinement and imprisonment where on their pick from August this year with facilitation of police officers who works for a hunting company and Rangers from Serengeti National Park. In an operation that started on 13th August 2017 to October a total of 368 homesteads were burned, 39 indigenous peoples were arrested and most of them reported of being beaten and injured. In the same period, 2,749 cows were seized in total and 670 of them sold by the government in, while 368 died due to lack of water, pasture and as well as congestion.

Madam Chair,

This is only one case, which was reported to you in different occasions since 2009; there are similar cases in different part of the country. Operations to remove pastoralists in their land and mostly recognized villages are ongoing and need serious interventions.

Madam Chair,

We request the ACHPRs:

1. Remind the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania of its obligation to protect human rights and observe its obligations under international law that provide for protection of all citizens including pastoralists and Indigenous peoples
2. To visit Tanzania and meet affected pastoralists and the government of Tanzania over the gross violation of human rights and animal welfare
3. To request the government to initiate constructive dialogue with pastoralists on the future of their existence
4. To request the government of Tanzania to fulfill its obligations of recognizing indigenous peoples rights and take serious actions to address atrocities suffered by pastoralists in the country and address impunity by taking to task responsible public officers who commanded such violation
5. Urge the government ensure that the right to freedom of expression is upheld and make sure that the human rights defenders, civil society organizations and journalists who speak up on the issues of eviction are in no way intimidated or harassed.
6. To urge the government to make sure that evictions in Tanzania, if deemed necessary, comply with the provisions in Tanzanian law and comply with international human rights obligations
7. To ensure that land tenure security of the villages indigenous communities is protected as provided by the laws

I thank you for your attention.

Edward Porokwa - PINGOS