



Plenary sitting

B9-0511/2023

12.12.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Maasai Communities in Tanzania
(2023/3024(RSP))

Miguel Urbán Crespo, Marisa Matias
on behalf of The Left Group

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the Maasai Communities in Tanzania (2023/3024(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas following longstanding land disputes in the northern Arusha region, in mid-2022 the government pushed ahead with its forcible relocation of Maasai communities from their ancestral lands in Ngorongoro, despite the lack of free, prior and informed consent; whereas the security forces shot and teargassed against Maasais who resisted forced evictions;
- B. whereas to force residents to leave, the government restricted human activities, including settlements and livestock grazing, limited access to water sources and reduced health and education services; whereas the restrictions have left more than 70,000 Maasais with no livelihood conditions;
- C. whereas the Tanzanian authorities have repeatedly resorted to ill-treatment, sexual violence, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions against the Maasais to forcibly evict them; whereas since 2009, thousands of Maasais have been forcibly evicted from its ancestral lands to open areas for conservation, tourism, and trophy hunting;
- D. whereas United Nations independent experts and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights have urged Tanzania to stop all forced evictions in Ngorongoro;
- 1. Urges the Tanzanian authorities to immediately halt the forced evictions and its abusive tactics to forcibly displace Maasai communities, and to ensure there are sufficient remedies offered to all affected persons;
- 2. Denounces that the Tanzanian authorities' actions violates Maasai's rights to land, water, livelihood, health and culture and have heightened food insecurity of the community;
- 3. Demands to conduct credible and impartial investigations into abuses committed and ensure that responsible are held accountable;
- 4. Believes that the economic and social development can only be sustained with the full respect of human rights including the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous people over their land; calls on the authorities to legally recognize the lands and resources that the Maasai communities have used and managed for generations and to recognize their role of in maintaining wildlife and biodiversity;
- 5. Urges the authorities to work with affected communities to evaluate challenges to conservation in the Ngorongoro area, and design a plan that meets the needs of the local communities as well as conservation;

6. Calls on the Commission to monitor and report to the European Parliament on expenditure on development programs and the EU budget related to land governance, with a view to ensuring that these programs promote human rights and address the challenges linked to land grabbing;
7. Calls on the EU to recognise and protect indigenous and tribal people's rights to customary ownership and control of their lands and natural resources as set out in ILO Convention No 169, and to call on the Tanzanian authorities to respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent;
8. Recalls the responsibility of businesses in ensuring that their operations and supply chains are not implicated in human rights abuses, including indigenous and tribal people's rights;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EU institutions, Member States, and the Tanzanian authorities.