



Plenary sitting

B9-0524/2023

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))

François Thiollet, Hannah Neumann, Marie Toussaint, Francisco Guerreiro, Caroline Roose, François Alfonsi, Heidi Hautala, Alviina Alametsä, David Cormand, Mounir Satouri, Bronis Ropé, Malte Gallée
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0524/2023

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 on 6 June 2022, the Arusha Regional Commissioner announced the change of status of 1,500 km² of legally recognized Maasai land into a game reserve in Loliondo, leading to widespread evictions and depriving more than 70,000 people of access to grazing land critical to their livestock's health and their livelihoods; whereas this operation is the fourth attempt to evict from Loliondo the Maasai who faced violence from security forces in 2009, 2013 and 2017;
- B. whereas on 10 June 2022, Tanzanian authorities used force, including live ammunition, to crush protests against evictions in Loliondo, leaving 41 people injured and thousands displaced;
- C. whereas on 19 September 2023, the High Court of Tanzania nullified the establishment of Pololeti Game Controlled Area since it was created unlawfully, thereby formally allowing Maasai people to access their lands for grazing;
- D. whereas in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the government has suspended and prevented access to vital services such as food, education, water and preventive and emergency healthcare, creating a food and humanitarian crisis to enforce the eviction of Maasai communities;
- E. Whereas respect of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) rights is a prerequisite for effective biodiversity conservation;
 1. Strongly condemns the forced eviction of Maasai communities from their lands, particularly in Ngorongoro and Loliondo;
 2. Calls on the Tanzanian government to stop any current and planned evictions and forceful land-use change, and guarantee a safe return of evicted Maasai people to their lands, while providing access to justice, effective remedies and compensation to victims;
 3. Calls on the Tanzanian government to unblock freezing of and ensure access to basic social services, stop arbitrary arrests, stop seizing and auctioning livestock, end militarizing Maasai land under the guise of nature conservation or tourism and conduct impartial investigations into abuses by security forces and rangers;
 4. Calls on the UN Human Rights Council to conduct an independent investigation; Urges the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to suspend its designation of Ngorongoro as a World Heritage site as long as it fails to comply with the UNESCO human rights criteria;

5. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure human rights are respected in all initiatives funded by the EU, with particular regard to the rights of IPLCs, including their right to self-determination, land, free assembly, and free, prior and informed consent, and to suspend funding if violations occur;
6. Asks the Commission to submit a report to the Parliament on EU budget support programmes and other initiatives in Tanzania, including through third parties and with particular attention to projects dealing with biodiversity loss and climate change, to ensure that no funds contribute to or are diverted to activities that violate human rights;
7. Urges the EU and Member States to establish a policy framework to prevent human rights abuses in conservation projects supported by the EU;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the HRVP and the President of Tanzania.