



Plenary sitting

B9-0525/2023

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))

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on behalf of the ECR Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Tanzania,
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples,
 - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Maasai have lived for generations in the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania and have shaped and protected these lands, preserving wildlife and biodiversity while cultivating their culture and traditional way of life; whereas for the last decade, the Tanzanian government has tried forcefully to evict the Maasai communities from their ancestral lands to make way for safari tourism, conservation projects, and trophy-hunting schemes;
- B. whereas the Tanzanian authorities have resorted to unlawful tactics, including shootings, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, and the downsizing of vital health and education services to forcibly evict Maasai communities from their land on the false pretence that they are damaging the ecosystem through a growth in population; whereas the evictions of the Maasai in Loliondo in 2022 were marked by extreme violence;
- C. whereas the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has raised concerns about the government's inadequate consultation with affected Maasai communities; whereas UN human rights experts have repeatedly expressed grave concerns about continuous encroachment on traditional Maasai lands and housing, accompanied by a lack of transparency and consultation with the Maasai communities during decision making and planning;
- D. whereas in its judgment of 29 November 2023, the East African Court of Justice upholds the rights of the Maasai appellants and remits back to the Trial Court with the directions to proceed with hearing and consideration de novo;
1. Is concerned that the Tanzanian Government ignores that the forced evictions of Maasai communities jeopardize their physical and cultural survival, ignoring the relationship that the Maasai traditionally have with their lands and resources and their stewardship role in protecting biodiversity;
 2. Is alarmed to hear reports of the Tanzanian police and security forces using unlawful force to remove Maasai communities; calls upon the Tanzanian Government to cease such action forthwith, repatriate those removed to date, compensate those injured in the process, meaningfully consult with affected communities and respect their rights to land, livelihood, and culture;

3. Calls on the Tanzanian authorities to abide by their international and national obligations to protect the rights to peaceful assembly, non-discrimination and adequate housing, and to conduct independent, transparent and effective investigations into all alleged human rights violations;
4. Asks the Commission and the EU Member States to prevent their financial support to the Tanzanian government from enabling further forced evictions and violence, and to halt funding for tourism and conservation projects that violate human rights;
5. Asks the HR/VP and the Commission to further raise the situation of the Maasai communities at the political dialogue meetings with the government of Tanzania;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the African Union and the Government and Parliament of Tanzania.