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**For the Right to Food and Nutrition**  
**Por el Derecho Humano a la Alimentación Adecuada**  
**Pour le droit à l'alimentation et à la nutrition**

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan  
President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
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Heidelberg, 17 March 2022

**Re: Forced eviction of community members in Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and Loliondo**

Your Excellency,

[FIAN is an international human rights organization](#) that advocates for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. FIAN has consultative status to the United Nations and observer status to the ACHPR. FIAN's mission is to expose violations of people's right to food and nutrition wherever they may occur. Hence, FIAN stands against unjust and oppressive practices that prevent people from being able to feed themselves.

In my capacity as Secretary General, I am taking the liberty of contacting you to communicate FIAN's deep concern regarding the dire situation about forced eviction of [community members in Ngorongoro Conservation Area \(NCA\)](#) and [Loliondo](#). We are informed that the Tanzanian Government is preparing to implement the new multiple land use management (MLUM) and its resettlement plan in Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). The NCA plan proposes to divide the Ngorongoro Conservation Area into four zones with at least 82% of the area now legally accessible for pastoralism will be designated as a conservation area and the remaining 18% as a multiple land use for human and wildlife. On this option, the Government proposes for resettlement of more than 90,000 pastoral community members largely Maasai indigenous. In March 2019, [a joint monitoring mission](#) from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) called for action to urgently control population growth in the NCA. The Tanzanian Government responded by elaborating the MLUM and resettlement plan that if enacted, will expand the size of the NCA from 8,100 km<sup>2</sup> to 12,083 km<sup>2</sup> by including areas from Loliondo Game Controlled Area (GCA), already contested in the East African Court of Justice.



As already mentioned above, we are also informed that in Loliondo the Government has resumed plans to turn 1,500km<sup>2</sup> of land into controlled area, which would displace over 70,000 Maasai pastoralists from their ancestral land to create a wildlife corridor that would be used for trophy hunting and tourism. As part of the plan, the [Ortello Business Company \(OBC\)](#), a hunting firm owned by the United Arab Emirates' Royal Family already operating in the area, is being given exclusive rights to hunt in the disputed land, despite the company's past involvement in several violent evictions of the Maasai, burning of homes, and the killing of thousands of rare animals in the area. The Loliondo case revolves around violent Government-led evictions of Maasai villagers, which included burning their homes, arbitrary arrest, forced eviction from their villages, and confiscating their livestock – which took place in August 2017. Following these tragic events, four village councils, namely, Ololosokwam, Olorien, Kirtalo and Arashi, sued the Government of Tanzania in 2017. On September 25, 2018, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) awarded a major victory to those four Maasai village councils who were fighting for their right to their land. [The Court's ruling](#) grants an injunction that prohibits the Tanzanian Government from evicting the Maasai communities from a vital 1,500km<sup>2</sup> parcel of land. Furthermore, it prohibits the destruction of Maasai homesteads and the confiscation of livestock on said land, and bans the office of the Inspector General of Police from harassing and intimidating the plaintiffs, pending the full determination of their case.

Recently on February 3, 2022, the police and NCAA (Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority) wardens surrounded the area where Maasai residents had gathered to hold a peaceful rally to intimidate all participants. On the same day, the NCAA guards, together with police force units, detained six journalists reporting from within the NCA about the Maasai community meetings taking place in Nainokanoka Ward. Both events followed the tragic events that happened on April 16, 2021, when the NCA Authority released eviction notices to 45 people and ordered over 100 buildings to be destroyed. Soon after, it began demolishing and closing down schools, dispensaries, police stations, churches, mosques and health clinics accessed by local communities, as well as arresting two Maasai NCA residents and beating others for grazing cattle in the future “no-grazing” areas. In January 2022, Maasai residents found out that the salt licks for livestock have been poisoned and these have caused the [death of hundreds of livestock](#). On February 9, 2022, the PM, Kassim Majaliwa, addressing the Tanzanian parliament reiterated the Government's intention to carry out the new MLUM, now supported by a significant majority of MPs. On the same occasion, Damas Ndumbaro, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, announced that the Government is due to review the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Act of 1975, since the equal prioritization of communities, development and tourism no longer suits Tanzania's economic and conservation interests. The amendment bill to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Act is scheduled to be discussed in parliament in April 2022.



In Loliondo, we are informed that the Tanzanian Government is currently planning the eviction of the Maasai Indigenous people from a 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> parcel of land. On 11 January 2022, the Regional Commissioner for Arusha, John Mongella, on behalf of the Government told leaders of the Maasai community in Loliondo that the Government is going to make tough decisions to remove the Maasai people from their 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> area of village land any time in 2022, even if this will be painful to the Maasai. On January 21, 2022, the Government began demarcating 1500 km<sup>2</sup> of disputed land in Loliondo, resuming previous contentious plans to make way for elite tourism and trophy hunting. Over one thousand community members gathered to protest at the place of demarcation on January 21, 2022, announcing that they will not leave the area until the demarcation process stops. On January 22, 2022, the police vacated the area following increasing pressure from the protesters who destroyed the drums erected by local authorities to indicate the demarcation line.

Your Excellency, the restrictions imposed on both communities in the NCA and Loliondo to not graze their cattle and undertake farming activities in the supposed protected areas are particularly devastating, considering the acute hunger and malnutrition rate at 70% in both communities. The result is increased poverty (which already affects 50% of Maasai residents), widespread starvation and disease, especially amongst children. The lack of resources and sacred sites within the “settlement and development” zone presents also a grave threat to Maasai livelihood and the continued survival of their traditional cultural practices.

Your Excellency, considering that both communities in NCA and Loliondo have a connection to their indigenous ancestral land, while particularly in Loliondo, the land which covers 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> is a legally registered village land as per the Village Land Act No.5 of 1999, also considering the pending EACJ case, your Government must comply with human rights obligations, to ensure that community members in NCA and Loliondo enjoy their human rights. The State of Tanzania is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and must comply with article 11 to ensure the enjoyment of the right to food and nutrition of community members in NCA and Loliondo. In addition, the State of Tanzania has voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). The UNDROP protects land rights and prohibits forced evictions of Peasants and other people working in rural areas. In addition, the state of Tanzania has voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The UNDRIP, particularly in article 10, states that *“Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the*



*option of return.*" Therefore, the Government of Tanzania must not carry out any act that would lead to a forced eviction, which would result in violations of human rights.

Your Excellency, we are confident of the crucial role you can play in carrying out your international human rights obligations to ensure that the Government of Tanzania complies with its international human rights laws, in favor of the community members in NCA and Loliondo. We appeal to your Government to fulfil the following demands of both community members:

**In Loliondo:**

1. The Government of Tanzania must desist from threatening, intimidating or relocating communities pending the determination of the East African Court of Justice. The East African Court of Justice has ordered for maintenance of the status quo.
2. The Government of Tanzania, the Arusha Regional Commissioner and the District Commissioner should publicly announce the suspension of installation of the beacon in the 1500 km<sup>2</sup>.

**In NCA:**

1. The Government of Tanzania and International agencies such as UNESCO, IUCN and ICONOS involved in the current new MLUM must desist from executing and supporting in any way the current new MLUM, the General Management Plan and related law review proposals that will inevitably result in serious human rights violations.
2. The Government of Tanzania must abandon its secret relocation plans in the current new MLUM that have caused sustained fear among the community members, and which will inevitably lead to the erosion of the community's livelihood and cultural identity.
3. The Government of Tanzania must address the issue linked to the poisoning of salt licks that caused the death of hundreds of livestock of Maasai in a transparent manner and hold those responsible accountable.
4. Given the historical records and the emerged misunderstanding between the Maasai community on the one hand and the Government/NCAA, UNESCO and IUCN on the other, there is a timely need to re-address claimed historical injustices against the community, including the large-scale dispossession of Maasai land, displacement of Maasai people, and the eradication of their indigenous knowledge in the management of the area.



5. The Government of Tanzania must restore all suspended development projects including schools, health services, and water projects in NCA with no conditions.
6. The Government of Tanzania must facilitate the establishment of an Independent Commission of inquiries to address the current and historical human rights injustices in the NCA and the involvement and role of the Tanzania Government, UNESCO, IUCN and ICOMOS in those violations.

We thank you for your attention and kindly request you to keep us informed about the actions taken by Government.

Yours faithfully,

Sofia Monsalve  
Secretary General  
FIAN International

**CC:**

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