



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP/115thsession/2025/CS/BJ/ks

12 May 2025

Excellency,

I write to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (“the Committee”) received updated information to its [previous letter](#), dated 28 April 2023, under its early warning and urgent action procedure in relation to the situation of the Maasai Indigenous People in Ngorongoro and Loliondo areas.

According to the information received:

- The authorities delisted wards, villages and hamlets in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which are inhabited by the Maasai Indigenous People, from the voter registers without their consent during the voter registration process for the 2025 Presential election. Furthermore, the national voter registration plan indicated the transfer of Maasai Indigenous People in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to other locations in the State party, including areas 600 kilometers away from their location;
- Cases of forced eviction of Maasai Indigenous People between March and April 2024 in nine villages in the area surrounding the Kilimanjaro International Airport, as a result of the implementation of a project to expand the airport that is being carried out without the consultation with the Maasai Indigenous People and obtaining their free, prior and informed consent;
- A map circulated on the Internet in early 2024 showed that districts inhabited by the Maasai Indigenous People in Ngorongoro and Loliondo are disproportionately impacted compared to areas inhabited by non-Maasai Indigenous People in the implementation of the project to develop game reserve areas and the lack of consultation process and to obtain their free, prior and informed consent regarding this project;
- Cases of racially motivated police violence and racial profiling by law enforcement officers against members of the Maasai Indigenous People between August and October 2024;
- Persistence of inadequate level of social support services provided in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area as a way to coerce the Maasai Indigenous People to leave.

H.E. Mr. Abdallah Saleh Possi
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to the United Nations Office
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The Committee takes notes of the communications issued by various special procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council to the State party regarding concerns related to the situation of the Maasai Indigenous People, particularly the latest communications dated 3 November 2023 (ref.: [AL TZA 2/2023](#)) and 9 October 2024 (ref. [AL TZA 3/2024](#)).

The Committee also takes note of the information on the meeting that took place in December 2024 between the President and traditional leaders of the Maasai Indigenous People from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to discuss concerns related to their situation. It also notes the information on the establishment in February 2025 of two special commissions to address issues in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, particularly land disputes, voluntary relocation initiative and environmental conservation.

In this regard, the Committee recalls its previous concluding observations concerning the United Republic of Tanzania ([CERD/C/TZA/CO/16](#), para. 14) and its [General Recommendation No. 23 \(1997\) on the rights of indigenous peoples](#).

In light of the above, the Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that members of Maasai Indigenous People have equal rights in respect of effective participation in public life and that no decisions directly relating to their rights and interests are taken without their informed consent and to ensure that Indigenous Maasai communities can exercise their rights to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. Furthermore, it calls upon the State party to recognize and protect the collective rights of Indigenous Maasai People to own, develop, control and use their communal lands, territories and resources and to take measures to ensure access by Indigenous Maasai People to effective remedies and provide them with just and fair compensation for the lands, territories and resources that they have traditionally owned or used and which have been confiscated, occupied or used without their free, prior and consent. It also calls upon the State party to strengthen its measures to ensure effective consultation with the Maasai Indigenous peoples on any projects or legislative or administrative measures that may affect their land, territories and resources and with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent. Lastly, it reiterates its call upon the State party to take measures to effectively protect Maasai Indigenous communities against reported acts of excessive use of force, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and discrimination and racist speech.

In accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and Article 65 of its Rules of procedure, should the State party wish to provide additional information on this situation, it may be submitted to the Committee by 1 August 2025.

Finally, the Committee requests the State party to submit the overdue seventeenth and eighteenth combined periodic report as a matter of urgency and to include information on the situation of the Maasai Indigenous People, in particular the matters addressed in the present letter.



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Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Tanzania with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Balcerzak" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michal Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination