

EXTRACT FROM MY DIARY
By
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Last updated 14th September 2023

As I updated you on [Sunday evening](#) of September 10th, 2023, several people have been arrested in connection to the ongoing enforced relocation in Ngorongoro, Northern Tanzania. I mentioned that more than 60 people have been arrested. I have decided to digitize my diary and share it with you for your reference. You may be interested in understanding as to the content of the interrogation in what I believe to be lawfare against Maasai community in Tanzania. Please follow brief extract of testimonies from my diary

1. Lalashe Koipapi

On August 16, 2023, in the afternoon, a group of people entered my small shop, bought soda, and then left. After some time, they returned with a police officer named Niko and called me outside, saying they wanted to discuss an issue with me. When I asked if I could close my shop, they refused. Some of them entered, took items from my shop, seized my cellphone, and forced me into a car before driving away.

I was not allowed to contact a lawyer or my family. During interrogation, they questioned me about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro and whether I knew anyone organizing resistance against the registration. I told them I did not know. I was detained for over a week. At one point, I was forced to kiss the police cell walls and say, "I love you." Before interrogation, I was slapped on both cheeks so hard that I nearly fainted.

Before my arrest, I had been waiting for my goods to be shipped from Karatu. I later learned that all of them had been lost.

2. John Joseph

From August 1 to August 16, 2023, I was receiving treatment at Endulen Hospital. On the day of my release, I returned home to Endulen Madukani. That same evening, near my compound, I was arrested by rangers.

From the day of my arrest until more than a week later, I was unable to take my prescribed medication. I have had a skull fracture for a long time, which has affected my memory and ability to work. I now rely on my younger brother, Michael, for support. Michael Joseph was also arrested that same day.

During interrogation, they questioned me about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro and whether I knew anyone organizing resistance against the registration. I told them I did not know. I was detained for over a week and was forced to kiss the police cell walls and say, “I love you.”

3. Godlisten

I had been in Piyaya since August 13 for a small business and attended a weekly market in Naiborsoit. On the evening of August 16, around 8:00 PM, I was abducted near Petei’s house in the Madukani area by rangers. They forced me into a car without informing me of any charges. I later found out that many others had also been arrested.

At the Endulen Ranger Post, we were subjected to severe torture. We were doused with extremely cold water while carrying a 20-liter container, and we were forced to lie in freezing water. We were all brutally beaten, including receiving simultaneous slaps to both cheeks, which temporarily impaired my hearing.

During interrogation, I was asked why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera and whether I knew key organizers resisting the relocation. They also asked if I was aware of or involved in demonstrations for the reconstruction of Ndian Government Primary School.

4. Roki Thomas

I was arrested on August 16, 2023, and severely beaten before they even asked me any questions. Like others, I was slapped on both cheeks with both hands—something they mockingly called a “greeting style.” The blows were so hard that I was terrified and temporarily lost my hearing.

I was interrogated about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera, whether I knew key organizers of the relocation resistance, and whether I was aware of those leading protests to reconstruct Ndian Primary School. I told them I knew nothing about it.

I was also questioned about politicians' involvement in resisting the relocation process. I was detained for over a week and forced to kiss the police cell walls while saying, “I love you.”

5. Mbekure Nagol

I was arrested at my home in Ndian on August 17, 2023. I had no prior knowledge of any ongoing arrests.

They beat me severely, including striking me with the butt of a gun on my ribs. I am a herder and know very little about what happens in the village. During interrogation,

they asked me why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro and whether I knew anyone organizing resistance. I told them I did not know.

I was detained for over a week and forced to kiss the police cell walls while saying, “I love you.”

6. Dionis Chaki

On August 15, I was in Karatu, and the next day, I attended a weekly market in Naiborsoit, Oldupai. That evening, after driving to Endulen and parking in my compound, a group of rangers called me outside, put me into their Land Cruiser, and drove away without explanation.

7. Agustino Hayuma

On August 16, at around 8:00 PM near Beshe’s house, several game rangers approached me while I was with Chao, a teacher at Endulen Primary School. They told Chao to go home and then arrested me.

The rangers proceeded to another location where people from small church communities were holding routine prayers. They ordered everyone to disperse. My colleagues and I were then severely beaten without being told what we were accused of.

The officers, who were Ngorongoro Game Wardens, forced us to kiss the wall and asked why we had not registered to support the government’s relocation of the communities in Ngorongoro.

8. Lenanu Stephen Kerika

I was arrested on August 17, around 8:00 AM, at my home. Since reports of random arrests had already spread, some women in my area advised me to run when we saw the car approaching. However, I chose not to flee because I had done nothing wrong.

They arrested me and put me in their vehicle. While in the car, they chased another person and fired shots to intimidate him into stopping. They pursued people like animals, shooting several bullets at Lembutwai Oloongwarri to scare him. He did not stop and eventually reached an area inaccessible by car.

On August 15, I had been at the marketplace and later spent the evening at the parish with three guests from France and Father Albano of Endulen Parish.

9. Joseph Mondo

On August 17, I returned home from my livestock enclosure (boma) at Kiloki, which is over 20 kilometers away. When I arrived at my permanent home, I asked for drinking water and then went to check on the cows.

On my way back, I encountered rangers. I had no idea about the ongoing operation since I do not own a phone. They arrested me and started beating me. According to my family, I suffer from psychiatric issues. From my own observations, I believe this to be true.

10. Pastor Jackson

On August 16, I was in Esere village. I left my house to buy a pen from a small shop. I teach kindergarten, and on the previous day, August 15, I had spent my time there.

While returning home, a man in a white car stopped me. The armed men inside ordered me to get in. They drove me to Endulen, where they went from house to house, rounding up people aimlessly.

We were beaten with slaps, sticks, and kicks. Each of us received twelve strokes. We were also forced to carry a 20-liter container of water and were beaten if any water spilled. While crawling in cold water, we were ordered to kiss the wall and say, "I love you."

This mistreatment was carried out under the supervision of Ngorongoro rangers and other unidentified individuals in plain clothes.

11. Lazaro Kuya:

I reside in Ormekeke Hamlet, Nasipooriong Village, Endulen Ward. On August 17th, early in the morning, while preparing to go to Endulen Hospital, two cars arrived at my boma. I was arrested without any prior warning, leaving me in shock. While attempting to flee, I was injured by a fast-moving vehicle that was recklessly chasing people. The officers also pursued Lembutwai Olongwari, firing several bullets at him. Fortunately, none hit him, and he managed to escape.

A young boy, Simel Olekosei, who was tending his father's livestock, was also arrested, along with a student from Ndian Primary School. We were forced to scout for others and were repeatedly slapped on the ears. The force of the slaps caused me to faint. We were all coerced into holding placards with messages while our pictures were taken.

During interrogation, we were asked why we had not registered to leave Ngorongoro. I was specifically questioned about whether I knew of any key individuals organizing resistance to the relocation. I responded that I did not. None of us were allowed legal representation or permitted to read the statements recorded during the interrogation. We were forced to sign documents without knowing their contents. I was detained for over a week and subjected to humiliation, including being forced to kiss the police cell walls and say, "I love you."

12. Daniel Olewanga:

I have Tuberculosis (TB). On August 15th, I went to Endulen Hospital to collect my medication. I avoided the market that day to prevent spreading TB to others. However, on August 17th, as I sat near my house taking my medicine, a vehicle arrived, and I was arrested. I requested permission to bring my medication, but it was denied.

We were brutally beaten. The car shook violently as it sped after people along the roadside. Lembutwai was chased, and several bullets were fired at him. At Endulen, we were all slapped on both ears as a form of "greeting." During interrogation, nothing was read to me, and I was not given access to legal counsel. I was asked whether I had attended meetings that opposed the government's relocation plan.

Since my arrest, I have been unable to take my TB medication, and I am being held in a crowded cell with more than 30 other individuals, putting their health at risk. Upon contacting the police at Karatu, they admitted they had attempted to get my TB medicine. This was also communicated to the Regional Crime Officer, given the serious health risks posed by my continued detention.

13. Boniface Kibuyu:

I am from Esere. We were severely beaten with heavy sticks while lined up against a wall. One of our colleagues lost consciousness due to the torture, and he was discarded to the side as though he were not human.

During interrogation, we were forced to sign documents without knowing their contents. We were repeatedly asked why we were refusing to leave Ngorongoro and who was behind our resistance. I was questioned about why I had not registered to relocate and whether I knew the key organizers of the resistance. I responded that I did not. I was detained for over a week and, like others, forced to kiss the police cell walls and say, "I love you."

14. Simel Kosei:

I am 14 years old. I was arrested near Endulen Airstrip while taking my father's cattle to the river for water. I was repeatedly slapped by rangers. They recorded my statement, but I do not know what was written because I have never attended school and cannot read or write.

As I do not speak Swahili, no translation was provided during the interrogation. An inmate helped translate when I was asked my name, after which I was made to sign the document. I was not informed of any charges against me or allowed to communicate with anyone.

15. Joseph Ole Tenge:

I am a cultural tourism operator at Endoinyo Cultural Boma and a kindergarten teacher. On August 18th, at around 6:00 AM, while I was asleep, our area was raided. Eight of us were arrested and taken to Karatu. Our houses were broken into.

For the past two months, I have been staying at Olduvai, but my permanent residence is in Ndoinyo, Endulen.

16. Mebeli Oloongwarri

On August 17th, I was tending my livestock and taking them to the river when a 12-year-old boy who was with me was slapped simultaneously on both ears. I was arrested near Enguisero, close to Endulen Airstrip. When I asked why I was being arrested, I was beaten until the stick they used broke. They then kicked me and struck me with their guns.

I was taken home, leaving my cattle unattended. Inside the vehicle, I saw several other arrested individuals. When they spotted Lembutwai on the way, they pursued him, firing multiple bullets, but he escaped. At Endulen, we were brutally beaten again. The method of slapping they used was extremely painful.

During interrogation, I was asked why we were not moving to Msomera and to name those leading the resistance. Although I am literate, I was not allowed to read the statement they made me sign.

17. Poope Olekosenja:

I live in Laitole, Esere, but my actual settlement is at Olesaunyi Naisiusiu in the plains. While returning from watering my livestock, I was ordered into a car. An 8-year-old boy who was with me was also taken, and I have not heard from him since, as I do not own a phone. I was asked if I had ever attended meetings organized by individuals resisting relocation. As Naisiusiu is far from the main settlements, I do not usually attend meetings.

18. Michael Joseph Kilonga:

I own a grocery store and rely on market days, such as August 15th, to earn income. That afternoon, at around 2:00 PM, I saw women fleeing the market, running towards Madukani, where my store is located. Sensing danger, I decided to close my shop.

On August 16th, rangers from Ngorongoro stormed my store and arrested all my customers. Godlisten, who had just arrived from Olduvai, came to collect his house keys and was also arrested. Although I was not arrested that day, I was forced to close my shop.

On August 17th, while searching for goats to slaughter, I was arrested at Ndoinyo. We were chased by a vehicle. Lokida, a game ranger working for Ngorongoro, accused us of enabling people to remain in the area through our businesses.

I am not Maasai. At Karatu, I was beaten to make me say what they wanted to hear. I was forced to sign a statement without being allowed to read it.

19. Lopuli Kiambwa Rongo:

I was arrested at Eyasi. I work at Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge and had gone home on leave on August 15th. On August 17th, I visited my cattle's temporary settlement at Lendanai. The next day, my uncle, Pasirya, and I decided to travel to Mang'ola to buy cows. We walked all the way from Lendanai to Mang'ola, but as we neared the Ngorongoro exit gate, we were both arrested. We were beaten and questioned about why we refused to leave Ngorongoro for Handeni, as proposed by the government.

20. James Tikul Makesen:

I was arrested at Endoinyo Cultural Bomas in Oldupai. For some time, I have been unable to walk due to a leg problem. I was arrested shortly after I had just started walking again. The last time I was in Endulen was on July 17th, and I was unable to return due to my condition.

On August 18th, before sunrise, my colleagues and I were arrested. I was not beaten but was interrogated about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera. I was also asked if I knew or was aware of any key organizers of the resistance against relocation. I was forced to sign a document without knowing its contents, as it was not read to me.

21. Kilamian Kirurushu:

I was arrested early in the morning of August 18th before sunrise. Rangers broke into my house and arrested me. I was beaten by rangers from Ngorongoro, along with one police officer. I was questioned about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera and whether I was aware of or involved in organizing resistance to the relocation.

22. Lang'asani Orpusi:

I was arrested at Oldupai early in the morning on August 18th before sunrise. Rangers broke down the doors of our houses. We were beaten and kicked while being told that our only safety was in leaving Ngorongoro. I was questioned about why I had not registered to relocate to Msomera and whether I knew of any key figures leading the resistance against the government's plan.

23. Ndaskoi Nakuroi:

I am 60 years old and a traditional leader living with my cattle at a temporary settlement in Natukurye. I had gone to the Oldupai Cultural Boma to slaughter a sheep for my wife. The next morning, on August 18th, I was arrested.

24. Lukas Naidoso:

I was arrested early in the morning on August 18th and taken to Karatu District, where I was interrogated. I was asked if I was willing to leave Ngorongoro, as the government proposed. I responded that I could not.

25. Andeni Metian Olekerei:

I live in Esere and was arrested at Esere Madukani. I was detained by rangers, not the police. I was asked why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera and whether I knew of or was aware of any key organizers of the relocation resistance.

26. Koimerek Olesii:

I was arrested at Oldupai early in the morning on August 18th. I was taken to Karatu and detained for several days without access to information or contact with my family. I was forced to sign documents after interrogation without being allowed to read or understand their contents.

27. Moto Olemoinga:

I was arrested on August 16th at my home after returning from a long walk from Oldupai. Rangers carried out my arrest. I was questioned about why I had not registered to leave Ngorongoro for Msomera and whether I knew or was aware of any key organizers of the resistance against relocation. I do not know what was written in the statement I was forced to sign.

28. Mepukori Leseke:

Before sunrise on August 18th, rangers broke into my house by destroying my door and arrested me. We were taken to Karatu and questioned about why we were opposing the government's relocation plan.

29. Mukare Olekitokenger Saitoti:

I was arrested along with my uncle while traveling to Mang'ola to buy livestock. We were first taken to Endulen, where we were severely beaten, before being transferred to Karatu for interrogation. We have been held for several days without access to anyone.

30. Emmanuel Lekishon Shangai:

I am a Member of Parliament for Ngorongoro Constituency. While staying at my small livestock boma in Oldupai, my wife informed me that several police officers had invaded our compound, firing bullets aimlessly into the air. They pushed my wife and threatened to arrest her. All the officers were male, some in uniform and others in civilian clothes. I overheard some of them saying they want to "finish" me.

I wrote on social media to alert the public that my family and I were in danger. Communication was made with high-ranking government officials, both in the government and in Parliament, regarding my security. I was instructed to report to the Regional Crime Officer in Arusha to explain the situation.

As I drove from Ngorongoro to Arusha, the Regional Crime Officer informed me that he was out of the office and that I should return to Karatu. While on my way to Karatu, I was arrested at Marera. I was accompanied by my lawyer and a few friends when a traffic officer stopped us. Within a minute, two vehicles, including one with Ngorongoro registration numbers, blocked the road, and I was taken into custody.

I was taken to Karatu Police Station, which was only about three kilometers from the location of my arrest. I was interrogated in the presence of my lawyer, and the process remained peaceful. However, after the interrogation, my lawyer was asked to leave as they would consider my bail application the following day—it was already midnight.

Shortly after my lawyer left, I was placed in a vehicle and taken to Arusha overnight. I was not allowed to communicate with anyone, including my legal representatives. I was granted bail only after my lawyer filed a case in court.

31. Denis Peshut:

I was arrested on the morning of August 29th and detained for several days. I was released in early September. I was interrogated multiple times but was not allowed to read what was written in my statement before being forced to sign it.

32. Moses Oleseki:

I was arrested at midnight at my home and taken to Karatu District, where I was detained for several days. I was questioned about my role in mobilizing communities to reject the government's relocation proposal. I was also interrogated about my participation in meetings demanding the rehabilitation of classrooms in Endulen and Ndian. After the interrogation, I was forced to sign a statement without being allowed to read its contents. I was not permitted to have a lawyer present during the interrogation.

33. Ngakenya Olenjorio (Traditional Leader):

I was arrested at midnight on September 3, 2023, at my home in Endulen and taken to Karatu District, where I was detained for several days. I was interrogated about my

involvement in mobilizing communities against the government's relocation proposal and my participation in meetings advocating for the rehabilitation of classrooms in Endulen and Ndian. After the interrogation, I was forced to sign a document without being allowed to read it.

34. Zakayo Ponja (Traditional Leader - Moran Group):

I was arrested at my workplace in Serengeti and beaten all the way to Karatu. As a result, I can barely hear, and I have a severe chest injury that makes it difficult to breathe. My chest is swollen and extremely painful. I was also forced to lie in cold water for hours. I was detained with four others for several days. During interrogation, I was questioned about my role in mobilizing youth—of whom I am a leader—against the government's relocation proposal and my participation in meetings demanding the rehabilitation of classrooms in Endulen and Ndian.

35. James Moringe (Ward Councilor - Alaitole):

I was arrested at midnight on September 3rd at my home and taken to Karatu District, where I was detained for several days. I was interrogated about my involvement in mobilizing communities against the government's relocation proposal and my participation in meetings advocating for the rehabilitation of dormitories and toilets at Ngorongoro Girls' Secondary School.

36. Petei Olekitaika (Traditional Leader):

I was arrested at midnight on September 3rd at my home and taken to Karatu District, where I was detained for several days. Four of us were arrested that night. I was questioned about my role in mobilizing communities against the government's relocation plan and my participation in meetings advocating for the rehabilitation of classrooms in Endulen and Ndian.

37. Thomas Oltwati (Traditional Leader and Village Chairperson of Endulen):

I was arrested in early September 2023 in Endulen and taken to Karatu District, where I was detained for several days. I was questioned about my role in mobilizing communities against the government's relocation proposal and my participation in meetings demanding the rehabilitation of classrooms in Endulen and Ndian.

38. Glory Julius:

I was arrested on Sunday, September 10, 2023, as I was leaving Sunday Mass. I was taken to Ngorongoro Police Station and later transferred to Karatu. During interrogation, I was asked about my role in organizing a women's demonstration in Endulen and who was behind my opposition to the relocation. They also questioned why women were holding a meeting that Sunday. I explained that we had gathered to discuss a gift for

Tundu Lissu in appreciation of his support for our cause. The officers told me that Tundu Lissu himself had already been arrested.

I was not allowed to breastfeed my infant, whom I had left in Endulen. I was released late at night and taken back to Ngorongoro, where I was reunited with my child and family.

39. Noonguta Peshut:

I was arrested on Sunday, September 10, 2023, as I was leaving Sunday Mass with Glory, who is married to my brother's son. We were forced into a vehicle and driven to Ngorongoro Police Station, then later to Karatu.

During interrogation, I was asked about my role in organizing the women's demonstration in Endulen and who was behind the peaceful resistance against relocation. They also questioned why we were holding a meeting that day. I explained that we were discussing a gift for Tundu Lissu in recognition of his efforts on our behalf. My own son, Denis Peshut, had been arrested two weeks earlier and detained for several days before being released.

40. Esupath Moses Loonjumuya:

I was arrested on September 14, 2023, by rangers from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area while I was at Endulen Madukani going about my usual activities. The rangers accused me of being an unlawful resident in Ngorongoro. However, both my parents were born in Ngorongoro, as were my ancestors going back many centuries—this is the only land we have ever known.

After more than 10 hours of illegal detention, I was released without any conditions. The authorities were fully aware that I am not an unlawful resident. This is just one of the many intimidation tactics they use against us. My brother's wife, Glory, and my aunt, Noonguta (my father's younger sister), had both been arrested the previous Sunday. The police are being used to intimidate our community, as if we have no legal rights.

Additional Information:

Nine other people who were arrested between August 16th and August 21st were released on police bail before I had the opportunity to interview them, so they are not included in my records. However, they were part of the legal application we filed in court on August 21, 2023. They were released before we were able to visit the locations where they were being detained.

Additionally, as I previously updated, Tundu Lissu and several others were arrested over the weekend. They were detained the day after being blocked from entering

Ngorongoro for a political rally. They are now facing accusations of holding an unlawful assembly at the location where police had stopped them. These include

41. Tundu Lissu:

Tundu Lissu was arrested on September 10, 2023, at his hotel in Karatu and released in Arusha later that night. Lissu is the vice chairperson of Tanzania's main opposition party and was its presidential candidate in the 2020 General Election. He survived an assassination attempt in 2017, which remains uninvestigated to this day. A seasoned human rights activist and researcher, Lissu's work includes advocacy for the Maasai community in Ngorongoro.

42. Catherine Ruge:

Catherine Ruge was arrested in the early morning of September 10, 2023, and taken to Arusha, where she was later released. She was required to report to the police the following day. Ruge is the chairperson of CHADEMA's women's wing and a former Member of Parliament for Serengeti.

43. Samwel Welwel:

Welwel, a lawyer by profession and the CHADEMA chairperson for Karatu District, was arrested on the morning of September 10, 2023, allegedly for participating in a sit-in protest after police blocked them from entering Ngorongoro for a scheduled political rally.

44. Suzan Kiwanga:

Suzan Kiwanga was arrested in the early morning of September 10, 2023, and taken to Arusha, where she was later released.

45. Olebabu Ng'atait:

Olebabu Ng'atait was arrested on September 9, 2023, for unspecified charges, coinciding with the police blocking Tundu Lissu's convoy from entering Ngorongoro. He was released the following night.

46. Twaha Mwaipaya

Twaha Mwaipaya, the leader of CHADEMA's youth wing, was arrested on the morning of September 10, 2023, allegedly for participating in a sit-in protest after police prevented them from entering Ngorongoro for the scheduled political rally.

47. Valerian Qamara:

Valerian Qamara was arrested on the morning of September 10, 2023, allegedly for participating in a sit-in protest after being blocked by police from entering Ngorongoro for the political rally.

48. Eliya Kibola:

Eliya Kibola was arrested on the morning of September 10, 2023, allegedly for participating in a sit-in protest after police blocked their entry into Ngorongoro.

49. Joseph Mtui:

Joseph Mtui was arrested on the morning of September 10, 2023, allegedly for participating in a sit-in protest after police blocked them from entering Ngorongoro for the political rally.

Additional Incidents on September 9th and 10th, 2023

Beyond these arrests, on **September 9th and 10th, 2023**, live bullets and tear gas were fired, causing widespread fear and disruption. Women in Endulen staged a peaceful sit-in demonstration to protest the escalating lawlessness in Ngorongoro. In response, riot police forcibly dispersed the women's gathering.

Since **August 16, 2023**, security forces have conducted raids on **Bomas** (traditional Maasai homesteads), leading to numerous arrests. The first **39 individuals** on this list were among those detained as part of these operations. During these raids, property—including homes—was destroyed, and women were subjected to assault by male security personnel.