

[English](#)[DONATE NOW](#)[Trending](#)[The Trump Administration and Human Rights](#)[Israel/Palestine](#)[Syria](#)[Sudan](#)[Russia-Ukraine](#)

December 5, 2024 10:08AM EST | Dispatches

Available In [English](#) [Kiswahili](#)

Tanzania's President Takes on Forced Evictions of Maasai Community

Meaningful Consultations, Accountability Needed in Ngorongoro Conservation Area

**Oryem Nyeko**

Senior Researcher, Africa Division

[Xoryemnyeko](#)

[English](#)[DONATE NOW](#)

On December 1, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan [announced](#) the establishment of two committees to address land disputes in the country's northern Ngorongoro district, renowned for its wildlife. The first will investigate complaints made by residents; the second will examine the government's "voluntary" relocations of residents from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to Msomera village in Handeni, Tanga Region, more than 600 kilometers away. The government claims "conservation" as grounds for the relocations.

Since 2022, as Human Rights Watch has [documented](#), the government has made life increasingly difficult for the estimated 100,000 Indigenous Maasai pastoralists who live in the conservation area by downsizing essential public services, including schools and health centers. This has forced many to relocate. Government rangers have also attacked and harassed residents who failed to comply with rules restricting movement in and around the conservation area.

The president set the stage for these investigations in August, when she [pledged](#) that education and hospital services be "fully provided" and polling stations be set up in the conservation area to enable residents to vote in local elections in November.

Since then, the government has [set aside funds](#) for building a school dormitory in the conservation area and removed a vehicle fee for area residents.

President Hassan's steps so far are significant, but more needs to be done. The government should halt its plan to relocate people from the conservation area, prohibit all forced evictions of residents, and consult with the affected communities. These consultations should be meaningful and [include women](#). The authorities should also hold to account, through appropriate disciplinary and legal actions, park rangers including commanding officers who have harassed, beaten and otherwise abused residents, who should promptly receive fair compensation.

Ultimately, the government should respect the human rights of the Maasai communities as an Indigenous group, and the legal systems, traditions, and practices they have employed to manage their ancestral lands for generations.

Your tax deductible gift can help stop human rights violations and save lives around the world.

\$50

\$500

\$100

\$1000

\$250

Other

DONATE NOW

Region / Country [Africa, Tanzania](#)

MORE READING



August 14, 2024 | Commentary

Community Consultations Must Also Include Women — Not Just Men



July 31, 2024 | News Release

Tanzania: Indigenous Maasai Being Forcibly Relocated

REPORTS

[English](#) **DONATE NOW**



Flood Displacement and Planned Relocation of Fisherfolk in Saint-Louis, Senegal



May 26, 2025 | Report

“They’re Putting Our Lives at Risk”
How Uganda’s Anti-LGBT Climate Unleashes Abuse

MOST VIEWED

- 1

September 23, 2025 | News Release

Saudi Arabia: Riyadh Comedy Festival Whitewashes Abuses
- 2

June 14, 2018 | Report

Leave No Girl Behind in Africa
- 3

September 22, 2025 | Dispatches

Cycling Event Can’t Override Rwanda’s Abuses
- 4

September 24, 2025 | News Release

Sahel Countries: ICC Withdrawal Endangers Civilians
- 5

September 25, 2025 | News Release

Algeria: Lift Undue Restrictions on Associations



Protecting Rights, Saving Lives



[English](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)



Get Updates On Rights Issues Worldwide

Enter an email address

[Sign Up](#)

Connect With Us

[Contact Us](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Permissions](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Child Safeguarding](#) | [Text Version](#)

© 2025 Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch | 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor | New York, NY 10118-3299 USA | t 1.212.290.4700

Human Rights Watch is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit registered in the US under EIN: 13-2875808