



Date _____

President Samia Suluhu Hassan
Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania
1232 22nd St, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Your Excellency,

I am calling on Tanzania security forces to cease the brutal effort to evict the Maasai from their central lands in Loliondo in the Arusha Region of Northern Tanzania to promote tourism.

This security operation started in June 2022 as an attempt to evict the Maasai from 1,500 square kilometers in Loliondo. Soldiers used force to disperse community members in four villages (Ololosokwan, Oloirien, Kirtalo and Arash) and activists were protesting the operation. According to two eyewitnesses, security forces started shooting at the protesters with firearms and also used tear gas. Many sustained injuries, some bullet wounds. The day before the day of the protest, around 20 members of the Maasai community, some village elders, were arbitrarily arrested. On June 16 2023 they were falsely charged with the murder of a policeman. As of August 25, 2023, a total of 40 community members thus far have disappeared and are without due process and attorneys.

Amnesty International released two reports-Tanzania: Authorities brutally violated Maasai amid forced evictions from ancestral lands on June 6, 2023 and Tanzania: End the crackdown on the Maasai standing up against forced evictions in Ngorongoro on August 25, 2023 which reveals the use of excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions, forced evictions on the indigenous Maasai community. This brutal, violent eviction off the Maasai's land violates court orders by the East African Court of Justice and undermines their livelihoods and adversely impacts their traditional way of life.

This security operation violates the Maasai members' rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and their legal rights to habeas corpus and due process. Tanzania authorities must stop this security operation in Loliondo, immediately release the arrested persons and suspend any ongoing land acquisition plans.

Thank you in advance for your time on this important and urgent matter.

Yours respectfully,

Name(Print) _____ Address _____

Signature _____ City/State/Country _____