



The Chairperson,
African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Commission
31 Bilijo Annex Layout Kombo North District Western Region
P.O. Box 672 Banjul The Gambia.

RE: ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITH THE AFRICA COMMISSION

Honorable Chairperson,

We the undersigned organizations have noted in the last two days that the African Commission will be conducting a visit to Tanzania from 23rd – 27th January 2023. We received a very short notice to attend the visual planning meeting that took place on Friday 20th January 2023 of which some of indigenous peoples were able to attend. However, the time was inadequate to allow participation of all interested stakeholders.

The presence of the government on site and in all engagement with all stakeholders defeats the freedom to freely express and poses insecurity issues to all respondents and human rights defenders.

Its very unfortunate that we have not received details of the visit and program schedule and of course how we will be engaged in the visit. In addition, to knowing the objectives of African Commission visit, in terms of “what” and “how” such objectives will be attained through the visit.

We expected to receive adequate and a more open information of the coming of the Commission, given our previous engagement with the Commission in its different sessions regarding the gross human rights violations in Ngorongoro and Loliondo.

We have had experience of government manipulating engagement of the indigenous peoples by choosing how independent commission could meet indigenous people with an intention of diverting issues to serve their interest.



We are afraid this visit of the commission, will not meet the right people and the victims of violation and that the commission will end up meeting people selected by the government to conceal the information on what really have happened to indigenous people in Ngorongoro and Loliondo.

Based on the above, we as indigenous people are so frustrated with the way this visit is organized and see no space for us to freely meet the commission and provide the right information. In case the commission is to meet with indigenous people the site should be neutral and free from fear, potential intimidation and censorship.

The methodology designed to collect information from those invited is not representative of the victims of human rights violations in Ngorongoro and Loliondo. It is almost impossible for the commission to get the truth from proponent of conservations and state institutions who are the majority. And it is next to impossible for represented CSO's to speak the truth in front of the government.

Unless CSO's and indigenous people of Ngorongoro and Loliondo are met independently, we are unlikely to be free to participate given the way that it is the government that selected stakeholders and organized the venues for the meetings and the meetings are conducted in their presence in the circumstances where we are accusing the government of enforced disappearance and excessive use of force on innocent civilians, suffocating policies through suspension of social services, unlawful persecution among other.

In order to have an independent report of the Commission, we strongly advice that Indigenous CSO's, leaders and members of the communities affected by government funded human rights violation in NCA and Loliondo must be invited and met by the commission independently in their own organized venue.

We call upon the commission to clearly and freely provide an opportunity to meet the Maasai peoples and their CSOs independently and free from interference of the government and request that enough time and information is provided to understand the objectives of the visit and an



opportunity is accorded to provide information to the commission in a manner that will enable the indigenous peoples to explain their case.

Its also our believe that when meeting indigenous peoples and their CSOs the commission should ensure that the environment in which they meet indigenous peoples is conducive and free from censorship from the government, their absence on the venue is ensured.

If the commission is visiting the locus in quo, we strongly request the commission to ensure that the respondents from the community represent the community and identification of the respondents and sites to be visited are made by indigenous peoples and that the government is not on site to freely allow the peoples to exercise their freedom of expression.

The meetings with Indigenous peoples should not be an addendum to government plan that intend to justify their participation. We are also aware that the commission is meeting conservation organization (AWF, WWF, Frankfurt zoological society among other) and senior government leadership including the National Assembly speaker. We believe that they have so much in common to share among themselves and this will provide biased information to the commission given their role in the whole complains of Indigenous peoples.

We would also like to bring to your attention that ACHPR working group on Indigenous population had appointed PINGOs Forum as a focal organization on Indigenous peoples in Tanzania 4 Years ago. In addition, PINGO's is an umbrella CSO's of Indigenous People in Tanzania. Todate they are not been contacted on this issue unless the visit has nothing to do with Indigenous peoples.

With this letter we believe the Commission will make amendment to their schedule and ensure that Indigenous peoples are well represented and accorded with an ample opportunity to freely meet the Commission.

We further, believe that the Commission will maintain confidentiality of information contained in this letter for security reasons of CSO's forming this coalition.



This letter is signed by PINGO's Forum on behalf of a coalition of CSO's represented herein.

Kind Regards

Edward Porokwa

Pastoralists Indigenous NGOs forum (PINGOs Forum)

ANNEX – CONTACTS OF MEMBERS OF THE COALITION.

SN	NAME	PLACE	CONTACTS
01	Pingos Forum	Arusha	0754 479 815 eporokwa@pingosforum.or.tz
02	Pastoral Women's Council	Arusha & Loliondo	0628 444 446 pwlegalofficer@gmail.com
03	Pastoral Livelihood Support and Empowerment Program	Loliondo	062 227 7755 /0757 000 600 palisep.ngorongoro@hotmail.com
04	Ujamaa Community Resource Team	Arusha	0765 003 650 directorurt@gmail.com
05	Integrated Development Initiatives in Ngorongoro - IDINGO	Loliondo	0683 613 443 ngongoroidingo@gmail.com
06	Traditional Ecosystem Survival Tanzania (TEST)	Arusha	yannick@nyanda.org +255753335095