

## KENYA

# SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

## Indigenous people forced from their ancestral home



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**The Sengwer people have lived in the Embobut Forest for centuries and have a deep spiritual bond with the land. But this indigenous community of beekeepers and cattle herders faces forced eviction from their ancestral home.**

In the name of 'conservation', the forestry services and the police have burned an estimated 2,600 houses since 2012, making some 4,600 people homeless. One man was shot dead and another seriously injured in 2018. The violence directly violates repeated court orders that should protect the community.

The Sengwer people are losing their homes, livelihoods

and cultural identity. Some now live outside the forest in crushing poverty, with women often the hardest hit. The government says it wants to reduce deforestation, but there is no evidence the Sengwer people have damaged the Embobut Forest. They should be recognised as its owners and natural custodians.

**'I went to school, I left my home intact and when I came back, my home had been burned down.'** Janet Cheserek, evicted from her home in the forest in 2014

### SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Sengwer Indigenous Peoples  
c/o Naomi Barasa  
Amnesty International Kenya  
PO Box 1527-0606 Nairobi  
Kenya

**Language** Sengwer, Swahili or English

**Suggested message** Dear family of Robert Kiroch Kibor, I'm sincerely sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you, and I will continue to demand justice for Robert and the Sengwer people. Or: Dear David Kosgei Kiptilkesi, I hope you're recovering from your injuries. My thoughts are with you, I will continue to demand justice and support the Sengwer people's struggle.

*Please do not try to replicate or wear Sengwer traditional costumes in stunts or solidarity actions. Avoid calling for the Sengwer people to be able to 'return' to their forest. Many still live there.*

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? **Yes**

- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- Include my name and address? **Yes**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge President Uhuru Kenyatta to allow the Sengwer people to live freely and peacefully in the Embobut Forest.

**Write to** Uhuru Kenyatta

President of Kenya  
Harambee House  
PO Box 62345 - 00200 Nairobi  
Harambee Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya

**Salutation** Your Excellency

**In your letter urge him to**

- Allow the Sengwer people to live freely and peacefully on their ancestral land in the Embobut Forest
- End the house burnings, arrests and forced evictions
- Talk to the Sengwer and get their consent for a new approach to conservation that recognises their role as owners and custodians of the forest
- Recognise them as partners in protecting the environment.

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**EVERY MESSAGE COUNTS** Together we can help the Sengwer people stay on their ancestral land

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INTERNATIONAL**

