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Vanyaneka and Ovaherero communities Angola



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Pastoralists go hungry as ranchers expand

The diversion of communal grazing land by the government to commercial cattle farmers in southern Angola has caused widespread hunger, malnourishment and starvation among the Vanyaneka and Ovaherero pastoralist groups.

Since the end of the Angolan civil war in 2002, the government has allowed the ranchers to occupy 67 per cent of this fertile area in Gambos municipality without due process. The Vanyaneka and Ovaherero are now struggling to produce food for themselves and the cattle on which they depend.

Their plight has been exacerbated by a severe drought, which started in November 2018 and affects more than 2.3 million people in southern Angola and a further 500,000 in neighbouring Namibia. Historically, communal grazing land played a vital role in mitigating the impact of droughts in this semi-arid region.

APPEAL Ask the authorities to immediately provide adequate food and drinking water for Gambos communities suffering from, or at risk of, hunger. Urge them to stop granting communal grazing land to commercial livestock farmers; hold those responsible for granting large parts of communal land in the Gambos; and make reparations to the communities affected. Call for long-term measures to increase Gambos communities' resilience to climate-driven hazards.

► **President João Lourenço**
Secretário-Geral do Presidente da República
Órgãos Auxiliares do Presidente da República
Palácio Presidencial
Rua 17 de Setembro
Cidade Alta
Luanda
Angola

Salutation: Honourable President
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► **His Excellency Dr Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguerra**
Embassy of the Republic of Angola
22 Dorset Street
London W1U 6QY

Salutation: Your Excellency

APPEAL Urge the authorities to immediately release Aser Mohamed, protect him from torture and other ill-treatment, and allow him full access to his family, lawyer, and medical treatment. Call for an impartial investigation into his enforced disappearance and allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, with those responsible brought to justice.

► **Hamada al-Sawy**
Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
New Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor
Postage: World

► **His Excellency Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel**
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London W1K 1DW

Salutation: Your Excellency

Aser Mohamed Egypt



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Teenager jailed after 'confession' extracted through torture

Four years after being tortured into 'confessing' to a raft of offences, teenager Aser Mohamed was sentenced to 10 years in prison in October 2019. His trial was grossly unfair.

On 12 January 2016, Aser, then aged 14, was arrested, forcibly disappeared for 35 days, and given electric shocks and suspended by his limbs until he 'confessed' to crimes including 'membership of a terrorist group' and attacking a hotel. He says he did not commit any of the offences.

Aser was prosecuted, detained and sentenced alongside adults, even though international law requires children deprived of their liberty to be held separately from adults and treated humanely. His appeal will be judged by the Court of Cassation in Cairo, which could drop or reduce the sentence.

Amnesty has documented numerous cases in which Egypt's National Security Agency has used enforced disappearances to prevent peaceful dissent.