

A statement presented by Isa Adamu, delegate of Santa Mbororo Youths' Association
(SAMUSA) during the 6th session of EMRIP
at Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 July 2013.

Chairman of the 6th session of EMRIP,
Delegates of Indigenous organizations,
Distinguished personalities,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Accept greetings from the mbororo pastoralists of Cameroon. We are grateful to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous peoples for funding our participation at this session, without which it would have been impossible to represent the voice of indigenous peoples of Cameroon here today.

The mbororo pastoralists number about 2.5 million people. They continue to face evictions from their lands and other violations of their right caused by the private sector development. The mbororo pastoralists livelihood depends largely on cattle herding, land security is a major concern. But unfortunately, the land law tenure in Cameroon greatly favor the dominant farming population. A practical case is when SITEP-CAMP in the North-West Region of Cameroon an agro-industrial company is threatening to evict more than 80 Mbororo pastoralists who have been living there since 1905. Another example is in Bamenda, North-West Region of Cameroon the Catholic Church has issued an eviction order to 300 Mbororo people for the construction of a catholic university. For the past 27 years, Mbororo indigenous and minority rights defenders are threatened and even locked up by a billionaire landowner.

The mbororo pastoralists of Cameroon depend on cattle herding for their livelihood. In response fluctuating pasture conditions, most of them are to some extent nomadic, living mobile habitations. For this reason, they are treated as foreigners by crop farmers. Their cultural and economic survival is threatened by population pressure, environmental degradation, ecological and social unsound development policies. The unclear land tenure systems are major threats to their survival.

We would like therefore to put forward the following proposals;

- The EMRIP should recommend to the Human right council to urge the Cameroon government to fully implement the findings of it own inter ministerial commission (the Jani Commission) which completed its investigation since 2004.
- EMRIP should recommend to the Human right council to urge the Cameroon government to set an Indigenous affairs office to protects the peoples needs and rights.
- The united nations organs base in Cameroon should collaborate with Indigenous organizations so as to conserve indigenous biocultural heritage since culture is a fundamental pillar in the UNDRIP.
- The communal and customary rights of Mbororo people should be recognized over their lands and for them to be allowed to manage their lands according to their custom and traditions.
- Employment opportunities ,vocational trainings and scholarships should be made available to the Mbororo youths by the Cameroon Government.

Thank you for your kind attention