

Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC)
Submission to the 12th Session of the UPR Working Group on
the Human Rights situation of Karamojong Indigenous Peoples of Uganda

Key words: security, land, culture, education, development and representation; violation of rights in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007.

1. This submission has been prepared by **Jennifer Koinante, Vice-chairperson of IPACC and head of the Yaku Peoples Association**. Ms Koinante facilitated a meeting of 10 leaders of 7 community based organisations of the Karamojong of north-eastern Uganda who met in Kampala on 3rd of March 2011 to prepare a submission to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Peer Review. The organisations represent the communities that live in the Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripint, Katido, Amudat and Kaabong Districts of North-eastern Uganda.

Security

2. The Karamojong are pastoralists and complain of a lack of protection by government from cattle-raiding from other neighbouring pastoralists.

Land

3. The Karamojong have three types of land ownership: cultural hereditary land; community land for shrines and sacred sites and government land for infrastructure
4. The Karamojong complain that the government has leased the community lands to companies without free, prior and informed consent. The first they know about it is when surveyors come and survey the land, sites are fenced and mining starts. The companies include the Totoro Cement Factory for 99 year leases and the Rupe Investment of Marble Company for 49 years. No royalties, cash payments, benefits or any other infrastructure has been remitted to the communities on whose land these companies operate. The Tororo Cement Factory operates in a district rich in limestone, marble, potassium and gold.
5. Kidepo National Game Park in the Kaabong District is operated by the Uganda Wildlife Authority. The Katurum and Apuk lodges have been privatised with benefits and private companies enjoying the profits. The Karamojong complain that no returns or benefits are enjoyed by the people on whose lands the Game Park operates.
6. These actions have severely impacted on the development and livelihoods of the Karamojong people. Their lands are plagued by drought leading to loss of cattle; they are unable to engage or benefit from other forms of land use due to the expropriation of land in long term leases, and they do not receive any benefit from these leases.
7. These actions by the government of Uganda are in violation of **articles 10, 18, 19, 25 and 26 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007.**

Culture

8. The Karamojong complain that the Kajong culture is not featured in the Ugandan education system in violation of **article 15 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. There is also a lack of documentation about the Kajong culture.

Education

9. The Karamojong complain that access to education is extremely limited for Karamojong peoples. Although universal primary education has been introduced in Uganda under a pilot scheme, fees are payable putting out of reach of most Karamojong. Lack of education and illiteracy seriously undermine the Karamojong ability to take control of their own development and future in violation of **articles 14 and 21 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

Lack of Development, Neglect and Marginalisation

10. The Karamojong complain that their territory is characterised by poor infrastructure in respect of water, electricity, health facilities and roads thus increasing their marginalisation and lack of development in violation of **articles 20 and 21 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

Representation

11. The Karamojong are regarded as a minority in Uganda and are not represented in National policy-making institutions in violation of **article 18 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.