



900 McGill Road
Kamloops BC
V2C 0C8

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

t: 250.828.5289
f: 250.852.6350

Director of the Kenya Forest Service Emilio N. Mugo
Kenya Forest Service Director's Office
P.O Box 30513-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

January 19, 2018

Cease forced evictions in Embobut Forest

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to immediately order the cessation of forced evictions in Embobut forest, to ensure that all those affected by the forced evictions are allowed to return to their lands and no further retaliation happens to *Sengwer* activists, and finally to facilitate an independent investigation into the ongoing forced evictions.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of an organized campaign to forcibly evict the *Sengwer* Indigenous community from their ancestral home due to unsubstantiated conservation concerns.

We strongly believe that you and the Kenyan government have a responsibility under domestic and international law to investigate these reports, including a High Court injunction forbidding evictions from the forest and African Union human rights standards. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to take action to cease these evictions, return the *Sengwer* people to their lands, and hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union

Caitlin Orteza
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Cabinet Secretary E.E. Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Ambassador H.E. Stefano Dejak, High Commissioner John Lepi Lanyasunya