

# Tanzanian Tribe Says Luxury Safari Companies Are Burning Down Their Homes and Stealing Their Land

Colonizers gone colonize. SMH.

By [Ashleigh Atwell](#)

Global Research, June 07, 2018

[Blavity](#) 4 June 2018

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

*Luxury safaris favored by wealthy foreigners have prompted the Tanzanian government to seize land promised to the Maasai people in previous government agreements, [The Guardian](#) reports.*

The global elite favors the safaris and often pay large sums of money for big-game hunting such as lions, zebras and giraffes.

Proceeds from the hunting fees are supposed to go toward wildlife conservation. In recent years, these tours have become increasingly popular, and to capitalize on the demand for them, the indigenous Maasai people are being driven from their land.

A study from The Oakland Institute says hundreds of Maasai homes have been burned down, and hunting camps have been erected in the middle of villages.

Additionally, villagers have been assaulted and arrested by police officers, security guards and park rangers patrolling the area. Over 20,000 people have been left homeless according to Tanzanian news outlets.

Villagers say the destruction has left the Maasai susceptible to famine since the new camps block access to watering holes and other resources. They have appealed to the government for resources due to an alarming number of malnourished children.

“Imagine, a stranger comes and constructs a big building in the centre of your home,” one Maasai said. “Our livestock cannot go to the waterhole – there is no other route for the villagers or their livestock.”

The report centers on the actions of two firms, Thomson Safaris and Otterlo Business Corporation. Thomson is currently battling three Maasai groups for over 12,000 acres of land.

“The evictions are not justified because more and more land is being taken away from the villages without due process or compensation even though they have legal titles,” said **Rashid S. Rashid**, one of the lawyers defending the Maasai. “The policies of the government are based mainly on the arguments advanced by Thomson and Otterlo because they have more political influence than the villagers.”

**Rick Thomson**, a director of Tanzania Conservation, a sister company of Thomson Safaris, denies the allegations.

“These interventions have been played out to attract attention, provide stories and to disrupt the working relationship between company and communities on the ground,” Thomson said. “In these events, the endangered staff have a protocol of disengaging any way they can to avoid escalation and reporting to the authorities any situation where any people and property, are physically threatened. These situations have been rare, and no such events have occurred for the last four years.”

\*

*Featured image is from Twitter/African Updates.*

The original source of this article is [Blavity](#)  
Copyright © [Ashleigh Atwell](#), [Blavity](#), 2018

---

[\*\*Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page\*\*](#)

[\*\*Become a Member of Global Research\*\*](#)

Articles by: [\*\*Ashleigh Atwell\*\*](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)