

Joseph Oleshangay brief statement on Weimar Human Rights Award 2023

I am honored to be the recipient of 2023 Weimer Human Rights Award. I thank you everyone who in their right judgement believed that out of many human rights defenders around the world, I deserve the recognition for what I do to uplift the voice of Maasai community in northern Tanzania among many others. It means so much to me as a person and to these we have working together to address eviction of the Maasai community in Ngorongoro and Loliondo. It particularly means everything to Maasai the victim of impunity, lawlessness, people who have lost their land, their properties, people without access to vital basic service as health, starved children, pregnant Women who cannot access prenatal care among many others who despite all repressive powers of our government, have not given up. Their voice clear, we are not going anywhere out of ancestral land. It's for many of them that, I and my colleague have not given up despite unmatched oppression against them with all mighty powers of the state.

This award means so much to me, my family and all these whose lives I have been touching in my activism either in Courts or making their voices heard through advocacy which themselves, they cannot access the means to speak on their own behalf. This recognition means what I and my college are doing in our small ways is momentous to all in love with justice around the world.

It also means, in the hand of the repressive regime, many people around the world are supporting our lawful and peaceful determination to address this unfortunate invented crisis we have found ourselves in. On behalf of the Maasai community in in general and Ngorongoro and Loliondo in particular. I thank Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker and the Weimer city for their sharp eye that have seen among so many deserving people, that, all that I do, deserve to be part of the history of Weimer Human Right award. This appreciation goes well into international media. In the earliest stage of last year eviction, I thought engaging international media might be the better option to bring the problem into world spotlight. I thank whoever who have ever covered our stories and it means so much covering inconceivable maltreatment of my community by the government that ought to protect them.

Thank you very much for standing up for what is right and Just

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Moses Oleshangay', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Moses Oleshangay

5/12/2023