



**Survival International**  
6 Charterhouse Buildings  
London EC1M 7ET  
United Kingdom  
T 020 7687 8700  
F 020 7687 8701  
info@survivalinternational.org  
[www.survivalinternational.org](http://www.survivalinternational.org)

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**We help tribal peoples  
defend their lives, protect  
their lands and determine  
their own futures.**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Survival International has launched an international boycott of tourism to Botswana. This drastic measure is a result of the ongoing persecution of the country's first inhabitants, the Bushmen, by the Botswana government.

In 2002, Bushmen from the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in central Botswana took the government to court after they were forcibly evicted from their ancestral land by government forces. Homes were destroyed, their water borehole dismantled and the Bushmen were driven away in government trucks.

In 2006, the High Court ruled that the Bushmen had been unlawfully evicted and that they have the constitutional right to live on their ancestral land, thus paving the way for the Bushmen to return to the reserve.

However, defying the ruling, the government is doing its utmost to make life impossible for the Bushmen, and harassment is greater than ever. Despite all CKGR Bushmen having the right to live on their land, the government has only allowed the applicants of the court case to return.

Bushmen are forced to apply for a one-month permit to enter the reserve, and children – who must frequently travel in and out of the reserve to attend school – are repeatedly harassed and threatened by Wildlife Scouts. Once they reach the age of 16 they are no longer given permits resulting in entire families being divided. The obvious aim of the government is to ensure that in several decades there will be no more Bushmen living in the CKGR.

The High Court also recognized the Bushmen's right to hunt. However, any Bushmen caught hunting inside the reserve face hefty fines or jail terms, and there have been several reports of violence and torture used against the tribe by local wildlife authorities. These are the last hunting Bushmen in Africa. They rely on game for their survival and have used traditional hunting methods, in harmony with Botswana's wildlife, for millennia. They simply cannot survive if they are not allowed to hunt.

In August 2013 the Bushmen again took the government to court, asking that it desist from its one-month permit policy that violates their right to freely access their land. Immediately prior to the case, however, their long-standing British lawyer, Gordon Bennett, was placed on a 'visa list' and barred from the country and from

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representing his clients. The judge subsequently dismissed the case. The UK's International Bar Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights have raised this issue with the government.

The Botswana government has repeatedly demonstrated its total disregard for the Bushman's rights as well as the rulings of its own High Court. Indeed, it seems intent on wiping out the country's last remaining hunter-gatherers.

As a last resort and to publicize this ongoing persecution, the Bushmen and Survival are asking tourists and tour operators around the world to boycott all travel to Botswana until the government upholds the rights of the Bushman to live freely and in peace on their ancestral land.

We urge your company to suspend all tours to Botswana. The last hunting Bushmen could be wiped out if they are forced from their land.

We will be happy to publicize the news of any companies who stop offering tours to Botswana, or any travel advice websites that provide a link to our boycott campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Corry

Director  
Survival International