

Survival



The global movement
for tribal peoples' rights

Arrest and beatings, torture and death

The persecution of Bushman hunters, Botswana, 1992-2014

They have killed me

Bushman Botswana

Introduction

Botswana's Bushmen were illegally evicted from their ancestral homelands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) in the name of conservation.

It is the world's second largest game reserve, and was created in 1961 to "reserve sufficient land for traditional use by hunter-gatherer communities of the Central Kalahari" and "to protect the food supplies of the existing Bushmen in (the) area."¹

In the 1980s, diamonds were discovered within the traditional hunting grounds of the Bushmen, and the government's policy toward the Bushmen was turned on its head.

In three waves of forced evictions, the Bushmen were forced from their homes and "resettled" into eviction camps that became known as "places of death."

Numerous lies were employed by the government to justify the evictions, such as "they [the Bushmen] are incompatible with wildlife conservation,"² and "women are held captive by their husbands in the reserve."³

But, in September 2014, the true motive behind the evictions was revealed, as a \$4.9bn diamond mine opened within the reserve, just 3.2 km from the Bushman community of Gope.

Evidence proves that tribal peoples, such as the Bushmen, are better at looking after their environment than anyone else. They are the best conservationists and guardians of the natural world. It therefore makes sense that they should be at the forefront of the environmental movement.

Yet they have been repeatedly blamed for destroying the environment, and are now accused of "poaching" because they hunt to feed their families.

The Bushmen face arrest and beatings, torture and death, while diamond and fracking companies are given free rein to prospect in an area supposedly reserved for the protection of wildlife.

1 A. Albertson, (2002), The CKGR and sustainable development

2 Major General Moeng Pheto, Ministry of Local Government, 2002

3 Margaret Nasha, Minister of Local Government, 2002

The Botswana government is partnering with industry and tourism and is destroying the environment's best allies.

In January 2014, President Ian Khama imposed a nationwide hunting ban which denies the Bushmen the right to feed their families. Fee-paying big game hunters are exempt from the ban, and are encouraged to travel to Botswana to pay thousands of dollars to hunt protected species on private game ranches.

Two successful court cases against the government upheld the Bushmen's right to live, hunt and sink water boreholes in the reserve. Despite this, the government continues to do everything in its power to force them off their land.

In 2013, the U.S. State Department labeled the Botswana Government's discrimination against the Bushmen a "principal human rights concern."

This report is a record of just some of the beatings, arrests and abuses suffered by the Bushmen.

Survival International is exposing these abuses to highlight the government's attempts to annihilate the last hunting Bushmen. We're fighting these abuses, for the Bushmen, for nature, for all humanity.

Wildlife officers told me that even if they killed me no charges would be laid against them

Mogolodi Moeti



They told me that even if they killed me no charges would be laid against them because what they were doing to me was an order from the government.

While they were assaulting me they told me that even the President was aware of what was happening; that they were busy beating me up.

I asked them if it was wrong for a Bushman to seek redress from the court against government. They told me that I was being made an example of to dissuade others from attempting to return to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve or disrespecting government.

Mogolodi Moeti

January 4, 2014

Mogolodi Moeti and Maikgantsho Kaingota were taken from their homes in New Xade, a government eviction camp, during the night by several members of the paramilitary branch of the police known as the Special Support Group (SSG), and a park guard.

Mogolodi was beaten with the butt of a gun and his house was raided for “illegal” bushmeat. Finding nothing, the officers then drove Moeti away and returned him later the same day with no charge.

An initial hearing of Mogolodi Moeti’s case was heard in Ghanzi in June 2014. The case remains open.

January 2013

Three children were arrested for possession of antelope meat in the reserve. All were later released without charge.

January 9, 2013

Wildlife scouts confiscated fruit and berries from Amogelang Segootsane, telling him that the food was “for animals, not humans!”

November 2012

Four Special Support Group paramilitary police and one wildlife scout searched huts belonging to Bushmen Nkemetseng Motsoko and Kebonyeng Kepese in the Bushman community of Gope in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. The Bushmen were accused of “poaching” but, finding no meat, the officers began to interrogate the men.

Nkemetseng refused to tell them where the suspected meat was. He was put in handcuffs and beaten by a Special Support Group officer. Others at Gope saw what was happening but were too frightened to intervene.

Nkemetseng and Kebonyeng were taken out to the bush. While in the truck a Special Support Group officer again ordered Nkemetseng to tell them where the meat was hidden.

Wildlife officers buried me alive. I thought I was going to die

Nkemetseng Motsoko



They stuck my head down an animal hole and filled it with sand so I was buried up to the waist. Only my legs were sticking out. I don't know how long I was in there because I lost consciousness. I thought I was going to die, and when they pulled me out I told them where the carcass was to stop them doing it again. They thought there was more meat I hadn't told them about and tried to suffocate me again: this time they put their arms around my neck. But when I still said I knew of no more carcasses they finally gave up.

Nkemetseng Motsoko

When Nkemetseng would not tell them they stopped the truck and pulled him out.

They pushed his head down an animal hole and filled it with sand. He lost consciousness. When he awoke, he was suffocated again to make him confess where the meat was.

They collected the carcass and took it and the Bushmen to the Special Support Group camp, where they were kept overnight in handcuffs, without food.

In the morning Nkemetseng was kicked, and told that he had still not told them about all the animals he had killed.

Nkemetseng later produced medical records which show that on November 28, 2012 a police officer took him to hospital. The records show he had sustained injuries to his teeth and jaw, which continue to give him pain.

Kebonyeng Kepese admitted killing an eland antelope and sustained less violent treatment. Both men were charged \$190 for "poaching."

During the same incident, the mother of the two men was verbally assaulted and told to remove her clothes in front of her children.

The Bushman organizations First Peoples of the Kalahari and Khwedom Council reported the incident to the Deputy Commissioner of Police in 2013.

No charges have been brought against the officers involved.

November 2012

Tshamekolo Magogobelo, Moapare Digobe and Setheke Titigo were arrested near New Xade for hunting gemsbok inside the reserve.

November 2012

Mokatse Sethume and seven other men were arrested in New Xade for hunting gemsbok antelope outside the reserve.

The police are looking for you and they are going to kill you

Threat made by police officer to Jumanda Gakelebone



Our people are being made into criminals just for trying to survive. Those animals were given to us by our ancestors and we have always taken only what we need to live. Hunting and gathering is our livelihood and our culture and without it people are now dying.

(The arrest) shows the government's intention. I count (the reserve) as home. That's where I was born. I do not need a permit.

Jumanda Gakelebone

November 2012

A hunting party was spotted by authorities traveling by plane in the reserve. The men's fresh meat, biltong (dried meat), spears, horse and donkeys were all confiscated.

Mongwegi Gaoberekwe, Dipuisano Mongwegi, Mohame Belesa and Thoama Tsenene were forced to travel back and forth from their homes in the reserve to court several times over the period of two years.

The case was finally dropped in July 2014 due to state failings.

2011

In three separate incidents, men were arrested for hunting. They were: Gotoma Kepese and another man; Tsheko Matlhalo and two other men; and five men from Metsiamenong (Bushman community inside the reserve).

January 2011

Jumanda Gakelebone was arrested and held overnight while traveling through the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

The arrest left the Bushmen's lawyer, who was traveling with Jumanda, stranded in the desert without a guide or translator. Jumanda was released without charge.

July 2010

Bushmen attempting to bring water into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve for their relatives (the Bushmen's water borehole in the reserve had been dismantled by the government) were told by wildlife scouts that they could not use donkeys to carry the water, since these were no longer permitted.

June 2010

Mongwelo Kaungwe and seven other men had their homes raided in Gope. The police found two animal skins and gemsbok meat during the raid. Mongwelo was arrested.

Wildlife officers made me stand naked and beat me

Motsoko Ramahoko



Motsoko was made to stand naked and was beaten with a stick. He was forced to sign a confession for killing an eland antelope.

May 2010

A large group of paramilitary police officers set up a permanent camp close to Metsiamenong and made five arrests after finding hunted meat in the community. No Bushmen were charged.

July 2009

Six adults were arrested and jailed in relation to two incidents, one earlier in 2009 and another in 2007: Ntwayamogala Tshetha, Tatola Ntwayamogala, Meno Tshiana, Mpho Tshima, Banabotho Xawa and Kebinsetse Kgomo.

All six were released with a caution by a magistrate in Molepolole.

19 May, 2009

Trucks full of police and wildlife scouts were sent into the reserve to confiscate goats. The Bushmen had only had their livestock returned to them a few weeks previously.

The goats were later sold by the government at auction.

4 October, 2007

According to First Peoples of the Kalahari, the organization representing the Bushmen of the reserve, six hunters were arrested in New Xade.

The hunters were discharged by a magistrate in Ghanzi.

4 October, 2007

According to First Peoples of the Kalahari at least 10 men in the government eviction site Kaudwane were arrested and beaten by wildlife scouts.

At least one man, Motsoko Ramahoko, was tortured as officials attempted to force him to admit that he had been hunting without a permit.

Wildlife officers told me “You are a Khwe [Bushman]; we can kill you and nothing will happen to us”

Kebatseisa Thekiso



Kesodilo Ntwayamoga shows the scar from a gunshot fired at him by police.

24 September, 2007

Police and wildlife guards took three men from Kaudwane - Vitanon Mogwe, Mphato Mothoiwa and Nabedao Mamou - into the reserve and made them run through the desert for several hours in high temperatures, following them in vehicles.

They beat the three of them with sticks, kicked them, jumped on them and tightened rubber tubes around the necks of Vitanon and Mphato.

In total, 15 men were arrested in Kaudwane for hunting in September 2007, and at least 10 of them were tortured.

23 September, 2007

Three men - Motsoko Ramahoko, Gabaakanye Moromapudi, Lethoapua Lefatshe - were held all day without food or water and repeatedly questioned. Their handcuffs were tightened until they signed a confession for killing an eland antelope. Motsoko was made to stand naked and was beaten with a stick.

In a separate incident, Ofense Galetshipe was arrested, beaten and questioned all day without food before being forced to sign a confession.

22 September, 2007

Bantlogetse Motsoko was arrested and his arm was cut “to make him talk.” All of his food was thrown into the sand.

20 September, 2007

Motlhapiswe Letswele was arrested and kept overnight in a cell, half naked and with no blankets, food or water. In the morning, he was tightly handcuffed and shaken, and made to wait outside in the sun without water.

His family was brought in for questioning. He was then taken home together with his family.

You are castrated; you are throttled so that you excrete all which you have eaten in your stomach

Bushman



When they found us they pushed their guns into our chests and asked us what should stop them killing us right now.

The wildlife officers told our families they would shoot and kill us.

Vitanon Mogwe

The following day, he was taken with Ramonthso Ntole, Kalachane and Israel Letfathse into the bush. They walked for six hours while being followed by a car. Ramonthso and Motlhapiswe were beaten.

Over the next few days, the men were repeatedly taken from their homes to see a local magistrate.

August – September 2007

Six adults were arrested for hunting in the reserve.

12 August, 2007

Five men were arrested inside the reserve: Baruti Gakelebone; Isaac Gakelebone; Molemise Sekhomatahoko; Ofentshe Kekailwe; and Thabo Mathula. They were wrapped in blankets and threatened that they would be set on fire. They were kept for two weeks in the bush before being taken to town. Their donkeys were confiscated.

June and early July 2007

Twenty-one Bushmen were arrested for hunting in the reserve, near New Xade. A magistrate in Ghanzi ruled in their favor in September 2007.

February 2007

Six men were arrested and held for six days after police and wildlife guards accused them of hunting in the reserve.

The men were refused food for four days and threatened at gunpoint by police.

One of the men and his wife were beaten up after refusing to let wildlife scouts and police search their home without a warrant. They were released without charge.

21 – 28 July 2006

During this week, five men were arrested in Kaudwane for hunting duikers (small antelope) to eat.

If you don't tell us the truth that you killed an eland we will do to you what we did to Selelo [Selelo died after being assaulted in 2005]

Wildlife Guard threatens Mphato Mothoiwa



Xoroxloo died of dehydration in 2005. She was one of several Bushmen who managed to remain in the reserve, resisting eviction. A police blockade prevented other Bushmen from entering the reserve with provisions for their families. The government had cut off any access to water for residents who refused to leave their homes.

July 2006

Two men, one of whom was Loslobe Mooketsi, were arrested and charged with hunting an antelope in the reserve. They were made to spend one night in prison.

The following day they were taken into the reserve and forced to run in front of police vehicles for six hours in the midday heat until they reached the place where they had been hunting.

April 2006

Eight men who were living in Kaudwane were arrested at gunpoint, threatened with death, and tortured before being held for a night in prison and charged with hunting in the reserve.

The eight men were tied to a pole for a day in a press-up position, and kicked and beaten if they tried to move.

November 2005

Xoroxloo Duxee, a Bushman woman, died of dehydration, starvation and shock near Metsiamenong. The government had been blockading the reserve for three months.

Dehydration was confirmed as the cause of Xoroxloo's death in a postmortem report.

October 2005

An adult and child were shot and wounded by Botswana police.

Kekailwe (aged seven) was shot in the stomach as the police arrested his father when he refused to let them search his hut without a warrant.

In a separate incident, Kesodilo Ntwayamoga was shot from behind in each leg as he stood with both hands raised. Witnesses confirmed that police were trying to force him to admit to hunting.

October 2005

Officials forcibly removed all goats, which the Bushmen had been keeping for decades, from the reserve.

Four of the five people who were beaten in custody by the police work for First People of the Kalahari. It is obvious that the government is targeting us.

Bushman leader Roy Sesana was sitting in the car. He put up his hands. The police handcuffed him, then the police superintendent punched him on his thighs. When he was down they were jumping on him with big boots.

First People of the Kalahari statement

People would rather die in the reserve without food or water than leave their homes

Matsipane Mosetlhanyane



Everyone in the reserve is very frightened. My family doesn't even know where I am. People would rather die in the reserve without food or water than leave their homes.

Matsipane Mosetlhanyane

3 October, 2005

Eight people from the government eviction camp of Xere were arrested trying to take water into the reserve through the Xere gate.

One was tied up and beaten for three hours. All were held overnight with no food or water. The food they were taking into the reserve was destroyed and the water tipped onto the ground.

4 September, 2005

In total, 28 Bushmen who were attempting to take water to their families in the reserve were arrested and spent four days in prison.

Seven of those detained were children, including a seven-month old baby.

Mokgakalaga Gaoberekwe was shot in the jaw as he and others attempted to enter the reserve to take water and food to their families.

The Bushman party, including children, was attacked by heavily armed police and soldiers under the personal command of Sydney Pilane, the attorney acting for the government in the high court case in which the Bushmen were claiming rights to their ancestral land in the reserve.

The police fired teargas and rubber bullets at the unarmed Bushmen. The party was charged with 'unlawful assembly.'

22 September, 2005

A police officer threatened Jumanda Gakelebhone.

This was the fifth death threat he had received, including a threat to burn his house down while he slept.

19 September, 2005

Matsipane Mosetlhanyane was arrested inside the reserve after he tried to stop 19 armed wildlife officers entering his hut without a search warrant. He was held for three days.

They took me from my house at 9.30 in the morning and beat me until 1.30 in the afternoon

Maarama Phologo



They took me from my house at 9.30 in the morning and beat me until 1.30 in the afternoon. Then they took me into custody at Salajwe. I spent the night there with no food and no water.

Maarama Phologo

He reported that in the Bushman communities of Gugamma and Mothomelo, officials had been patrolling day and night with rifles and had been preventing residents from gathering the roots that they rely on for food and hydration.

12 September, 2005

Bushmen who had returned to their land after being evicted were ordered to leave within 10 days.

Armed police and wildlife scouts camped in the area and threatened to shoot them dead.

August - September 2005

Wildlife scouts entered the reserve and threatened Bushmen at gunpoint in an attempt to force them to abandon their homes.

August 2005

Xhatshoe Xhose, Maiteko Digotlhong and Gothata Digotlhong were arrested for hunting inside the reserve.

27 June, 2005

Eight Bushmen were tortured by wildlife officials in Kaudwane: Tsuoo Tshiamo; Meno Tshiamo; Selelo Tshiamo; Kganne Kgadikgadi; Sabokana Morwalela; Letshwao Nagayame; Maarama Phologo and Moarama Nagayame.

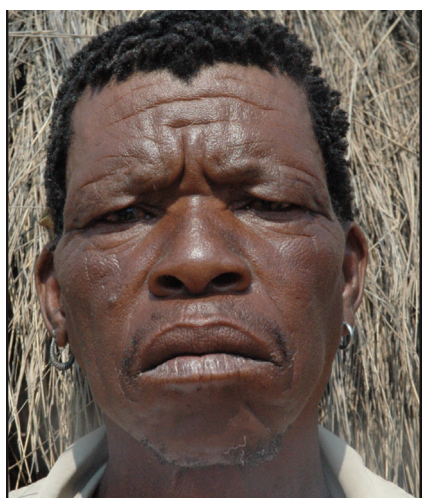
Several of the victims reported that they were tortured a number of times over three days.

Letshwao Nagayame, 57, was handcuffed and tied upside-down to a post. As he tried to support himself on his hands, officials stepped on his fingers, kicked him, and repeatedly punched him in the groin. They also violently pulled his genitals. He was unable to urinate for some days.

Letshwao also reported that wildlife officials had poured petrol into his brother's anus.

Wildlife officers strung me up with rope and they beat me. I think they wanted to kill me

Letshwao Nagayame



The officials pulled my testicles and penis, beat me up, and kicked me, while one man smashed my knuckles on the hard floor.

Letshwao Nagayame

Sabokana Morwalela was laid face down on a table and hit repeatedly. He said that seven wildlife officials were involved. He suffered from severe back pain after the incident.

Maarama Phologo, 65, compared the incident to rape. Kganne Kgadikgadi and Meno Tshiamo were handcuffed by hand and foot to the bullbar of a vehicle and dragged for about a kilometer.

Selelo Tshiamo was beaten in the ribs with a gemsbok horn. One of the officials beating him opened Selelo's mouth with his hand and spat into it. He died in June after his chest pains increased.

The Botswana government denied the incidents of torture. Two of the Bushmen were charged by police for hunting without a license.

November 2004

A Bushman vehicle was stopped at Xade gate. The guards emptied out their water.

July 2004

Seven Bushmen were arrested near New Xade and charged with hunting gemsbok. They were detained for two weeks without trial, then released pending prosecution.

In Maun, six of them were fined 1000 pula (\$110) each. They were threatened with imprisonment if they did not pay.

May 2004

Three Bushmen from the reserve were arrested near New Xade and charged with "unlawful hunting."

April 2004

Three people were arrested near New Xade for killing an eland antelope with a spear.

They were returning on donkeys to their community in the reserve. They did not go via the gate and stopped at the borehole, which is south of the Xade gate and outside the reserve, to collect water.

Wildlife officers tied me upside down and beat me until I collapsed

Mbonego Gaorapelwe

Name	Treatment Centre	Complaint, treatment, referral	Investigations	Initials
Nkemetseng Mtsoko		136°C wt 48kg bp 134/70 mmHg P 70		
2002-11-28		Brought in by police officer with history of being bitten and has laceration of the mouth 2nd molar on the right side of upper maxillary, post assault.		
		1st - vs at home.		
		- 2nd - 1st.		
		- Death poor health.		
		- 3rd molar present		
		- 2nd - 3rd molar abscessed and		
		abscessed abscess on the		
		gum. Abscess on both for some		
		time.		

Nkemetseng Mtsoko's medical record after he was brutally attacked by police officers. He was later fined \$190 for hunting an eland.

Four wildlife scouts arrested them and harassed them, although reportedly did not beat them.

They had hunting licenses for the New Xade area where the eland was killed, but eland was not on the list of animals they were permitted to hunt.

The donkeys and all their possessions were confiscated and the men were taken into custody for one day then released.

16 February, 2004

Seven Bushmen were arrested and taken from New Xade to the police station in Ghanzi.

7 February, 2004

Five Bushmen were charged for possession of eland biltong.

The offence on their charge sheets was "unlawful possession of government trophy."

15 September, 2003

An unknown number of Bushmen were arrested and taken to Ghanzi for hunting near New Xade.

31 July, 2003

Bushmen from Mothomelo were accused of entering the reserve without a permit.

This came shortly after one person from Molapo was arrested for trying to bring in water supplies.

23 June, 2003

Six Bushmen attended court, charged with entering the reserve in September 2002 without a valid permit.

All charges were dropped.

Wildlife officers threw my daughter and her baby to the ground

Gakeitsiwe Gaorapelwe



I was knocked down and while I was lying down they kicked me wearing their boots. My daughter was crying, she had a 10-month-old baby and the wildlife people threw them both on the ground.

While I was being kicked, my wife started crying... she was pushed and dragged by the feet. One of the wildlife people got a rifle and pointed it at me. My mother was crying so they pushed her and slapped her.

Gakeitsiwe Gaorapelwe

August - September 2002

Just a few days after President Mogae told Lord Pearson, of the UK Parliamentary Delegation to Botswana, that he would look into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve issue, police set up a roadblock to block Bushmen who were trying to return to their land.

They confiscated vehicles the Bushmen were using to return to their homeland inside the reserve.

March 2001

According to First People of the Kalahari, six Bushmen were detained outside the reserve for five days without food or water and "severely physically abused" while awaiting trial.

One wildlife officer beat a Bushman "so hard that he totally lost the use of one hand."

The six were convicted and sentenced to two years in jail.

29 August, 2000

Nineteen men and four women from Molapo were beaten by wildlife department employees and local police in Rakops.

Some men (including one who was too old to hunt) were taken into the bush near Molapo and tortured over a three to six day period until they said they had killed eland and giraffe.

The victims were: Gakeitsiwe Gaorapelwe; Kgwatiswa Gaorapelwe; Mbonego Gaorapelwe; Botshelo Gaorapelwe; Kebatseisa Thekiso; Thekiso Thaadintshao; Tshamekiswa Moruakgomo; Maikemiso Lekgoto; Ntwadintsi Zaidoo; Moithapelo Radinonyane; Mathambo Sesana; Moipolai Moyawaphuthi; Kaingotla Kanyo; Matshwane Moyawaphuthi; Ben Gaoboeto; Sethilo Thekiso; Boganeditse Lesapi; Ketaletwe Pola; and Gabogalalwe Gutabo.

The four women assaulted were: Sesoto Sesana; Mokotedi Tuelo; Kebonetse Gakaitsewe (who was breastfeeding a 10-month old baby); and Kaidiwetsa Mokalake.

Wildlife officers cuffed me to a jeep by my hands and ankles, and dragged me around for a kilometer

Tsuoo Tshiamo



The game scouts followed me once to Molapo and they pointed a gun at me and pushed me inside the car and brought me to the police in Ghanzi. While I was sleeping they pushed me with the barrel of the gun.

I was taken by police. One of the Molapo vehicles has been taken by the police and is now in Rakops. We are running up and down looking for lawyers to help us recover vehicles. My vehicle was taken in September. We got it back but we were charged. We are waiting for the court case.

Ketlhobogeng Jwae

The community identified the Rakops wildlife officials as: Mongadi; Slow; Mosaise; and Matswere, and two Rakops policemen: Sefo and Morobis.

According to the Bushmen, the officials arrived “on the last Tuesday of August” in three Land Rovers from the direction of Rakops and had a list of names and knowledge of who owned certain huts and their location.

Kgwathiswa Gaorapelwe was tied up to a tree with a fire burning close by.

Some of the men were detained in cells in Rakops and then released. Others were charged for hunting without licenses.

Thirteen of the men were prosecuted for “over-hunting.”

All charges against them were dropped on 31 January 2003, after Botswana authorities refused to produce a witness to confirm their accusations.

According to the community, Mothambo Sesana died as a result of the incident.

14 July, 1999

Thirteen Bushmen from New Xade – Kelatlhegile Karame and 12 others – were detained for hunting.

Six were charged with killing a gemsbok in GH10, a controlled hunting area in Ghanzi district. All those arrested had hunting licenses.¹

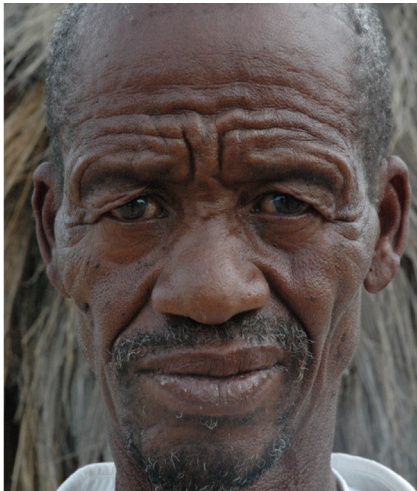
The case was originally to be heard in July 2000. It was eventually dismissed.

May 1999

Moloreng Balayeng from Gope was beaten by two wildlife scouts. He was fined 5,000 pula (\$550) for hunting.

Wildlife officers tortured me and ran me down with their car

Moloreng Balayeng



They told me to sing and dance while I was handcuffed and they chased me with the vehicle. They told me they were making me reduce the eland fat in my body.

I hunted, I was caught and tortured and knocked down by a vehicle. They found some leather and said I'd killed an eland in the reserve without a license. They were hitting me. They handcuffed me and said I had to pump a tire. I had to pump the tire standing on one leg. This lasted one day.

Moloreng Balayeng

1 April, 1996

Gaolokwe Kilo died after being tortured by game wardens for possessing one strip of cured eland hide.

He was accused of poaching, beaten as he stood in the center of the village, dragged to the game department compound, suspended by his feet and tortured.

Upon his release, he crawled to his wife and told her, "They have killed me." Kilo died shortly afterwards.²

February 1996

A group of Bushmen were caught by soldiers whilst hunting springbok.

No action was taken against any members of the Botswana Army.

Prior to 1996

Gaiki of Molapo was allegedly assaulted.

Prior to 1996

In Old Xade a man died after being assaulted by game scouts because he possessed some leather thongs. The official verdict for his death was AIDS or venereal disease.

1995

Masabe was arrested for hunting. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks took him and his wife to Molepolole. His horses were confiscated permanently.³

He was imprisoned for six months.

1993

Pitseng was arrested near Gope for killing hartebeest with an

² Ibid.

³ Ditshwanelo (1996), 'When Will This Moving Stop?' Report of a fact-finding mission conducted in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

We've beaten tortured and taken to court for hunting. Why can't we hunt in our own land, like we have for thousands of years?

Kganne Kgadikgadi



Vitanon Mogwe demonstrates how he and seven others were tied to a pole for a day in a press-up position, and kicked and beaten if they tried to move.

expired license. He was allegedly assaulted and detained for two months in Nokayabobedi, then taken to Serowe where he was imprisoned for one year. He returned to Metsiamenong in 1995.⁴

1992 or 1993

Xawaxlao Kgoteng was allegedly caught with a steenbok (small antelope) and castrated.

The castration of a Bushman from Gope was also mentioned in the report, Ditshwanelo (1996), "When Will This Moving Stop? Report of a fact-finding mission conducted in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve."

September 1992

In early September a Molapo Bushman said that wildlife officers visited Gope at the beginning of August and severely assaulted Bushmen suspected of killing giraffes and elephants.

Ghanzi District Council dismissed charges.

Before 1992

The most common form of torture was the "rubber ring," which was placed tightly around the testicles and at the same time a plastic bag was placed over the person's face.



The Bushmen of Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve are calling for President Khama to uphold their right to hunt on their ancestral land.

If the Botswana government continues to accuse the Bushmen of “poaching” because they hunt to feed their families, Africa's last hunting Bushmen will be annihilated.

Survival International

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Supporters in over 100 countries | 501(c)(3) registered non-profit | Charity no. 267444