

H.E. President Ian Khama Office of the President Private Bag 001 Gaborone Botswana

24th May 2013

Your Excellency,

Reports of forced evictions at Ranyane, Ghanzi District

Survival International has received disturbing reports that Bushmen of Ranyane have been threatened with evictions due to take place on Monday 27th May.

Bushmen in Ranyane have reportedly been approached by members of Ghanzi District Council asking them to move from their land or face forced removal.

Our understanding is that the justification for the Bushmen's eviction is to make way for a new 'wildlife corridor,' and the council plans to move the community some 150km away.

We have also written to the President of Conservation International, as we understand that it has been involved in funding and implementing the Western Kgalagadi Conservation Corridor Project with your government.

As you are aware, the forced relocation of Bushmen from their ancestral land has been ruled as 'unlawful and unconstitutional' by Botswana's High Court.

The eviction of Ranyane Bushmen would also violate international law which recognizes their right to live on their ancestral land.

We would be grateful if you could confirm whether or not the government plans to evict the Ranyane community, and if so, we urge you to halt the evictions and uphold the Bushmen's rights to their land.

Survival International

6 Charterhouse Buildings London EC1M 7ET United Kingdom

T 020 7687 8700 F 020 7687 8701 info@survivalinternational.org www.survivalinternational.org

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

Stephen Corry Director

Cc

Nick Pyle, British High Commissioner to Botswana
Michelle D. Gavin, US Ambassador to Botswana
Anne de la Blache, French ambassador to Botswana
Gerard McGovern, Head of EU delegation to Botswana
James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples
François-Xavier Duporge, Secretaire General, FFEM, France