

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH GOSFORTH AMNESTY LETTER JUNE 2020

The diversion of communal grazing land by the government to commercial cattle farmers in Southern Angola has caused widespread hunger, malnourishment and starvation among the Vanyaneka and Ovaherero pastoralist groups. Since the end of the Angolan civil war in 2002, the government has allowed the ranchers to occupy 67 per cent of this fertile area in Gambos municipality without due process. The Vanyaneka and Ovaherero are now struggling to provide enough food for themselves and the cattle on which they depend. Their plight has been exacerbated by a severe drought which started in November 2018 and which affects more than 2.3 million people in southern Angola and a further 500,000 in neighbouring Namibia. Communal grazing land has historically played a key role in mitigating the impact of droughts in this semi-arid region.

SPECIMEN LETTER (Please feel free to put into your own words, just a UK stamp needed)

His Excellency Dr Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguiera
Embassy of the Republic of Angola
22 Dorset Street
London W1U 6QY

Your Excellency

Vanyaneka and Ovaherero communities

I am writing to express my concern at the plight of the Vanyaneka and Ovaherero communities in the Gambos municipality.

The diversion of communal grazing land by the government to commercial cattle farmers in southern Angola has caused widespread hunger and malnourishment among these pastoralist groups, who are now struggling to provide enough food for themselves and the cattle on which they depend.

Their plight has been made worse by a severe drought which started in November and which has affected more than 2.3 million people in southern Angola.

I urge you to stop granting communal grazing land to commercial livestock farmers and to make reparations to these two communities.

Also, I would ask you to put in place long-term measures to increase the Gambos communities' resilience to climate-driven hazards.

Yours sincerely