

A.Bittersweet.Victory: Justice Won, Scars Remain!



After 23 years of struggle, the evictees of Kaweri coffee plantation stands at a pivotal moment—a moment of both celebration and reflection. Early this year, 54 out of 258 households received long-awaited compensation, a bittersweet victory following the forceful eviction that uprooted them decades ago. Their land, now a vast coffee plantation, became both a symbol of loss and a rallying point for justice.

For over two decades, they endured displacement, hunger, and the relentless search for a place to call home. The legal battle was arduous, dividing the community—some accepted compensation, while others, steadfast in their pursuit of justice, rejected the offer and pressed on in court. This rift deepened social tensions, yet the evictees remained unwavering. Women turned to songs and drama, voices rising in defiance, their stories echoing through the halls of justice. Tireless court visits, strategic meetings, and the relentless push for accountability culminated in this long-overdue recognition of their suffering.



The pain runs deeper than displacement. Where coffee now grows, some once had graveyards where they buried their loved ones. Others, stripped of their land, had no choice but to become laborers on the very plantation that replaced their homes. Imagine the anguish of digging where your house once stood, where your ancestors rest beneath the soil, their final resting places lost to the roots of coffee trees.



This achievement is more than money—it is the triumph of perseverance, proof that persistence bends even the most rigid barriers. It is an acknowledgment of the injustice suffered and a testament to the indomitable spirit of the evictees of Kaweri. Yet, the road ahead remains steep.

Conflicts have emerged within families over received compensation, while others remain trapped in legal limbo. Some plaintiffs passed away before seeing justice, their compensation locked beyond their loved ones' reach.

Still, hope stirs. Even those awaiting their turn in court feel a renewed sense of possibility. Over 80% of the evictees are yet to receive justice, and divisions must heal for true restoration to take root. This milestone is not just for this community—it is a clarion call for all marginalized communities to stand, to fight, and to claim their rightful place.

FIAN Uganda remains steadfast, walking alongside the evictees, who are also the rights holders and other partners, advocating for justice, and ensuring that no one is left behind. As we honor this moment, we extend our deepest gratitude to the partners who have stood in solidarity.

The struggle continues, but today, we pause—to acknowledge, to celebrate, and to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to justice.

Together, we march on.

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