

## **Bayaka, Bambuti, Batwa: Endangered people of Africa -**

We all are renowned with the existence of Pygmy people of Africa from our childhood obsession with the comic of masked hero called The Phantom. These indigenous hunters-gatherer people can be found southwestern skirts of Central



African Republic and northern portion of Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda etc. They're one of the oldest ethnic group dependent of an ancient stone-age group still adjusting into our modern culture. The average adult height of pygmies are not more than 155 centimeters( 5 feet 1 inch), which has become they're catastrophe against modern people. Pygmies neither educated nor have any knowledge regarding their rights, law, or basic sense of human needs. Pygmies also known as forest people's standard of living is poor because of absence of medical treatment , schools, jobs, land rights etc. We can say they're trapped behind the tall walls of societal discrimination.

Because of their short height they're never regarded as human beings by outsiders but treated as mere pets. During the colonial era, pygmies were traded throughout the world but mostly in European countries be kept into the zoo like any wild animal or sold into the slavery market. These forest people's life after post colonialism never changed but became more and more pathetic than any other ethnic group living in Africa. Today they're thrown out from their own



Bayaka people of Africa( Picture taken from google)

heritage land of Republic of Congo, once upon a time which used to their own country. Bantu people, who are currently holding the majority portion of Republic of Congo enslaved pygmies from their very birth. These forest people's are neither being educated nor given any land or civil rights. Batwa, a tribe of Africa pygmies were evicted from their own homeland Uganda in 1991 without giving any compensation at all. Similar situation can be seen in Republic of Congo too, where they're government took initiative to evict them because of new establishment of game parks. Once a forest hunters have now become slaves in farms, or begging or cleaning their masters shoes in against of small food portion and used clothings . During 1999, an ethnic cleansing conduct has been executed to relinquish these pygmies rights upon land in Ituri forest. Several pygmies were killed, rapped, burned and hunted down. The most saddest part is, In this century we mankind have to see **cannibalism** of these poor stone- age dependent tribe. They're cut into pieces, burned and eaten up by Bantu people. Young females are raped or taken away forcefully by a secret group of death givers. Basic humans right to live has been seen to scatter.

Deforestation has became another plight for these pygmy people. Every year due to expenditure or search for raw minerals thousands of trees are cut down. Pygmies whose whole life is surrounded on forest are deprived of their food, greenery, liberty to roam around etc. Their thousand years food habit is changing so do their health. A sharp decline in health is seen among them.

In present era, pygmy population is rapidly decreasing due to poverty and being target of their own humankind. They're life density is much lower than other non-pygmy people. International media and organizations are less interested in their pathetic standard of life. Now in the era of Covid19 their life circle may also fall and one day we all might have to hear these ancient peoples permanent demise from this world, Which maybe relive them from their century long sorrowful and distraught life.

To put end in this inequality I suggest African and international NGO, missionaries, youth organizations etc should take their way in between them. As I believe education is the weapon to eradicate any violence, poverty, inequality so if all these organizations try to establish small educational institutions and medical facilities in their area that will be a great help. Also pygmy peoples have no civil or land rights, in this if international organizations could put their pressure on Republic of Congo and Cameroon to grant them their rights, state

identity proof and take strong measures to stop this violence against them then decline in their population can be stopped.

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