

COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination
And Protection of Minorities

Working Group on Indigenous Peoples

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STATEMENT ON THE FORCED INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE NUCLEAR CYCLE

BY

THE COALITION OF FIRST NATIONS

under the International Indian Treaty Council (Consultative Status II)

Madame Chairperson, distinguished members of the Working Group. This submission is under Item 6 of the agenda (other matters) due largely to the fact that it encompasses intrinsically the very aspect of most rights of Indigenous Peoples. Another reason is the unprecedented nature of this particular initiative. This submission was initiated by Indigenous Peoples from North America (Canada and the United States) and Aboriginal People from Australia.

This Submission deals with the forced and unwilling involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the infamous Nuclear Cycle which at various stages perpetrates the crime of genocide on Indigenous Peoples in all parts of the world. This is in direct violation of all Covenants and instruments of the United Nations.

The three main areas where uranium is being mined and exploited for use by multi-nationals and the various war machines are: North America, Australia and Namibia.

Members of the Working Group, we submit to you an international petition against uranium mining and our expectations are great. We submit it to the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples for we know of few forums to which we as Indigenous or enclave Peoples have access.

Ideally we would want an immediate moratorium on the mining of this dangerous mineral but realistically we want to raise the awareness of the international community that we as the original and rightful owners of the lands from which the uranium is illegally exploited can and will no longer be silent on this very important item which is a threat to our right to life, our right to our lands and a right to a future for our children.

Thank-you for taking the time to look at this submission.

WGIP 84/NAM.CAN/2

APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN A NON-NUCLEAR FUTURE

A Call for a Global Petition Campaign To Effectively Halt Uranium Mining and Stop the Perpetuation of the Nuclear Cycle

On behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Australia, Namibia, and all concerned parents of future generations we appeal for support to stop the illegal mining of uranium for the perpetuation of the nuclear cycle.

The Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Australia, and Namibia have been implicated as unwilling and unknowing partners in the crime of genocide. Explicit examples of these inhumanities are: the uranium that was used in the Hiroshima bomb was extracted from the illegally alienated lands of the Indigenous Peoples of Upper North America (Port Radium, N.W.T., Canada); the construction of the Roxby Downs Uranium Mine on Sacred Aboriginal land in Australia, the continuing illegal extraction and export of uranium from Namibia by the racist South African regime.

The illegal and immoral exploitation of the extremely hazardous "fuel of the future" is a cause of great concern to peoples in every phase of the infamous nuclear cycle: those from whose lands it is stolen, those in whose waters and lands it is transported, those in whose lands it is used, and those in whose lands or waters the wastes are dumped.

The Indigenous Peoples of Australia and the Americas in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Namibia have now joined hands and minds with the Peoples of the Pacific, Japan, and also Peoples from all parts of the globe to launch a universal campaign against uranium mining.

The success of effectively stopping uranium mining will also mean the curtailing of the supply of this nuclear explosive mineral to the apocalyptic nuclear arms race which is with each passing minute bringing us to the brink of oblivion.

Therefore, we urgently appeal to all Peoples of the world who respect Mother Earth and envision a lasting future for mankind to support this worthwhile campaign. With your support we will succeed, we shall overcome and ensure a beautiful and lasting Mother Earth for those yet unborn.

LET US JOIN HANDS AND MINDS IN A UNITED GLOBAL EFFORT TO STOP URANIUM MINING AND THEREBY STOP THE PERPETUATION OF THE NUCLEAR CYCLE.

Shorty O'Neill

Shorty O'Neill
National Federation of
Land Councils

Ron Lameinan

Ron Lameinan
Coalition of First Nations
(Canada)

Michael Lane

Michael Lane
International Indian Treaty
Council