

United Nations  
Fourteenth Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Item7: Human Rights with focus on Economic, Social and Cultural  
Rights  
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Thank you, Chairperson.

Irankarapute

My name is Mana Shinoda. I am Ainu, an indigenous people in Japan. I perform Ainu songs and dances handed down from our ancestors with a traditional Ainu dress, "Ruumpe," at Japan's only traditional Ainu dance theater every day. Fortunately, this is my job. Why did I just say "fortunately?" Because it is not usual nowadays that the Ainu engage in transmission and protection of our own cultures for living in Japan. Most Ainu people have ordinary jobs like other Japanese. Some of them live and work without telling their identity as Ainu.

One of the reasons why some Ainu hide their identity must be reflected by negative speech against Ainu. Last year, a Japanese politician said, "the Ainu people do not exist anymore." Another politician also said, "It is doubtful that the Ainu is indigenous." These statements are obvious hate speech and violate our right not to be subjected to forced assimilation under Article 8 of UNDRIP. The Japanese Government has an obligation to take effective measures to combat such prejudice and eliminate discrimination under Article 15 of UNDRIP and other human rights treaties. However, the Japanese Government has not taken such measures.

Moreover, a description of the Ainu history was recently revised from "the Government dispossessed the lands of the Ainu people" to "the

Government gave the lands to the Ainu people” in the process of the textbook examination of the Ministry of Education. The new description introduces a discriminatory law, the Hokkaido Former Aborigines Protection Act, in a positive context, which leads to misconceptions. This revision clearly violates our right to transmit our histories under Article 13 of UNDRIP. Histories of indigenous peoples shall be appropriately reflected in education under Article 15 of UNDRIP and other human rights treaties.

Recommendation:

The Japanese Government should immediately take measures against hate speech and conduct education in which children can learn the histories of indigenous peoples properly.

Iyairaikere

Thank you, Chairperson.