



Date: 11 July 2018

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Peace be with you.

Madam chair, Congratulations on your position

Item 7 / United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples, good practices and lessons learned.

Indigenous Peoples suffer from multiple kinds of discriminations and the most critical of all affecting their lives and future as a nation is their rights to land. The Assyrian Christians in Middle East in the last 100 years, have been forcibly removed hence, losing rights to their lands, territories, and resources. Also, losing rights to the conservation and protection of the environment including the productive capacity.

In 1933, after Simele massacre in Iraq over 100 Assyrian villages were confiscated entirely and Assyrians have not returned to their lands and towns to date. In 1963 Assyrian villages were used as battlefields during the Kurdish – Iraqi conflict.

In 1968 to 1991 Iraqi regime made every effort to change the demographic for the Assyrian Christians lands in north Iraq and Nineveh Plain, destroyed hundreds of Assyrian villages.

Today, there are over 50 unsolved cases, and this comes after in 1991, the Kurdistan regional government failed to fulfill land grabs of the Assyrians villages in the region.

After June 10, 2014, when IS (Daesh) took occupation of Mosul and Nineveh Plain, losing lands including significant demographic changes occurred, which reduced the population of the Assyrian Christians in Mosul city from 60,000 in 2003 to less than 30 people to date.

The good practices noted in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and it's clear that under Articles 10, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32, that the rights of the Assyrians Christians "the Indigenous Peoples" have violated.



The lessons learned is that we need to allow the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples power of international law to ensure all the members' states follow the articles in the declaration.

The following is our recommendations.

1. Urge governments to establish laws and regulations to put an end to the abuses on the lands. Establish a competent government body with a full study on lands grabbed including a budget with a timetable to address the various violations.
2. United Nations and their agencies should monitor the issue of the Indigenous Peoples lands and territories and its fate, with the coordination of the government and Indigenous Peoples representatives. Also, one of the excellent examples is an investigation of the Assyrians in Nahla Valley were investigations have begun last year with the Human Right Council.
3. With the support of the United Nations and the international community should consider adopting a strategic plan to secure back the confidence for the Indigenous Peoples' local community to ensure their return to their lands and homes.

Thank you for your attention. long live Indigenous Peoples worldwide

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