



Ecospirituality Foundation Onlus

N.G.O. in Consultative Status with the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
NINTH PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
19 to 30 April 2010, New York

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Ecospirituality Foundation has as main objective the defense of traditional knowledge and sacred lands of the Indigenous Peoples, and represents various Indigenous communities of every continent.

In merit to item 8, we ask that this Forum include a discussion on the theme of indigenous communities of Europe in the Draft Agenda of the Tenth Permanent Forum.

We wish to bring to the attention of this Forum the issue concerning the desecrations and repressions inflicted on native Europeans. The European continent is home to numerous indigenous communities whose moral and cultural identities are at risk; and they are not allowed to freely express their spirituality.

We can cite the Breton community in France as an example, who are currently denied their most important sacred land: the megalithic site of Carnac.

Many other communities of Native Europeans risk extinction.

These communities still maintain their traditional knowledge. However, their identities are not protected.

The traditions of Native Europeans share deep historical roots in common. Testimonial of these roots exist in the imposing megalithic sites of standing stones, sacred to all native Peoples of Europe.

Still, these sites are not valorized and protected. They are systematically destroyed and the Authorities often deny free access to the cultures that erected them.

On the basis of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, many indigenous communities of Europe, which have remained invisible to this day, are seeking recognition of their traditional identity in the hope to avoid extinction of their culture and defend their sacred lands, object of degradation.

In conclusion, we wish to recommend that the Tenth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues adopt a discussion on the case of the Indigenous communities of Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Rosalba Nattero and Giancarlo Barbadoro

Representatives of:

Apache Survival Coalition, Arizona - Wiran Aboriginal Corporation, Australia - Traditional Community "Menhirs Libres", Brittany - Bassa People, Cameroon - Ensemble Allons dans la Paix, Benin