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STATEMENT by:

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The Representative of MBOSCUDA

To :

The 3rd Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous
On

Agenda Item : 4 D Human Right

New York, May 14th, 2004

Mr Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen

Accept fraternal greetings from the Mbororo of Cameroon. The indigenous peoples of Cameroon particularly the Mbororo, the Pygmy peoples, the Kirdis and Moko-ohs peoples join the rest of the indigenous peoples around the world in offering their support to the Permanent Forum, the Work Group on Indigenous Populations, the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights and other structures created in the last two decades to protect, promote, and advance indigenous rights at the level of the UN. We also support wholeheartedly all other recommendations in general and the one on human rights in particular made to the Council by this Forum during its last session. We hope that the promotion, protection and advancement of the collective rights of indigenous people will be better guaranteed with the implementation of these recommendations.

Recommendation: We call on

1. The government of Cameroon to recognize the property and land rights of Mbororo people.
2. The right for education in their own term.
3. The government of Cameroon to stop the eviction of Mbororo people from their settle.
4. The compensation of those evicted in accordance to the established rules and regulations.
5. We call on the Cameroon government to restore the Mo-oko people to their ancestral land.
6. Government of Cameroon to publish in the report of the Jani Commission.
7. The government of Cameroon to stop any further persecution of Indigenous people.
 - The Mbororo people has been denied the right to have land. As I speak Mbororo community in Wumia in the Northwest province of Cameroon are being evicted from their lands and home by the Cameroon administration.

The Mbororo face blatant violations of human rights, they are denied their right to education, right to healthcare, to development and most importantly their right to the lands they live on. The Moko-oh people are a hunter gatherers on landless communities who were unjustifiably displaced by the German colonial administration since 1914 and since are living like refugees.

One case needs special attention. Mr Baba Ahmadou Danpullo, is a multi-millionaire rancher and Centra Committee member of ruling Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement, the political party in power in Cameroon. In April 2002, Mr Danpullo (with the support of some corrupt officiale) invaded and occupied a community grazing land belonging to the Mbororo community of Sabga.

Three Mbororo minority campaigners who are members of MBOSCUDA were arbitrarily arrested, tortured, tried by a kangaroo Military Tribunal and imprisoned for two years. The North-West Court of Appeal reversed the Military Tribunal judgment and set them free about eight weeks ago. A case of torture and over civil claims are ongoing in courts as I speak. The Appeal Court declared in its ruling that the land in question belongs to the Sabga community; that the campaigners (Ousman Haman, Yunusa Mbaghoji and Isa Adamou) did not possess or use firearms during the protest that led to their arrests as purported by Mr Danpullo and the prison term of 10 years and a fine was a travesty of justice.

Permit us to use this opportunity to first of all thank all those organizations and individuals who have been supporting us in our struggle for our rights and dignity. We like in particular to express our gratitude to the Human Rights Defence Group, UN Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Arbitrary Detentions, Survival International, Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV), Support Group for Indigenous Peoples (KWIA), Minority Rights Group, Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales, Cultural Survival and Amnesty International for their support, without which there have been little or no progress to talk of today. We would also like to express our gratitude to some government authorities and sections of the Cameroonian press for their objectivity and support for justice.

I would like to reiterate the appeal I made last year in this hall. We urge the Forum to recommend to the Human Rights Commission to monitor the situation of human rights in Cameroon and cause the Cameroon authorities to respect international agreements they have ratified on human rights. We also urge the Forum to recommend to the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights to visit Cameroon to investigate the situation of Indigenous Peoples in our country. Finally we also urge the Forum to recommend to the Council to encourage the Resident UN Mission and other UN bodies in Cameroon to establish permanent dialogue with indigenous organizations in-country to advance indigenous peoples rights.

Thank you for your attention.

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