

Madam Chair, this brief relates to injustices at Ihumatao in New Zealand, which I now present to you ahead of individual communications with the Special Rapporteur.

Ihumatao is a site of cultural, spiritual, ancestral, environmental and historical significance for my people of Te Wai o Hua. Since our lands were confiscated in 1863, unabated injustices have continued. As a child of this land, I inherited these injustices by just being born. Over time I have seen land theft, destruction of sacred sites, loss of language and cultural customs, degradation of our natural environment through careless corporate action, and the encroachment of commercial development.

These injustices have been further exacerbated by the recent purchase of a block of confiscated land for development by Fletcher Residential Ltd. Ignoring our pleas for justice, the New Zealand Government has given this transnational corporation 'the go-ahead' to develop this land as a Special Housing Area.

The perpetrator, the New Zealand Government, was responsible for the original land confiscation and for subsequent breaches of the Declaration. In 2013, it passed the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act under urgency but, in doing so, failed to consult. The Government ignored its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi *and* the international rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent. Its' action impedes the rights of indigenous peoples by facilitating commercial development that will benefit corporate shareholders AND forever extinguish our indigenous rights to this land.

The 2014 domestic findings of the Waitangi Tribunal, "that Maori did not cede sovereignty" not only affirms the unique status of Maori as Treaty partner but also highlights the urgent need to listen and engage with the indigenous people.

The New Zealand Government has done nothing to remedy the significant injustices at Ihumatao. No actions have been initiated with International or regional human rights bodies on these matters. As an indigenous human right defender, I am here exercising my right to resist and oppose the planned Fletcher housing development at Ihumatao.

I respectfully request and invite the Special Rapporteur:

1. To visit our occupation at Ihumatao and investigate the injustices that the New Zealand Government continues to commit there.

I respectfully request and invite the Special Rapporteur:

2. To investigate the New Zealand Government's breaches of the UNDRIP, the NZBORA and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

I respectfully request and invite the Special Rapporteur:

3. To investigate the Fletcher Residential Ltd purchase of land and planned housing development at Ihumatao, which we believe breaches various international standards.

I conclude with words from a song written by a dear friend of mine about human rights, "E kore rawa kore rawa, e mutu te whawhai atu ki te kawanatanga e. We will never, we will never give up our rights to fight for what's right oh no we will not, we will not."