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Statement of Hmong People

Speech by Dr. Vang Pobzeb
at the 16th Session of the U.N. Working Group
on Indigenous Populations
Geneva, Switzerland

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Item 5, July 30, 1998

Chairperson and Members of the U.N. Working Group:

I am the representative of the Hmong people in the global system. I am speaking on behalf of the Hmong people, United Hmong International, Inc., and the Lao Human Rights Council, Inc.

I want to report to you and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Communist Lao government has killed over 300,000 people in Laos in the past 23 years. The "Killing Fields" of Laos are still going on in the countryside today. Most of the victims are Hmong people. An ethnic cleansing war and genocide against Hmong people in Laos are still going on. The Communist Lao government has forced over 100,000 Hmong people to move from their homeland to dry areas, where there is no suitable land and insufficient water for agricultural food production. Many thousands of children, men and women are hungry and starving. Many have died. More than 25,000 Hmong people in Laos are imprisoned in 1998.

Many people, including victims, in Laos reported and confirmed that the Communist Lao government has been receiving "biological and chemical weapons" from the governments of Vietnam and Russia. The Communist Lao government has been using biological and chemical weapons to kill many thousands of Hmong and Lao people in Laos since 1976 and continues to do so in 1998.

The Communist Lao government has been violating the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the principles of self-determination.

Therefore, I am here to call upon you and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate and stop the genocide and human rights violations against Hmong people in Laos.

Hmong people are crying out for survival, peace, freedom, human rights, democracy, justice, liberty, equal rights, and self-determination.

Thank you.

Dr. Vang Pobzeb
Representative of Hmong people
United Hmong International, Inc.
and
Lao Human Rights Council, Inc.

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