

Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Ryukyus (AIPR)

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EMRIP Shinako 209

5th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

Item 7: Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

Joint Statement by:

Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Ryukyus (AIPR), International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Khmer Krom Federation, Okinawa Studies 107, Wattaa Loochoo, Shimin Gaikou Centre (Citizens' Diplomatic Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

12 July 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

This is a joint statement presented on behalf of aforementioned six organisations.

In the light of the relevant articles of UNDRIP, we would like to highlight the issue of militarisation affecting many indigenous peoples in different parts of the world. For example, we, indigenous peoples of Ryukyu-Okinawa are facing various issues emerging from the militarisation of our land including land grabbing, environmental destruction, violence against women, accidents during military activity, crimes of military personnel, to name a few.

Against this backdrop, we request EMRIP to propose the Human Rights Council to promptly initiate actions addressing the issue of militarisation affecting indigenous peoples. Various actions can be taken, such as thematic study by EMRIP or the Special Rapporteur, joint study of both, Workshop or Panel Discussion to which members of EMRIP, SR and, in particular, representatives of the affected communities are invited.

We believe that such action will highlight the gravity of the issue violating various human rights of indigenous peoples and clarify accountable parties. Moreover, thorough analysis of different situations and contexts by experts can also identify good practices in protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, provision of remedies to the victims, as well as effective prevention of further violations of human rights caused by militarisation.

We strongly support the work of EMRIP and hope that these voices of indigenous peoples are delivered to the Human Rights Council and prompt action is taken.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson