



Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center

**Statement by the Southern Mongolian Human Rights
Information Center on the Chinese Government's
Forced Relocation Against Indigenous Mongolian
People in Southern Mongolia**

United Nations, New York
May 23, 2002

Dear Mr. Chairperson, distinguished members and honorable participants,

My name is Enhebatu Togochoog and I am an indigenous Mongolian from the Chinese Communist Party controlled Southern Mongolia. I am pleased to make a statement on behalf of the Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center (SMHRIC).

Southern Mongolia, better known as Inner Mongolia, the native land of 4.5 million indigenous Mongolian people, has been occupied by the Chinese Communist Party since 1947. During the half century's series of massacre, crack-down, cultural assimilation and Han Chinese immigration policies by the Chinese Communist Party, indigenous Mongols in this area have experienced their darkest history: at least 700,000 indigenous Mongols were killed, maimed, tortured, sent to jail, arrested and detained; 3,000 Buddhist temples were completely destroyed by the CCP during the Cultural Revolution; since 1980's, a series of indigenous Mongolian student's peaceful movements have been harshly cracked down and hundreds of thousands of indigenous Mongolian dissidents have been arrested and sent to long term jail; ethnic Mongolians' native land and natural resources have forever been occupied by the Han Chinese; large-scale of Han Chinese immigrations to the area not only made indigenous Mongols as minority in their own land but also gave a total destruction to the Inner Mongolian ecological system.

Southern Mongolian grassland was known as one of the most well-preserved natural grassland in the world. However, after the intensifying cultivation and random exploitation by the Han Chinese, 81% of the whole territory in Inner Mongolia became desert, and most of the grassland are vanished from the earth. While the sandstorm from Southern Mongolian desert is blotting out the sky and the land in

Beijing, the Central Government has adopted a new policy against indigenous Mongolian herders in Southern Mongolia under the pretext of "giving rest to the grassland and recovering the eco-system". This policy is called "Environmental Immigration" (Sheng Tai Yi Min in Chinese), aiming at a total relocation against the entire population of indigenous Mongolian herders from their native land to the overwhelmingly Han Chinese populated agricultural and urban areas. According to the Chinese official news, since 2000, at least 160,000 indigenous Mongolian herders have been forcefully relocated from their pasture land and their traditional nomadic life-style has forever been altered.

Various first-hand information from Inner Mongolia show that the so-called "Environmental Immigration" is not only a cultural genocide but also a gross human rights violation against indigenous Mongolian people. Thousands of millions of Mongolian herders have lost their houses, livestock, lands and been treated brutally by the authorities during the relocation process. The Mongols in the region are now experiencing a "Trail of Tears" as the Native Americans had experienced centuries ago!

Mr. Chairman, I urge the Permanent Forum to pay a close attention to this ongoing mass forced displacement against indigenous Mongolian people in Southern Mongolia. I also would like to ask the Permanent Forum and other human rights bodies to give an effective pressure on the Chinese government to stop this human rights gross violation in Southern Mongolia.

Thank you!

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SOUTHERN MONGOLIA: A TRAGEDY IN THREE ACTS. A HUMAN TRAGEDY, AN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER, AND FINALLY ANOTHER HUMAN TRAGEDY UNDER THE PRETEXT OF FIGHTING THE ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. QUESTION TO THE COMMISSION

Brussels, 22 May 2002. Since it was invaded and occupied by the People's Republic of China in 1947, Southern Mongolia has been subject to a brutal policy of colonisation by the Beijing authorities. The populations of this country, traditionally nomadic and dependent on cattle-rearing, have been the victims of an extremely cruel political and cultural oppression that has led to the death of tens of thousands of people. From an economic point of view, Beijing has imposed a sedentary life, based on intensive farming of the land, on the Mongolian populations. With the result that 81% of the pasture land has been turned into desert.

In the face of this ecological and human disaster, during the last few years the Beijing authorities have imposed a policy of so-called "environmental immigration" (Sheng Tai Yi Min in Chinese), whose official purpose is to let the pasture land lie fallow and to protect the ecosystem, but whose first concrete result has been to move the Mongolian populations who still lived in their ancestral lands towards urban or agricultural areas inhabited largely by peoples of Han origin. Over 160,000 Mongols have already been forced to leave their homelands and to settle in regions where they have nothing.

Statement by Olivier Dupuis, Member of the European Parliament (Radical)

"Southern Mongolia, better known as Inner Mongolia, annexed by the People's Republic of China in 1947 following an agreement between Stalin and Mao Tse-tung to divide up Mongolia, has hardly ever had the honour, unlike Tibet, of front-page coverage in the Western media. Yet in Southern Mongolia, as in Tibet, the policy of mass colonisation implemented by the Beijing authorities has been tragic from a human point of view and disastrous from an environmental point of view. Hundreds of thousands of victims among the Mongolian population, an unprecedented ecological disaster in a fragile ecosystem that the Mongols had always managed to protect before the arrival of the Han settlers, and finally a further human tragedy with the mass displacement of the Mongolian populations who were already a minority in the Chinese-dominated urban centres."

Question to the Commission:

"Is the Commission aware of the dramatic consequences of the policy of intensive exploitation of the land in Southern Mongolia and the tragic human consequences of the so-called "environmental immigration policy"? What concrete action does the Commission intend to take to persuade the Beijing authorities to abandon their policy of colonisation of Southern Mongolia, the cause of the ecological disaster and of the human tragedy of the Mongolian peoples? In particular, does the Commission intend to denounce the policy of intensive exploitation of the land and to back the demands for the return of the areas expropriated from their rightful occupants?"

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