

Thursday 24 PM #326

Joint Statement
(will e-mail final version)
Thursday, May 24th #326 PM
Rebecca Sommer

United Nations Department
of Economic and Social Affairs DESA
Under-Secretary-General
Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo

New York, 22 May 2007

We would like to express our surprise and disbelief that the Permanent Mission of Vietnam to the UN was allowed to stop two special side events upon request to the secretariat of the PFII.

The cancellation of both side events is in our view a violation of our freedom of expression, and hindered that the voices of human rights violation victims can be heard during the 6th Session of the PFII.

One special event was organized by Earth Peoples, a network formed by Indigenous Peoples, individuals and organizations from around the world who volunteered to share information on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Human Rights, a network of NGOs with ECOSOC status, and the Lao Human Rights Council, a membership organization of Hmong Lao.

The event was to be held during the 6th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the 22 of May, with the intent to screen the documentary "Hunted Like Animals".

The film focused on oral testimonies of severely traumatized victims of Hmong Lao refugees, who say that they fled from Vietnamese and Laotian military aggressions in Laos to Thailand. Further, the film shows violent and disturbing film footage filmed by the Hmong Lao in hiding themselves.

The second event was organized by the Khmer Krom Federation, a membership organization of Khmer Krom people from Vietnam.

The Khmer Krom side event was to be held on the 23rd of May, with the intent to screen the documentary "Eliminated Without Bleeding".

The film is focused on oral testimonies of Khmer Krom people, who explain in detail how their culture, religion and way of life is oppressed by the Vietnamese government.

Both special side events aimed to raise awareness and to disseminate information on the human rights situation of the Hmong Lao people and the Khmer Krom people.

We would like to remind that one of the mandates of the Permanent Forum is the dissemination of Indigenous issues from around the world and the objective of side events is precisely to raise awareness to the members of the Forum, NGO's, the media and to the states on situations related to issues of concern to Indigenous Peoples.

In this spirit, we strongly object against the cancellation of the events pursuant to the demarches made by the Permanent Mission of Vietnam to the secretariat of the PFII.

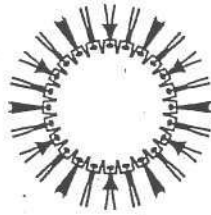
We would be grateful to receive the reasons - which prompted you to acquiesce the request of the Permanent Mission of Vietnam, despite of the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

1. KKF (Khmer Krom Federation)
2. EARTH PEOPLES
3. NGO Committee on Human Rights
4. LHRC (Lao Human Rights Council)
5. STP (Society for Threatened Peoples International)
6. UNA-USA (United Nations Association United States of America)

7. Department of Disarmament Affairs
8. IWGIA (International Working group Of Indigenous Affairs)
9. UNPO
10. SAIWF (South Asia Indigenous Women Forum)
11. CHEMIRIDE – Kenia
12. World Adivasi Council
13. ICCTP
14. Bangladesh Adivasi Forum
15. Dayabe Iban Forum
16. Centro Cultura Latina
17. Organisation des Acteurs de Developpement de L'Igo
18. Cordillera Peoples Alliance
19. Acoma, New Mexico, USA
20. Metis National Council
21. Indigenous Network on Economics and Trade
22. Neti de Mouthichouera
23. ALMACIGA-Madris
24. Kenia National Commission on Human Rights
25. Bangsa
26. Adat Alifuru
27. Cultural Conservation Act
28. TV Azae Zapara Cultura
29. TILBURG-Netherlands
30. Himalayan Indigenous Women Forum
31. MOSOP
32. Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum
33. Bawn Social Council-Bangladesh
34. Sediq
35. Mohawk Nation
36. Pueblo Wayuu
37. INT;l Rep-DAP
38. RAPO- Chad
39. Okanagde Nation
40. ADBR (Association pour le Developpement Global des Batwa du Rwanda)
41. MADAM-SA (Movement Against Domination of American Minorities)
42. MADAM-Women
43. RETRIEVE FOUNDATION INDIGENOUS YOUTH
44. UNIPROBA-Burundi
45. AIMAT Foundation Pakistan
46. Ka Lahui Hawai'i
47. Kamakakuokalani Center For Hawaiian Studies
48. Central de Pueblos Etnicos Amogenos del Beni Bolivia
49. United Confederation of Taino People
50. Jumma Peoples Network International
51. Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara CAMAN Indigenous Peoples
52. Alliance of the Archipelago
53. Abaya Yala Nexus –Argentina-USA
54. Maa Civil Society Forum
55. Sumshot Khular Community Action And Research For Development
56. Comunidad Joboshiummar
57. OMBUDS-office if Indigenous Peoples & Minorities of Ecuador in America
58. Mary Knoll NGOs
59. KCLCDA
60. Buffalo River Dine Nation
61. Pacific RWICNNBA

62. CAMU/RD-Congo
63. YAKUTIA
64. LIENIP
65. All Boro Post Graduate Youth Coalition
66. Ashkatil
67. Association T,DAWT
68. Jiten Yummam Committee on Human Rights
69. ICITP-India
70. CIPRAD
71. CAPAJ
72. Ainu Resource Center
73. IISPAPC
74. UNIPLOBA-Burundi
75. NGO NJOLK-Cameroon
76. Religions for Peace
77. Kirat Welfare Society
78. UEFA
79. KDA
80. AFJN
81. CAMU/RAPY
82. Semat Cocitumiera-New Caledonia
83. Nook Education Trust Peshawar-Pakistan
84. TAKINGITGLOBAL
85. Concious Collaborations-Aotearoa
86. NAWE Organisation
87. Centro Cultura Pueblo Mapuche
88. Hualien Indigenous Taiwanese Association of Culture and Health
89. La Red Xicana Indigena
90. Muscogee (Creek) Nation
91. Federation of Boro Youth India
92. LORO (Lo Representation Organization)
93. The Akha Heritage Foundation
94. Chin Human Rights Organization
95. Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
96. MCC
97. Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum

I will send final list



EARTH PEOPLES

FILM SCREENING:

Tuesday, **22** May 2007, 1:15-2:45pm

Two United Nations Plaza (44th St. between 1st & 2nd Ave.)
DC2- 19th Floor Conference Room

HUNTED LIKE ANIMALS

**WAS CANCELLED UPON REQUEST BY THE Permanent
Mission of VIETNAM to the secretariat of the PFII**

To watch video clips of both documentaries online:

Documentary: "HUNTED LIKE ANIMALS"

BBC journalist- I visited a group-military attacks

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJHerGolVR0>

Attacked With Chemical Weapons

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI5Svn29WgI>

Hunted and tortured -merciless!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmSWXklnFRc>

Hmong refugees-WE ARE NOT REBELS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtW08-HrGPI>

Hmong women- Surrendered + gang-raped by Lao soldiers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlxngfvVN6k>

Hmong Refugee- Maichor's live before she escaped

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJnUaH6_-cc

Documentary: "ELIMINATED WITHOUT BLEEDING"

<http://khmerkrom.org/eng/?q=node/131>

For more information please contact:

Earth Peoples: 1-917 5544933

Lao Human Rights Council: 1-651 4281928 or 1 920 4718290

Khmer Krom Federation: 1-614-272-8452

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