

**Agenda item 5: United Nations Declaration of the Rights on Indigenous Peoples**  
**Fourth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

United Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland  
July 11-15, 2011

**Association of the Indigenous Peoples in the Ryukyus**  
**HidemiChinen**

Thank you, Chairperson.

My name is HidemiChinen from Ryukyu/Okinawa.

Concerning the implementation of UNDRIP, I would like to draw the attention of EMRIP toward the situation of Ryukyu/Okinawa people whose rights have been perpetually violated by State actors.

Since the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, the human rights of Ryukyu/Okinawa people had been ignored through the US military governance of the Ryukyu/Okinawa people's traditional land. Since 1972, the Ryukyu/Okinawa people's land has been placed under the control of Japanese government. However, under the US-Japan Security Treaty, both the Japanese and the US governments have been destroying environment and violating the human rights of Ryukyu/Okinawa people by forcibly constructing and deploying US military bases on the people's traditional land without their consent.

Chairperson, we have been facing violation of our human rights by two States.

One is Japan, which has colonized our traditional land and has been executing discriminatory policy towards us. Even though Japan has expressed its support to UNDRIP, Japanese government's actions toward Ryukyu/Okinawa do not show any respect for the Declaration; furthermore, the Japanese government has been continuously excluding indigenous people from its decision making process, as showed in the process on the usage of Ryukyu/Okinawa people's land for foreign military bases. In full accordance with the UNDRIP, Japanese government should recognize the Ryukyu/Okinawa people as indigenous and actively promote the protection of Ryukyu/Okinawa people's rights. In this context, we recommend that EMRIP keeps examining the policy implementation of all States towards indigenous peoples, including States that expressed support to the Declaration.

Another is the U.S. The successive governments of the US have been ignoring our human rights and their actions toward us, such as deployment of US military bases, are totally different from what UNDRIP aims for.

Chairperson,

In order to make use of the Declaration, we would like to request EMRIP followings:

- 1) To call on the HRC to enhance its support to EMRIP and to more actively promote the implementation of UNDRIP.
- 2) To call on all States to support the Declaration and to commit themselves to implement it. In this context, development of effective monitoring system should be facilitated by all relevant stakeholders.
- 3) To clarify the responsibility of the States to protect and promote the rights of ALL indigenous peoples that include not only those who live in a State's territory, but also those who reside across States borders and those who are affected by States' foreign policies.
- 4) For the effective implementation of UNDRIP, we want EMRIP to conduct a study on the deployment of military actions and bases on the land of indigenous peoples and its impact on them.

Thank you, Chairperson.