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**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Seventh Session
April 21-May 2, 2008. United Nations Headquarters, New York.**

Margaret Connolly - **Mairead Ni Congaile, Bean Feasa na hEireann,
Retrieve Foundation and Indigenous Irish Council.**

Topic: Indigenous Human Rights

Honourable Madam Chairwoman, Members of the United Nations Permanent Forum, my sisters and brothers here today:

Ireland's Ancient and Indigenous peoples are grateful to address this Seventh Indigenous Forum on Human Rights. We wish through this Permanent Forum to mandate the Irish government for clarity on the following queries.

Ireland is one of the signatures of this Declaration of Indigenous Human Rights.

Do they recognize the status of the Indigenous Irish People or indeed their existence? To date, there is no information, no dialogue, no communication, on what or how the Government is going to adopt or implement this Declaration.

Our Indigenous Human Rights have been violated, for example:

- The ongoing desecration of our Sacred Sites and Ancient Burial Grounds, namely the Hill of Tara, and surrounding area.
- The Indigenous people in the West of Ireland are being denied their Human Rights with regard to clean running water. This is due to Government policy of redirecting natural resources for industry.
- There was no prior consent or consultation regarding the development of Shell Oil on Indigenous lands.

Our awareness and honouring of our ancient ceremonies has brought Enlightenment and Healing to many on our land. It is no secret that sentient beings are born with their own innate Divine Natural Ability. In the absence of Indigenous Spiritual guidance and teachings these sentient beings experience loss, disconnections and addictions. From 0-7 years of age a child will remember its life's purpose and spiritual gifts. From 7-14 years a child's intellect is developed, from 14-21 years the emotions are developed. In the absences of Indigenous Spiritual Rites of Passage at these vulnerable ages, young people experience depression, addictions and suicide, as they have lost the connection and acknowledgement of their community to their innate Spiritual Purpose. These Rites of Passage have healed many of the ills in a non-violent safe way and reconnected people to the Divine Natural Ability on our land. These Sacred Ways under the Indigenous Human Rights need to be included in Education and Health Systems within the present Governments Policies.

When will the Irish Government inform the Indigenous people of the legal, moral and spiritual commitment to this Declaration? How is the Irish Government going to uphold this treaty?

What systems are available through the UN both here and in Geneva to ensure clear communications between the Irish Indigenous communities and the elected representatives?

Madam Chairwoman, we thank you for allowing us to speak at this Seventh Session of the Indigenous Permanent Forum.

Yours sincerely,



**Mairead Ni Congaile,
Bean Feasa na hEireann**

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