



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 80th session, the Committee considered, on a preliminary basis, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, information submitted by non-governmental organisations on the situation of the Saramaka people of Suriname.

The Committee is particularly concerned that, according to information presented to the Committee, Suriname has failed to implement even the most important elements of the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Saramaka people v Suriname* (2007), including the requirement to provide legal recognition to the collective juridical capacity of the Saramaka people. The Committee is particularly concerned that despite the Committee's numerous recommendations and decisions regarding the rights of indigenous people in Suriname, the marginalisation of indigenous people, which constitutes violation of the human rights protected under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, continues in the State party.

The Committee reminds the State party of its previous decisions on Suriname under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures in 2003 (Decision 3/62), 2005 (Decision 1/67) and 2006 (Decision 1/69) requesting the State party to 'ensure legal acknowledgement of the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples to possess, develop, control and use their communal lands and to participate in the exploitation, management and conservation of the associated natural resources'.

The Committee regrets that the State party has not yet provided follow-up replies to the recommendations contained in paragraph 18 of its concluding observations (CERD /C/SUR/CO/12) in which the Committee raised its concern over the 'ongoing delays in compliance of the most crucial aspects of the court judgment, in particular, concerning the recognition of communal and self-determination rights of the Saramaka people'.

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The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the actual situation concerning the Saramaka people and the measures taken to implement the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the *Samaraka v Suriname* (2007).

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to urgently receive information on the issues and concerns as outlined above before **31 July 2012**.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Suriname, with a view to promoting the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Alexei S. Avtonomov
Chairperson of the Committee
on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination