



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

REFERENCE:GH/SP

9 March 2012

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 80th session, the Committee considered, on a preliminary basis, information submitted by a non-governmental organisation regarding the forceful eviction and harassment of the Karen indigenous people from the Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP), under its early warning and urgent action procedure.

The Committee expresses its concern about the information according to which an increasing level of violence has been committed against the Karen people by the Thai National Park and Forestry Authorities. It has been brought to the attention of the Committee that the alleged violent eviction and harassment have been carried out against the Karen people despite existing laws protecting the rights of the Karen people to live in national parks and other forest areas. Such laws include the Thai Cabinet Resolution of 3 August 2010 on policies regarding the restoration of the traditional practices and livelihoods of the Karen people, which categorically provides the Karen people with the right to stay in their ancestral land and to continue their traditional farm rotation system. The Committee is further concerned that the reported continuous and escalating violence may have been linked to the tragic murder of a Karen human rights defender, Mr Tatkamol Ob-om, who filed a petition to the Thai National Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Karen people.

The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the situation of indigenous peoples in the Kaeng Krachan National Park. Furthermore, the Committee would like to receive information regarding the measures taken to improve the situation of the Karen people in the KKNP.

H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Thailand
to United Nations Office at Geneva
5 Rue Gustave
Moynier
1202-Geneva
Fax: (0) 22 715 1000



In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedures, the Committee would be grateful to urgently receive information on all issues and concerns as outlined above, before **31 July 2012**. The Committee will consider such replies during the dialogue with the State party in the course of its 81st session.

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

Yours sincerely,

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