



# Forest Peoples Programme

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22 May 2007

*Delivered in person (Accra)*

Madame Salamata Sawadogo  
Chairperson  
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

**RE: Request for an Urgent Appeal to the Government of DRC**

Dear Madame Sawadogo,

On behalf of a coalition of submitting organisations, Forest Peoples Programme respectfully requests that the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights issue an Urgent Appeal to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in respect of the massive and persistent violations of the rights of indigenous peoples presently taking place in DRC.

In November 2006, we submitted a detailed report dated 30 October 2006 to the Commission through both its Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and the Country Rapporteur for DRC. This report details various acts and omissions of DRC that evidence a massive and persistent pattern of racial discrimination against indigenous peoples, particularly by virtue of its *2002 Forest Code* under which the government continues to grant logging concessions on indigenous lands and territories despite a 2002 government-issued moratorium on logging which was extended by Presidential Decree in 2005, which is resulting in widespread and irreparable land dispossession and degradation.

Details of the situation are contained in our 30 October 2006 report, a copy of which is attached for your reference. Based on the information outlined therein, we request that the Commission issue an Urgent Appeal to the government of DRC urging it, among other things, to suspend all logging activities until such time as a thorough study of the land rights of indigenous forest peoples is conducted and such rights are recognized and protected in Congolese law. A draft Urgent Appeal letter is also attached for your convenience.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Treva D. Braun,  
Coordinator, Africa Legal and Human Rights Programme  
Forest Peoples Programme  
(On behalf of the submitting organisations)  
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