



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

I would like to inform you that in the course of its 97th Session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered information received related to the mining project on Marudi Mountain and its impact on the Wapichan indigenous people, in Guyana.

The information received refers to the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the mining project on the Marudi Mountain, completed and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Committee is concerned about the allegations that the Wapichan people has been largely left out of any decision-making process related to the mining activities at Marudi Mountain, a sacred mountain to the Wapichan. In this regard, the above-mentioned draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment has been reportedly completed without the full participation of the Wapichan indigenous people.

The Committee is further concerned that, if the allegations were corroborated, the realization of the mining project at Marudi Mountain without free, prior and informed consent would infringe Wapichan indigenous people's rights protected under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The Committee reiterates its concerns and recommendations contained in the letter sent by the Committee to the State party on 17 May 2018, under its Early Warning and Urgent Action procedure. Furthermore, the Committee requests the State party to provide information on the steps taken to:

His Excellency Mr. John Ronald Deep Ford
Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
to the United Nations Office
Geneva
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1. Consider revoking the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment;
2. Conduct an environmental and social impact assessment with the full participation of all indigenous peoples affected by the mining project on Marudi Mountain;
3. Consider the suspension of the mining project on Marudi Mountain until free, prior and informed consent is granted by the Wapichan indigenous people following the full and adequate discharge of the duty to consult.

In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to consider seeking assistance from the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) that is mandated by the Human Rights Council (resolution 33/25, paragraph 2), to provide States with technical advice on the rights of indigenous peoples and facilitate dialogue between States, indigenous peoples and/or the private sector.

In accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to receive a response to the above allegations before 8 April 2019.

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

Yours sincerely,



Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination