

NATIONS UNIES  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Téléfax: (41-22)-917 9029  
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE  
Téléx: 41 29 62  
Téléphone: (41-22)-917 9309  
Internet www.ohchr.org  
E-mail: nprouvez@ohchr.org



Address:  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: NP/JF

24 August 2007

Excellency,

The Committee wishes to inform you that, at its 71<sup>st</sup> session, held from 30 July to 17 August 2007, it gave further consideration to the situation of the Maya people in Belize and their land claims.

The Committee wishes to thank the Government of Belize for its letter of 14 August 2007. It expresses its appreciation for the confirmation of the States party's seriousness when addressing the situation of the Maya community and the indication that the Supreme Court is currently hearing a case involving Maya land claims. The Committee regrets, however, that it has not received as requested replies to the four questions asked in its letter dated 9 March 2007.

Furthermore, the Committee has received new information according to which the State party reportedly continues to deny customary land rights to the Maya community, despite the recommendation of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights to delimit, demarcate, and title the traditional territory of the Maya people.

In this context, the Committee, acting in accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its rules of procedure, requires the State party to provide answers to questions raised in its letter dated 9 March 2007. It also requests the State party to provide detailed information on the law suit filed in the Supreme Court of Belize and its outcome.

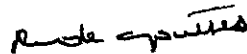
H.E. Mr. Stewart Warren Leslie  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations  
675 Third Avenue, Suite 1911,  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax: 001 212 593 0932

The Committee, while noting the assurance of your Excellency's government to provide further clarification as soon as possible, wishes to receive a detailed response to these issues as a matter of urgency, and **no later than 31 December 2007**.

The Committee welcomes the information according to which the State party is preparing its overdue reports. Nevertheless, the Committee wishes to reiterate that in case of non-receipt of the overdue reports, to be submitted in a single document, by **31 December 2007**, the Committee will proceed with the full review of the implementation of the Convention in Belize and adopt concluding observations in the absence of a report and in light of information received from other sources, including non-governmental organizations, at its 73<sup>rd</sup> session, to be held from 28 July to 15 August 2008.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Belize, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Régis de GOUTTES  
Chairman of the Committee for the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination