



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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17 May 2017

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 92nd session, the Committee considered further the situation of the Karen indigenous people in the Kaeng Krachan National Park (“KKNP”) under its early warning procedure. In this regard, the Committee refers to its previous letter on this subject of 3 October 2016.

The Committee would like to thank your Government for its replies, which it received on 9 January 2017. The Committee takes note of information provided by your Government in relation to its intention to pass the draft Act on Community Forests, which would involve forest communities in decision-making. The Committee also notes the information about measures taken to consult the Karen peoples concerning the nomination of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (“KKFC”) as a world heritage site, the recent decision handed down by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in October 2016, and the clarifications regarding the ruling of the Central Administrative Court of 7 September 2015. The Committee further notes the information that evictions are carried out as a last resort and within the boundaries of law.

Nonetheless, the Committee reiterates its previous concerns and requests the Government to provide information in relation to: (a) steps to ensure wider consultation with the Karen peoples in the process of addressing remaining concerns regarding the nomination of the KKFC as a world heritage site, as recommended by UNESCO World Heritage Committee; (b) measures to investigate human rights violations of the Karen peoples, including allegations of enforced disappearances, and to include statistical data on such complaints and their results as well as on compensation provided to victims; (c) incidents of forced evictions of the Karen peoples, and steps to implement the Cabinet Resolution of 3 August 2010 on the restoration of the livelihoods of the Karen, which allows them to remain in their ancestral lands and to continue their traditional farming.

His Excellency Mr. Sek Wannamethee
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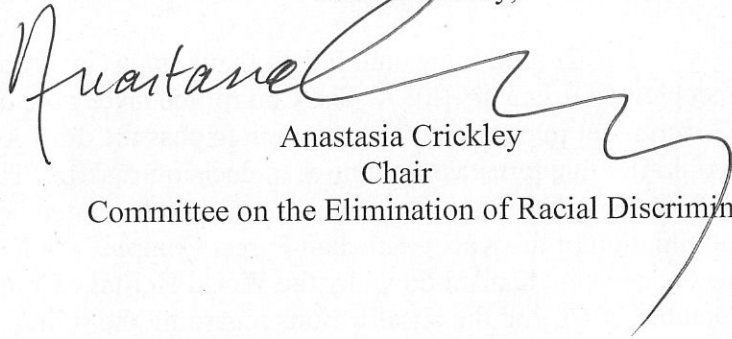


The Committee would be grateful to receive this additional information before **17 July 2017**.

Finally, the Committee regrets that the State party has yet to submit its fourth to seventh combined periodic reports, that are overdue since 28 January 2016, and requests the State party to submit the overdue reports without further delay.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Thailand, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,



Anastasia Crickley
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination