

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



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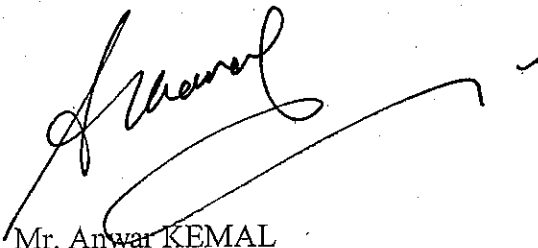
Excellency,

With reference to its letter to the State party dated 28 September 2009, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination wishes to inform the State party about its continued concern related to information received on the situation of religious lands and natural resources of Dongria Kondh people in the administrative districts of Rayagada and Kalahandi. The Committee regrets that it has not yet received any response from the State party.

It appeared that the Dongria Kondh community has not been fully and clearly informed of the impacts of the future mining activities, that no provisions have been made to allow the community to access and continue to worship in their religious site. It also appeared that roads built have led to illegal logging and widespread deforestation. It has been further alleged that the mine construction not only affects the livelihoods of the Dongria Kondh, but also pollutes their environment, which situation has led to protests, the erection of roadblocks and violent clashes. In addition, an update of prior information received by the Committee indicates that the rights of people affected were not respected and that the impact of the construction of the mine was not considered. It finally appears that Dongria Kondh people were not consulted about the mining plans by the Government or mining companies.

In this regard, the Committee reiterates its request to the State party to provide, in accordance with article 9(1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and article 65 of its rules of procedure, information on the situation of the Dongria Kondh people and on natural resource exploitation projects in the area concerned. The Committee would similarly appreciate to be informed on whether environmental and social impact assessments have been carried out for the new bauxite mine, and which measures or mechanisms have been taken to consult the affected communities in order to seek and clearly and fully obtain their prior, free and informed consent to these mining activities. In addition, the Committee would appreciate to be informed on measures taken to ensure adequate representation of the Dongria's views in legal proceedings, as well as plans to allow their continued access to their religious site.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Anwar KEMAL
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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