

**International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia
15th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
04 - 08 July 2022**

**Side Event
04 July 2022**

Co-organized by
Society for Threatened Peoples (CH)

**TITLE: The influence of the aggression of the Russian Federation in
Ukraine on indigenous peoples of Russia**

DATE & TIME: 4th April 2022 1 PM - 2.30 PM CET

Zoom platform

90 minutes

Interpretation provided: English / Russian

Registration link: [Webinar-Registrierung - Zoom](#)

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https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d1PVpB30QDOIFXs3eDsMXw

Context

The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine affects countless innocent people. It is forgotten that indigenous communities are also suffering from this dramatic development. Indigenous territories in Ukraine have been occupied since the Russian invasion of Crimea. Since the Russian attack on February 24, indigenous communities have also been exposed to the horrors of war: In Ukraine, members of indigenous communities are dying in the war. At the same time, a disproportionate number of indigenous soldiers who joined the army out of poverty, hardship and pressure from the government fall on the Russian side. But Indigenous Peoples within Russia are also suffering from the economic and political consequences of the war and their activists are experiencing unprecedented pressure from the government. In a panel discussion representatives of Indigenous Peoples of Russia exchange views on the current situation.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Housekeeping :
 - Tjan Zaotschnaja - International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia (ICIPR), Itelmen people elder
 - Tabea Willi - Society of threatened peoples, Switzerland
2. Introduction by Oliver Loode (moderator of the side-event)
3. Welcome by Laila Susanne Vars (member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
4. Conversations between speakers (Moderated by Oliver Loode)
 - Pavel Sulyandziga (Udege) (10 min)
 - Dmitry Berezhkov (Itelmen) (10 min)

- Radjana Dugar-DePonte (Buryat) (10 min)
 - Andrey Danilov (Saami) (10 min)
 - Yana Tannagasheva (Shor) (10 min)
5. Audience: Q&A(20 min)
 6. Closing

Participants

1. Pavel Sulyandziga

Pavel Sulyandziga is a founder and the President of the «Batani» Foundation. Since the late 1980th, he became a leader of the Udege indigenous people in the Russian Far East. From 2001 till 2010 he worked as a first vice-president of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). From 2005 till 2010 he performed duties of the member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and from 2011 till 2017, he was a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Ph.D. in Economics.

In 2016 Pavel fled Russia, seeking political asylum in USA. His family was in danger — all because of his work as an Indigenous activist. He had been investigated by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) multiple times. Pavel is one of the founders of the “International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia (ICIPR)”.

2. Dmitry Bereztkov

Dmitry Bereztkov is a representative of the Itelmen people from Kamchatka, located in the Russian Far East. In the late 1990s, he started participating as an indigenous youth activist in the Kamchatka indigenous movement. Since 2001 for more than ten years, he has been working as a vice-president of the Russian Association of indigenous peoples of the North (RAIPON) and was responsible for the work of the main office in Moscow and cooperation with the Arctic Council. In 2011 he moved to Norway because of the political repression against indigenous leaders in Russia, where he later received political asylum. Today he works as an editor of the Indigenous Russia website. In March 2022, he became one of the International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia's (ICIPR) organizers."

3. Radjana Dugar-DePonte

Radjana Dugar-DePonte (born Dugarova) is a PhD in ethnology and anthropology, a social activist, one of the leaders of the Buryat national movement, and co-founder of the human rights movement "Erhe" ("Right"), which fought against the merger of the autonomous Ust-Ordynsky Buryat District and the Aginsky Buryat District with neighbouring oblasts during the 2004-2008 regional enlargement program. In 2006, she was detained while picketing the Congress of Buryat People held at the Buryat Drama Theater in Ulan-Ude. An administrative case was filed against Dugarova as the organizer of the protest action. An active member of civil society in Buryatia, in 2004-2008 she organized talk-shows and round-table discussions on liquidation of national autonomies within the framework of regional enlargement, revitalization of the Buryat language, the problem of alcoholism, etc. She was forced to emigrate to Poland in 2009, earning the label of "nationalist" and "radical". She developed and taught a course on the representation of Siberian peoples in the film "Dreams of Siberia" at the University of Warsaw. In 2008-2014, she actively developed cooperation between non-profit organizations in Poland and Buryatia in the field of building the civil society sector as part of projects of the East European Democratic Center (EEDC). Additionally, she was co-organizer of study visits of representatives of Buryatian NGOs to Poland in 2008, 2010 and 2012. She is a journalist and columnist for the regional project

"Sibi Realii" of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. She has been living in the United States since 2015.

4. **Andrey Danilov**

Andrei Danilov was born in the Sámi village of Lovozero in the Murmansk region. He is a Sami politician and a longstanding Member of the Sámi Public Organization of the Murmansk Region. From 2008 till now, he is the Deputy Chairman of the Sámi Parliament of the Kola Peninsula. From 2011-2022 he was the director of the Sámi Heritage and Development Fund and from 2013 to 2017 he was the vice-president of the international non-governmental organization Saami Council.

Since last year, he is a member of the Cultural Committee of the Sámi Council. Since 2019, Andrei Danilov sought the right to traditional hunting. By the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation in 2021 he defended this right. But till now the Government of Murmansk region disputes his right in courts. Currently, he is in Norway in the status of an asylum seeker.

5. **Yana Tannagasheva**

Yana Tannagasheva is a representative of the Shor Indigenous People of Kuzbass (South-West Siberia, Russia). For many years, Yana has opposed the barbaric coal mining in her region. She stood in defense of her Shor Indigenous village, where her father's house was burned down by the coal company. Yana is a participant of many protests and actions against violations of the Shor People' rights and for the protection of the environment in Siberia. In 2018, Yana with her family were forced to flee Russia due to political threats. In 2021, she created 10 short video stories about coal mining in Kuzbass. YouTube channel "Coal Kills Us": <https://youtube.com/channel/UC0nBAqZEdOI9y3WYgfMAqMA>

Yana is one of the founders of the "International Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Russia (ICIPR)". She is the organizer of the demonstrations of solidarity with Ukraine in the north of Sweden, where she and her family are now based. Yana also works in the integration department of the municipality and is going to help Ukrainian refugees to integrate in Sweden.