

Secretary-General of the United Nations
Mr. Antonio Guterres

President of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Mr. Omar Zniber

President of the United Nations General Assembly
Mr. Dennis Francis

President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council
Mrs. Paula Narvaez

Copy to:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mr. Volker Turk

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Russian Federation
Ms. Mariana Katzarova

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Ms. Mary Lawlor

Your Excellencies

We are reaching out to you regarding the egregious act committed by the Russian government on July 25 of this year, which simultaneously included 55 organizations of indigenous peoples of Russia, fighting for their rights, in the list of extremist and terrorist organizations.

According to the legislation of the Russian Federation, from now on any participation in the activities of these organizations, cooperation, or even communication with them threatens years of imprisonment for each representative of the indigenous peoples of Russia.

Today, many leaders of the indigenous peoples have been repressed by the authorities and have been forced to leave the country, fearing for their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Some activists have had criminal cases fabricated against them by the Russian authorities and have been imprisoned. Currently, the well-known shaman of the indigenous peoples, Alexander

Gabyshev, is being subjected to punitive psychiatry in detention, which was widely used against dissenters during the Soviet era, and this spring, without receiving justice, the famous keeper of the sacred lake "Imlor," Sergey Kechimov, who defended this lake from oil companies, died while under investigation.

Such a massive inclusion of indigenous peoples' organizations, many of which are well-known and have been operating for a long time, in the list of criminals is a blatant violation of international law. Especially cynical is the fact that, while violating the rights of indigenous peoples, the Russian government accuses organizations and individuals who fight against these violations of extremism.

We express our concern that this act paves the way for further repression against those leaders and activists who live and work in Russia.

We appeal to you to pay attention to this case and take all measures to protect those whose rights have been violated and to prevent new repressions against the indigenous peoples of Russia.

We ask that the situation with the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation, whose rights are grossly violated by the government, be taken under special control.

Signatures...