



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF RUSSIA

Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Mr. António 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 Türk

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 Calí 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

Appeal to the United Nations:

Russia puts 55 indigenous organizations on the list of extremist and terrorist organizations

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF RUSSIA...  
REGARDING THE ADDITION OF 55 ASSOCIATIONS TO THE LIST OF EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS**

Excellencies,

We are reaching out to you regarding an egregious act committed by the government of the Russian Federation: at [one stroke](#), it has put 55 organizations that defend the rights of the country's indigenous peoples on its list of extremist and terrorist organizations.

Under the law of the country this means that representatives of the indigenous peoples of Russia, or anyone else participating, cooperating, or simply communicating with these organizations, risks being sentenced to years of imprisonment.

Leaders of the indigenous peoples have been subjected to increasingly severe repression by the authorities. Faced with threats to them and their loved ones, many have been forced to leave the country. Activists have had criminal cases fabricated against them by the Russian authorities and are serving prison sentences. The widespread Soviet practice of weaponizing psychiatry against detainees has been revived, and is being used against a prominent shaman of the indigenous peoples, Alexander Gabyshev. Earlier this year the titular keeper of the sacred lake Imlor, Sergey Kechimov, died while under investigation. He had been working to protect the lake from damage by oil company operations.

The blanket criminalization of such a large number of indigenous peoples' organizations, including many long-standing and highly respected bodies, is a blatant violation of international law. The picture that has emerged is one of a Russian government that violates the rights of indigenous peoples and then brands organizations and individuals who resist against these violations as extremists.

We are concerned that this act is a prelude to further repression against those leaders and activists who live and work in Russia.

We appeal to you to turn your attention to this case, take all needed measures to protect those whose rights are being violated, and prevent new forms of repression against the indigenous peoples of Russia.

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

Signatories: