

9.8.2019

Dnro 508/D.a.2./2019

Unofficial translation, statement was originally given in Finnish.

To:

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Subject: The Sámi Parliament in Finland condemns the murder of the indigenous leader Emyra Wajäpi in Brazil and calls for Finland, as it holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to give a statement and react on the continual violations of rights of indigenous peoples.

Reference: Statement regarding the murder of Emyra Wajäpi and violations of rights of indigenous peoples in Brazil.

The Sámi Parliament in Finland wants to express its condolences for the family of the Wajäpi leader Emyra Wajäpi and for the Wajäpi people. Emyra Wajäpi was found brutally killed on 23 July 2019 from the river nearby Mariry village. According to the information published at IWGIA webpage, 68 years-old Emyra Wajäpi was stabbed to death around the same time as approximately 50 gold miners entered the lands of Wajäpi people located in northern parts of Brazil in the state of Amapá¹. According to the internet sources, the gold miners invaded the village of Mariry and its residents had to flee to the bigger Aramirã village. Gold miners were heavily armed and fired shots also in the village of Aramirã.²

Also the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet³ and the UN Special Rapporteur for the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz⁴ have given their statements concerning the recent shocking events in Brazil as well as increasing number of violations of the rights of indigenous peoples, which are a consequence of the politics promoted by the President Jair Bolsonaro and the Government of Brazil. President Bolsonaro has expressed in several occasions his will to widely exploit traditional territories of indigenous peoples in Amazon by various industries. In the

¹ IWGIA 29.7.2019, "IWGIA condemns killing of indigenous leader in Brazil". At: <https://iwgia.org/en/brazil/3359-iwgia-condemns-killing-of-indigenous-leader-in-brazil>.

² See e.g. IWGIA 29.7.2019; The Guardian 28.7.2019, "Amazon gold miners invade indigenous village in Brazil after its leader is killed". At: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/28/amazon-gold-miners-invade-indigenous-village-brazil-leader-killed>.

³ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner. "Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on killing of indigenous leader in Amapá, Brazil". At: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24859&LangID=E>.

⁴ La Tercera 2.8.2019, "Relatora de la ONU responsabiliza a Bolsonaro de invasión en la Amazonia". At:

<https://www.latercera.com/mundo/noticia/relatora-la-onu-responsabiliza-bolsonaro-invasion-la-amazonia/765403/>.

politics of Bolsonaro and the Government of Brazil, economic growth seems to be more important than respect and promotion of rights of indigenous peoples or the fight against the climate change.

As brought up also in the statement of Bachelet, “when indigenous people are pushed off their lands, it is not just an economic issue”, but it has comprehensive impact on their way of life and, furthermore, it is a violation of the rights of indigenous peoples as defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁵ Additionally, increasing deforestation of the rain forests has negative consequences for the climate of the whole planet.

Finland is traditionally known as a supporter of indigenous peoples in the UN’s fora and it emphasises the promotion of human rights and climate friendly politics both at the national and international levels. Thus, the Sámi Parliament appeals to the State of Finland as the holder of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union that it would issue its statement in order to stop the shocking course of events in Brazil and Brazil’s politics, which is leading to the acceleration of the climate change. According to the view of the Sámi Parliament, Brazil’s responsibility in achieving the goals listed in the Paris Climate Agreement and in respecting the universal human right declarations should be emphasized also in the negotiations concerning the trade agreement between EU and the Mercosur states.

Tiina Sanila-Aikio

President

Laura Olsén-Ljetoff

Acting Secretary for International Affairs

The President decided upon the statement after consulting the Second Vice-President on the matter on 9 August 2019.

⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner.”Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on killing of indigenous leader in Amapá, Brazil”.