



ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT FOUNDATION

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To:

The President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin
Ministry of Justice
Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Nationalities
Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Regional Politics and problems of the North and Far East
Chairman of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights

With this communication we would like to express our deepest concern over the recent ruling of Moscow City court that on 6th of November has decided to support the Russian Ministry of Justice's request to liquidate the Center of Support for Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN), a Russian non-governmental organization (NGO) working on issues affecting indigenous peoples in Russia. The Ministry of Justice request was explained by a number of formal reasons and despite the fact that CSIPN presented to the court documents proving that many of the irregularities have been or were in the process of being corrected, the Moscow City Court decided to ignore this information and to support the request of the Ministry of Justice.

As the Moscow City Court decision is just a last blow in the sustained campaign against the CSIPN and its leadership that started some 5 years ago we interpret this decision in the wider context of illegalization of human rights organizations and broader dismantlement of civil society in Russia.

Founded in 2000, CSIPN (<http://www.csipn.ru/>) is currently one of the leading NGOs working on indigenous rights in Russia. CSIPN provides informational, expert and legal support to representatives of indigenous peoples in Russia and plays an important role in international processes related to the promotion of indigenous peoples rights around the world. CSIPN is accredited with various UN agencies and bodies such as UNESCO, UNEA, FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and others. Rodion Sulyandziga, the director of the CSIPN is an independent expert of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) of the UN Human Rights Council.

We believe that CSIPN firm and vocal stand in defence of the rights of indigenous peoples of Russia, its international visibility is what motivated the Ministry of Justice to suggest such a drastic measure against a leading indigenous peoples organization and the Moscow City Court to support it. The case of CSIPN speaks directly to the Paragraph 27 of the Human Rights Council Resolution (42/19 Human rights and indigenous peoples) adopted in September 2019:

"[Human Rights Council] Notes with great concern the increase in cases of reprisals against indigenous human rights defenders, indigenous peoples' representatives attending United Nations meetings, and United Nations mandate holders working on the rights of indigenous peoples..."

Early December 2019 CSIPN is planning to present its appeal to the Moscow City Court decision. We, indigenous and human rights organizations from around the world would like to express our solidarity with our brothers and colleagues from Russia and demand to stop harassment and pressure on CSIPN and its individual members.

Sincerely yours,



Gam A. Shimray
Secretary General
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Chiangmai, Thailand

Endorsing organizations:

1. Association of Indigenous Women of the Archipelago (PEREMPUAN AMAN), Indonesia
2. Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) - The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia
3. NGO-Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities (NGO-FONIN), Nepal
4. Kirat Youth Society (KYS), Nepal
5. Naga Women Union, India
6. Ken Kampe, special instructor at Chiangmai University and advisor to several Thai indigenous peoples organizations, Thailand
7. CSDM – Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas, Vietnam
8. VTIK – Vietnam Indigenous Knowledge network, Vietnam
9. Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Najvjyoti Agua (ANGNA), India
10. National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN), Nepal
11. Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA), Nepal
12. National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), Nepal
13. Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED), Nepal
14. All Arakan Students' & Youths' Congress (AASYC), Myanmar
15. Centro Juventude Covalima, Timor-Leste
16. Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Bangladesh
17. Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP), Nepal
18. India Indigenous Peoples, India
19. The Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), India
20. Meghalaya Peoples' Human Rights Council (MPHRC), India
21. The Indigenous Women Forum of Northeast India (IWFNEI), India
22. National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF), Nepal
23. Adivasi Women's Network, India
24. Jharkhand's Organisation for Human Rights (JOHAR) India
25. Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization, Cambodia
26. Adivasi Mahila Mahasangh (AMMS), India
27. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Nepal
28. Minnie Degawan, Kankanaey-Igorot, Philippines
29. Asia Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN)
30. Karen Environment and Social Action Network (KESAN), Myanmar
31. The International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-determination and Liberation (IPMSDL), Philippines
32. Thakali Women Association, Nepal
33. Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education (TEBTEBBA), Philippines
34. The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), Philippines
35. KATRIBU National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Philippines
36. Forests of the World/Verdens Skove, Denmark
37. Front Line Defenders, Ireland
38. Forest People Programme, United Kingdom
39. Minority Rights Group
40. Amnesty International