

July 19, 2023

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 16th Session

Item 9. Interactive dialogue with the UNPFII, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Statement by Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI)

Dear Chairperson,

Members of the Expert Mechanism,

The Indigenous Peoples Rights International wishes to draw your attention on the increasing reprisal by states on the participation of Indigenous Peoples in UN processes including the EMRIP and the UN Permanent Forum. It should be noted that one of the expert members of the EMRIP was prevented from returning to her home after the EMRIP session last year. Likewise, four indigenous leaders from three countries were also harassed and threatened for their participation in the Permanent Forum last April. The Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the reported number of reprisal and intimidation against persons and groups engaging with the UN have increased.

It is crucial for the three mechanisms to take a strong stand against these acts and to collectively remind member-states of the UN of their commitments to respect and allow indigenous peoples to participate freely and independently to UN process without fear for reprisal. It is also crucial for the three mechanisms to work closely and systematically with the Office of the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary General for human rights in addressing this serious issue of state reprisal.

Indigenous Peoples face repression in their countries and come to the UN to speak and be heard without intimidation. It is essential to maintain an open and safe UN space for the meaningful participation of indigenous in line with the respect, recognition and protection of our rights and wellbeing by States.

Thank you.