

OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY

Respect the Rights of the Saami People in the Green Transition

TO the Office of the Prime Minister of Norway (postmottak@oed.dep.no)

TO the Minister of Petroleum and Energy of Norway (postmottak@smk.dep.no)

The Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), the Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (REP) and 102 organizations in 61 countries together with 130 individuals across the globe extend our strong solidarity with the Saami people and urgently appeal to the government of Norway to adhere to the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the violation of the rights of the Saami people in the establishment of the Fosen windmill park. This onshore wind farm, consisting of 151 turbines, was constructed and operated by Statkraft in the Saami territory, without their consent. The area is a winter grazing land, which is crucial for the survival of the reindeer herds of the Saami People.

With the inaction by the Norwegian government and Statkraft - for more than 500 days after the court decision - the Saami youth started a peaceful gathering in front of the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy in Oslo on 28 February 2023. They demand the resolution of the unjust establishment of the windmill park in the Saami territory, as affirmed by the supreme court. However, members of the police with arms swooped down on the Saami youth in the middle of the night and physically dragged them. This overreaction by the police is uncalled for, as the Saami youth are simply exercising their right to peaceful assembly. Despite the police response, the Saami youth continue their peaceful protest and are gaining public support.

At the outset, the Saami people expressed that they are not against the windmill park per se, but that they opposed this project even before construction started because of the anticipated adverse impacts on their reindeer herding. Moreover, there are other options to build the windmills outside the reindeer herding area. However, the government-owned company Statkraft and Fosenvind, proceeded with establishment and operation of the windmill park instead of waiting for the decision of the court on the case filed by the Saami people.

This case demonstrates that indigenous peoples continue to be disregarded in decision-making on matters that affect them. With the green transition being planned and implemented by world leaders as a climate change solution, Indigenous Peoples are being made to sacrifice again. This situation is replicated in indigenous territories across

the world. We need to stop this and ensure that green transition, human rights and social equity go hand and hand.

We stand in solidarity with the Saami people in the exercise of their right to peaceful assembly, and respect for their rights to culture, to lands, territories and resources, and to self-determination. We commend the Saami youth for taking action to protect their culture and land. We support the demand of the Saami Parliament and the youth for the Norwegian government, Statkraft and Fosenvind to suspend the operation of the Fosen windmill park and engage with the Saami people to find a solution to the conflict, ensuring full respect and protection of their rights as indigenous peoples. We also demand the companies involved to assume responsibility for restoring the land. We expect the government of Norway to act now in line with their human rights obligations.

SIGNED BY: 104 organizations with 80 Indigenous Peoples Organizations and 24 Non-Government Organizations; and 130 individuals, including 64 Indigenous leaders from 61 countries

Africa - 11

1. Action Batwa pour le Développement Intégral et l'Assistance aux Vulnérables (ABDIAV) - Burundi
2. African Indigenous Women Organisation Central African Network - Cameroon
3. Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (ANAPAC RDC) - Democratic Republic of the Congo
4. Ecosystem Social Economic Development Organization - Kenya
5. Focus Droits et Accès - Democratic Republic of the Congo
6. Friends of Lake Turkana - Kenya
7. Lelewal Foundation - Cameroon
8. Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) – Cameroon
9. Ogiek Peoples Development Programme - Kenya
10. Pinto Management Consultancy - South Africa
11. Village Farmers Initiative (VFI) - Nigeria

Asia and Pacific - 41

1. Adivasi Samanway Manch Bharat - India
2. Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara- National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in the Archipelago of Indonesia – Indonesia
3. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact - Thailand
4. Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE) - Nepal
5. Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara - Indonesia
6. Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance - Cambodia
7. Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization - Cambodia
8. Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM) Vietnam

9. Chhattisgarh Tribal People's Forum - India
10. Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ) - Nepal
11. Cordillera Peoples Alliance – Philippines
12. Covalima Youth Center- Timor Leste
13. Hill Resource Centre (HRC) - Bangladesh
14. Indigenous Perspectives - India
15. Indigenous Rights Advocacy Centre - India
16. Indigenous women empowerment forum - India
17. Indigenous Women Forum's North East India. - India
18. Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat - Indonesia
19. INNABUYOG Alliance of Indigenous Women's Organizations in the Cordillera, Philippines - Philippines
20. Inter-Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association - Thailand
21. Indigenous Peoples Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation (SWBC)- Nepal
22. Jharkhandis Organisation for Human Rights - India
23. Kachin Development Networking Group - Myanmar
24. Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas - Philippines
25. Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) - Nepal
26. Maleya Foundation - Bangladesh
27. Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights - India
28. National Indigenous Women Forum - Nepal
29. National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) - Nepal
30. National Indigenous Women Federation (NIWF) - Nepal
31. National Indigenous Women Forum - Nepal
32. Netrutva foundation - India
33. Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS) Trust - Malaysia
34. Perempuan AMAN (Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago) - Indonesia
35. Porgera Red Wara Women's Association Incorporated (PRWWA INC), Papua New Guinea. - Papua New Guinea
36. South Bihar Welfare Society for Tribal – India
37. Thy Progressive Foundation - India
38. Tobpinai NIngkokoton koBUruon KampuNG (TONIBUNG) - Malaysia
39. United Tribal Organization of Assam (UTOA) - India
40. Zomi Human Rights Foundation – India
41. World Barua Organization - New Zealand

Europe

1. Commission d'Appui aux Peuples Originaires du Chili - Switzerland

Latin America - 16

1. Agenda Ciudadana por el Desarrollo y la Corresponsabilidad Social - Mexico
2. Asamblea de los Pueblos Indígenas por la Soberanía Alimentaria (APISA) - Mexico

3. Asociación Centro Indígena para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CINDES) Peru
4. Asociación Mujeres Emprendedoras de Alta Verapaz (MEAV) - Guatemala
5. Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) Suriname
6. Chirapaq/Continental Network Of Indigenous Women Of The Americas-ECMIA - Peru
7. Comunidad indígena Diaguita Cacicazgo Tacquia - Chile
8. Comunidad Integradora del Saber Andino (CISA) - Ecuador
9. Coordinador Del Area De Los Pueblos Originarios Red Ongs America Latina - El Salvador
10. Corporación Cultural Diaguita Illari - Chile
11. Federación Indígena Empresarial y Comunidades Locales de México. A.C. - Mexico
12. Federación por la autodeterminación de los pueblos indígenas (FAPI) - Paraguay
13. Maya Leaders Alliance - Belize
14. Qhana Pukara Kurmi - Bolivia
15. Red de Jóvenes Indígenas de Venezuela - Venezuela
16. United Confederation of Taíno People - Puerto Rico

North America - 4

1. Center for World Indigenous Studies - United States
2. Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas - United States
3. Indigenous Environmental Network - United States
4. Indigenous World Association - Canada

Global / International - 7

1. Agencia Internacional de Prensa Indígena (AIPIN) – Mexico
2. Indigenous Environmental Network - International - United States
3. Indigenous Peoples' Rights International – United States
4. International Indian Treaty Council - United States
5. Land is Life - United States
6. Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples-United States
7. Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) - Philippines

Non-Indigenous Peoples Organizations - 24

Asia and Pacific - 6

1. Centre for Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum (CEHRDF) Bangladesh
2. Lok Shakti Abhiyan - India
3. Indonesian Traditional Wisdom Network/ Jaringan Kearifan Tradisional Indonesia - Indonesia
4. Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC) - Malaysia
5. SANDIWA Network for National Minority Rights - Philippines
6. Centre of Research & Development in Upland Areas (CERDA) - Vietnam

Europe - 7

1. Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition - Russia
2. Business and Human Rights Resource Centre - Germany

3. Both ENDS - Netherlands
4. Grupo Intercultural Almaciga - Spain
5. Iniciativas de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (ICID)- Spain
6. International Platform against impunity - Switzerland
7. The William Gomes Podcast - United Kingdom

Latin America - 3

1. Diálogo y Movimiento, A.C. - Mexico
2. Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER) - Mexico
3. Servicios para una Educación Alternativa EDUCA A.C. – Mexico

North America - 1

1. Black Lives Matter South Bend - United States

Global / International - 7

1. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) - Denmark
2. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific - Malaysia
3. Water Justice and Gender - Netherlands
4. Forest Peoples Programme - United Kingdom
5. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) - United States
6. Cultural Survival - United States
7. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) - United States

Individuals – 130 (including 52 undisclosed Individuals)

Indigenous Peoples – 48

Africa - 4

1. Hamadi Mohamed ABBA - Mali
2. Aquilas Koko Ngomo - Democratic Republic of the Congo
3. Aehshatou Manu - Cameroon
4. Gideon Sanago – Tanzania

Asia and Pacific - 23

1. Ritu Thapa - Nepal
2. Anwasha Chakma - Bangladesh
3. Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn - New Zealand
4. Chandra Kulung - Nepal
5. Dr Elizabeth Imti - Thailand
6. Florence Daguitan - Philippines
7. Hiran Mitra Chakma - Bangladesh
8. Julius Daguitan - Philippines
9. Zaman Kamrul - Bangladesh
10. Ke Jung - Thailand
11. Meena Lama - Nepal
12. Buddha Tsering Moktan - Nepal

13. Bidhya Hirachan - Nepal
14. Neingulo Krome Krome - India
15. Preity Gurung - Nepal
16. Hla Doi - Myanmar
17. Pranab Doley - India
18. Rande Bayate - Philippines
19. Rhoda Dalang - Philippines
20. Roger Lambino - Philippines
21. Sele Naivala Tagivuni - Fiji
22. Shree Kumar Maharjan - Nepal
23. Tak Bahadur Tamang - Nepal

Europe - 2

1. Jo Morte Kåven - Norway
2. Lars Baer - Sweden

Latin America - 13

1. Sandra Ceballos - Argentina
2. Cristina Coc - Belize
3. Immaculata Casimero - Guyana
4. Maria Josee Artist - Suriname
5. Sheena Zuniga - Belize
6. Jocabed Solano - Panama
7. Ruth zenaida Buendia - Peru
8. Sabantho Corrie-Edghill - Barbados
9. Kantuta Conde - Bolivia
10. Rigoberto Juárez Mateo. - Guatemala
11. Tony James - Guyana
12. Carmen Guerra - Colombia
13. Alfonso Carcamo - Chile

North America - 6

1. Angele Alook - Canada
2. Bren Henderson - Canada
3. James Desmoulin - Canada
4. Lola Juan - United States
5. Kenneth Deer - Canada
6. Janice Parsons – Canada

Non-Indigenous People - 30

Asia and Pacific - 7

1. Akemi Mitsuishi - Japan
2. Anya Thomas - Australia
3. Dr P A Azeez - India
4. Chupinit Kesmanee - Thailand
5. Sophea Pheap - Cambodia

6. Timothy Salomon – Philippines
7. Paul Belisario - Philippines

Europe - 14

1. Alexandra Tomaselli - Italy
2. Ana Casadiego – Spain
3. David Nathaniel Berger - Denmark
4. Fabienne Krebs - Switzerland
5. Begoña Dorronsoro - Portugal
6. Jo Stephen - United Kingdom
7. Johannes Waldmüller - Austria
8. Karolina Caicedo - Germany
9. Laura Rebolledo Génisson - Spain
10. Patricia Borraz - Spain
11. Pilar Garcinuño González - Spain
12. Núria Reguart-Segarra - Spain
13. William Nicholas Gomes - United Kingdom
14. Signe Leth - Denmark

Latin America - 5

1. Rodrigo Ferreira - Brazil
2. Clara Ferri - Mexico
3. Dolores Soto - Mexico
4. Laura Vargas - Mexico
5. Rocío Becerra - Mexico

North America - 4

1. Mary Nelson - United States
2. Mary Nelson - United States
3. Lars Åkerson - United States
4. Marie-Sophie Villeneuve - Canada