



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Chairperson and Focal Point for Reprisals of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Our Committee has received information, which we would like to bring to the attention of Your Excellency's Government. This information relates to allegations of reprisals against Ms. Yana Tannagasheva and Mr. Vladislav Tannagashev, human rights defenders working for the rights of the Shor indigenous people in South Siberia.

Ms. Yana Tannagasheva and Mr. Vladislav Tannagashev engaged with our Committee in relation to the review of the 23rd and 24th periodic reports of the Russian Federation by CERD in August 2017.

According to the information received, following their collaboration with our Committees:

- Ms. Yana Tannagasheva and Mr. Vladislav Tannagashev have been subjected to harassment and intimidation by the authorities of the Kemerovo district and the coal company Yuzhnaya;
- The police several times urged them to renounce their activities and the security service agency made threats against them concerning their children and summoned their relatives and friends for questioning;
- They have also been subjected to surveillance by the police and the security services, with their phones tapped;
- Ms. Tannagasheva was arbitrarily dismissed from her work at a local school where she was working as a teacher, and her house burned down in a suspected arson attack in November 2017. No investigation has yet been initiated into this case and no one has been brought to justice.

We have also been informed that due to the above-mentioned incidents, both of them have had to flee the country with their children, for fear for their safety, seeking refuge abroad.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information made available to us, we would like to express our grave concern over the current situation of Ms. Yana Tannagasheva and Mr. Vladislav Tannagashev as well as members of their families, which appears to be the direct consequence of their participation in the work of our Committee.

His Excellency Mr. Gennady Gatilov
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office
Geneva
Email: mission.russian@vtxnet.ch

In this connection, we would like to draw the attention of Your Excellency's Government to Human Rights Council resolutions 12/2, 24/24 and 36/21, the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals ("San José Guidelines") (HRI/MC/2015/6), which CERD endorsed at its 88th session in accordance with its specific methods and as they apply to the Convention (A/71/18., para 58), and CERD's general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would also like to underline the responsibility of Your Excellency's Government to prevent and refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal by States and non-State actors against individuals and groups, including indigenous peoples and organisations that monitor and report on the situation of indigenous peoples, who seek to cooperate, cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; to take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of acts of intimidation or reprisal; and to ensure accountability for any act of intimidation or reprisal against those individuals and groups by ensuring impartial, prompt and thorough investigations of any alleged act of intimidation or reprisal in order to bring the perpetrators to justice, to provide access to effective remedies for victims in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments, and to prevent any recurrence, as elaborated in Human Rights Council resolution 36/21 (paras. 3-5).

In view of the seriousness of the above-mentioned allegations, we would appreciate, to receive information within 30 days with regard to the above-mentioned situation as well as the measures taken by Your Excellency's Government to protect Ms. Yana Tannagasheva and Mr. Vladislav Tannagashev, and the members of their family.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Nouredine Amir

Chairperson
Committee on the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination



Jose Francisco Cali Tzay

Focal Point for Reprisals
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