



14 December 2016

To: Presidency of Russian Federation – Mr. President Vladimir Putin
Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs
General of Police Vladimir Kolokoltsev

OPEN LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR Mr. RODION SULYANDZIGA

The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) is a global forum of Indigenous Peoples consisting of 7 regions: Africa, Asia, Arctic, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Pacific and Eastern Europe and Russia. IIPFCC strongly protests the continued harassment of internationally-acclaimed activist for Indigenous Peoples' rights, Mr. Rodion Sulyandziga, who, among other activities, has served as co-chair of the IIPFCC.

On Sunday, 11 of December 2016, Mr. Rodion Sulyandziga was detained after an early morning search of his home by Russian police. Mr Sulyandziga, was thereby prevented from opening and chairing a Moscow seminar of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian north, Siberia, and East Asia. He was released in the afternoon, but his laptop was confiscated and has yet to be returned. This is not the first instance of harassment of Mr. Sulyandziga.

In 2014, Russian authorities prevented Mr. Rodion Sulyandziga from travelling to the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, of which he was an organizer. Despite such repeated harassment, Mr Sulyandziga's work continues to benefit international movements for Indigenous Peoples' rights, climate change, and environmental protection. He must be allowed to continue this important work. Therefore:

- 1. IIPFCC calls for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to self-determination, and the right to participate in matters that would affect their rights through representatives chosen by themselves, to be recognized, respected, and protected by the world governments. These rights are recognized in international agreements, declarations and treaties such as: the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, The Paris Agreement, The ILO Convention 169 and others.**
- 2. IIPFCC ask particularly the Russian authorities to stop harassment of, and intimidation against the leaders of Indigenous Peoples in the Russian Federation. The rights of these leaders to work on behalf of their peoples must be ensured by all the authorities in order to allow Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in the development and sustainability of their communities and their country.**
- 3. IIPFCC calls for consideration of those basic demands to ensure the protection of our colleagues, brothers and sisters of The Russian Federation.**

Sincerely,

**Lisa te Heuheu,
Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change**

Agreed Parties:

1. Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad
2. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
3. Indigenous Peoples National Steering Committee on Climate Change (IPNSCCC)
4. Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO)
5. Te Kopu, Pacific Indigenous & Local Knowledge Centre of Distinction
6. POINT Myanmar
7. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
8. Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED)
9. Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)
10. Asia Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN)
11. Chirapaq, Centre of Indigenous Cultures of Peru
12. National Congress of American Indians
13. Pratima Gurung
14. Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN)
15. Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA)
16. Porgera Alliance, Papua New Guinea
17. Congrès mondial Amazigh
18. Association de femmes de Kabylie
19. Independent Consultant & External Lecturer, University of Vienna, Austria
20. SONIA for a Just and New World as cosignatory
21. FORO INDIGENA DEL ABYA YALA.
22. International Indian Treaty Council
23. Indigenous Peoples of African Coordinating Committee IPACC
24. Unissons nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA)
25. Native American Rights Fund (USA)
26. Indigenous Environmental Network (USA)
27. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
28. Le centre d'Accompagnement des Autochtones Pygmées et Minoritaires Vulnérables (CAMV/DR-Congo)
29. Saami Council
30. Sámi Parliament of Norway
31. Le mouvement culturel amazigh du Maroc
32. Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA/RDC)
33. Unissons nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA), Burundi
34. United Confederation of Taíno People
35. Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization
36. Pastoralists Indigenous NGOs Forum (PINGO's Forum), TANZANIA
37. First Nations Summit (Canada)
38. Polina Shulbaeva, CBD Indigenous coordinator for Russia and Eastern Europe
39. The Batwa Foundation
40. Asociación Savia Andina Pukara (ASAP)
41. Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas
42. Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)
43. Network for Indigenous Peoples of the Solomons (NIPS)
44. Te Kopu Network
45. Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples (UCSCIP)
46. Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
47. Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN), Indonesia
48. Lelewal, Cameroon
49. Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity (BIPNet), Bangladesh
50. Maleya Foundation, Bangladesh
51. Chief Gary Harrison, Artick Athabascan Council
52. Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (YFIN Nepal)