



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

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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

15 March 2012

Dear James Finies,

Allow me to acknowledge and thank you for the information that you have provided me by email dated 14 March 2012 regarding the situation of the island of Bonaire following the 2004 referendum on its political relationship with the Netherlands.

I and my support staff rely on the important and timely information provided to us by indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and other sources. Your information is crucial to the effective functioning of my mandate, assisting me greatly in my communications and consultations with United Nations Member States. Your information will be given close and careful consideration. After an initial review of your submission, I or my support staff may request from you additional or clarifying information.

There are a number of possibilities available regarding how information that reaches me is used and what actions may be taken based upon it. In an urgent situations requiring immediate action, a communication may be sent to the State in question, for example requesting it to take appropriate action to ensure the security of individuals or communities. In a situation of a less urgent nature, a communication to the State might raise more general concerns regarding indigenous issues, legislation or policy, or might request information or a response from the State regarding specific allegations. Other actions may also result from your information, which may include consideration of offers of assistance or technical cooperation in my capacity as Special Rapporteur to address ongoing and entrenched problems relating to indigenous issues.

I must stress to you, however, that ordinarily all communications with States undertaken by my mandate and support staff remain strictly confidential until they are reported to the Human Rights Council. We hope you understand that it is therefore not usually possible to update you on actions resulting from your correspondence. Also, please be aware that not all information submitted to me results in specific action. Rest assured, in any event, that your engagement allows me to have a fuller understanding of human rights situations of indigenous peoples, and helps to enable appropriate and considered responses.

To know more about the communications procedure of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, please consult the web page:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/submit.htm> or
<http://www.unsr.jamesanaya.org/comm/submitting-information-to-the-special-rapporteur>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Anaya
Special Rapporteur on the rights
of indigenous peoples