



EARTH PEOPLES

We write as a global network and representatives of civil society, with a long history of working with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON).

RAIPON, an organization with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) has a long and respected history through its professional and consistent work at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Commission on Human Rights, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the World Intellectual Property Organization's Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

RAIPON promotes for decades the protection of human rights and legal interests of 41 indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East in Russia, and has made enormous contributions to advice the Russian Government on the environmental, social, economic, cultural and educational problems that the Russian indigenous peoples face.

We are therefore, as many others around the world, highly alarmed to learn, that the Russian Ministry of Justice suspended the legal status of RAIPON.

We urge you to re-consider, and hope that the question of RAIPON's legal status will be expeditiously resolved so that they may continue their effective representation of the indigenous peoples of Russia, including their work at the international level.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Sommer
www.earthpeoples.org
earthpeoples@earthpeoples.org

15 November 2012