



Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 08
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléx: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22) 9179193
Internet www.ohchr.org
E-mail: ghabtom@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: GH / st

27 August 2010

Excellency,

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination wishes to express its gratitude for the letter dated on 30 July 2010, providing information on the general situation of the Hmong people, and on their alleging status as indigenous people, in response to the Committee's letter of 12 March 2010. I write to inform you that during its 77th session, the Committee considered further the situation of the Hmong people, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, in light of your Government's letter.

The Committee expresses its continued concern about the situation of the Hmong people, concerning allegedly continuing military action against the Hmong people in the Phou Bia Mountain area. According to this information, from 15 to 17 March 2009, 60mm and 82mm shells were fired at the Hmong people in the area, including shells that exploded with green and blue smoke, causing dizziness, nausea and diarrhea among the civilians. Some 2,000 Lao and Vietnamese troops were reported to have surrounded the area.

The letter sent by the State party on 30 July 2010 has helped the Committee's understanding of the facts and of the status and the situation of the Hmong people. The Committee takes note that the Hmong people are not considered a minority or an indigenous community, as they have "never been colonized by the Lao ethnic group". The Committee, however, would recommend the State party to refrain from using any forms of violence against the Hmong people, to prevent human rights violations, and to inform the Committee on the measures taken, consequently.

In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests the State party to submit the information requested before **31 January 2011**. The Committee would also like to receive information about the submission of the State party of its sixteenth and seventeenth reports, overdue since 24 March 2007.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anwar Kemal".

Anwar Kemal

Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination

H.E. Mr. Khonepheng Thammavong
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to UNOG
Route de Colovrex 14 bis
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Fax 022 798 24 40