



Human Rights Now

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30th Human Rights Council

ITEMS 3 & 5 Clustered ID with: SR on indigenous peoples /- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

Japanese companies must cease the trade with companies engaged in illegal logging in Sarawak

Thank you Mr./Ms. President

Human Rights Now expresses its deep concern about the illegal logging of forests in the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Logging deprives indigenous people of their ancestral lands and forests, which they depend upon for all aspects of their traditional ways of life. Therefore, logging gravely infringes upon the human rights of the indigenous communities in Sarawak.

We commend the Malaysian government and the government of Sarawak for their recent efforts aimed at addressing the issue of illegal logging. At the same time, it is essential that foreign companies refrain from trading with companies engaged in illegal logging. In this regard, we are concerned about the lax regulations prevailing in Japan. The obligation only to procure legally verified wood exclusively applies to the public sector in Japan. In contrast, Japan does not have any laws prohibiting the private sector from trading illegally logged timber. This lack of adequate regulations promotes illegal logging.

Human Rights Now calls upon Japanese companies to immediately cease the trade with companies engaged in illegal logging in Sarawak. They should conduct due diligence on the supply chain of imported timber and engage in a dialogue with NGOs and indigenous communities. In addition, we urge the Japanese government to revise relevant domestic regulations to ban the import of illegally logged timber and impose penalties on violators.

Lastly, Human Right Now calls upon the federal government of Malaysia and the government of Sarawak to revise the relevant laws to recognize the indigenous peoples' native customary rights and strengthen the prosecution of illegal logging.

A) Strengthen the prosecution of illegal logging and related corruption.

Thank you for your attention.