



Human Rights Now

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29th Human Rights Council Agenda item 3: SR on Rights to Health

Persisting violation of the Right to Health by the Japanese Government after the Fukushima nuclear accident

Thank you Mr./Ms. President,

Human Rights Now expresses concern over the health and protection of people affected by the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. The Japanese government continues to ignore recommendations made by Mr. Anand Grover and the UN Human Rights Committee to reform its policies pursuant to international human rights standards. Many people, including children and pregnant women, still live in highly contaminated areas since the government limits evacuation zone based on a level of 20mSv/year, a threshold 20 times higher than the international protection standard.

Today, 115,000 people are still displaced as a result of the accident. The government plans to end support for evacuation and enforce resettlement. The government has decided to end free housing for voluntary evacuees and un-designating still-contaminated regions where the level of contamination is less than 50mSv/year. By March 2018, the government plans to terminate evacuee compensations to 54,800 evacuees regardless of whether decontamination efforts in their hometowns are successful.

Furthermore, health monitoring and treatment policies remain inadequate. To date, 103 cases of thyroid cancer have been identified among affected children, however, the thyroid examinations are still only available to those who were under 18 years old, and follow-up tests are only performed every other year.

The people affected by the Fukushima accident continue to be denied their right to health. The Japanese government is responsible for protecting its citizens' rights to health under the ICESCR and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We request the Human Rights Council to act immediately on this issue and urge the Japanese government to take necessary measures to reform its relevant policies in accordance with recommendations made by the UN human rights bodies.

Thank you for your attention.