



**Human  
Rights  
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**33rd Human Rights Council**

**Agenda item 3: Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on use of mercenaries and the Special Rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes**

**Speaker: Mr. Benjamin NOLAN**

**The Human Rights Situation of People Affected by the Fukushima Nuclear Accident**

Thank you Mr./Ms. President,

Nearly 150,000 people from Fukushima Prefecture remain displaced by the 2011 nuclear accident, many still in temporary housing. The government announced it will lift evacuation orders for areas under 20 mSv/year by March 2017, without effectively consulting affected people. Compensation payments by TEPCO, the power company responsible for the accident, and the government's housing support program will both end by March 2018.

This situation pressures evacuees to return to areas with exposures potentially up to 20 mSv/year, higher than the ICRP's recommended limit of 1 mSv/year for public radiation exposure. Decontamination is not complete, and 6 million bags of contaminated soil remain in temporary sites concentrating radiation near residential areas.

The government has also not established free, periodic, and comprehensive health checks for all affected people, only youth thyroid exams. As of March 2016, 172 children in Fukushima were diagnosed or believed to have thyroid cancer, 57 of them newly diagnosed in the last survey.

Human Rights Now (HRN) calls on the government of Japan to implement the 2013 recommendations by Special Rapporteur Anand Grover to use a 1 mSv/year standard for lifting evacuation orders, and to provide necessary support to residents which evacuate, stay, or return to areas above that standard, and comprehensive and long-term health checkups for residents of such areas.

HRN also requests that the Human Rights Council monitor the human rights situation in Fukushima and that the Special Rapporteur, Baskut Tuncak, conduct an official visit to Japan.

Thank you for your attention.