

First and foremost, I would like to thank our heavenly Father for allowing me to speak here today and I would also like to acknowledge the Marshall Islands ambassador, Honorable Doreen deBrum.

Iakwe aolep. My name is Ahti Moses. I am 16 years old and I am of the Ijidrik clan and I am from Enjebi, Enewetak, and Ujelang. I am a grandson of Iroojlaplap Moses Abraham and Lijela Rose Abraham, and I am here to speak in my capacity as an Enjebi and Enewetak Traditional Leader and as a Youth Representative of our community organization, Elimondik.

Enewetak Atoll is where the United States tested most of its nuclear weapons between 1946-1958. It is the second largest atoll in the world with the northern territory known as Enjebi and belonging to the Enjebi people. However, Enjebi is uninhabited because of nuclear contamination and us Enjebi people remain internally displaced until now.

You may know of my homeland because of Runit Dome, located on Runit Island, which contains some of the United States' nuclear waste. I am one of the traditional landowners of Runit Island and the island is my traditional fishing grounds. I cannot live on all of my islands because they are too contaminated, however, we still live on Enewetak Island.

In response to our community's needs as a direct result of the US nuclear testing and our displacement, Elimondik was established in 2013, and I am here to speak today on the following thematic:

- 1) Our right to healthcare
- 2) Our right to food
- 3) Free prior and informed consent (and)
- 4) The Nuclear Claims Tribunal

(Previous UPR cycles)

In a previous UPR cycle, Elimondik, with our Rongelap sister organization, Iju in Ean, submitted a UPR shadow report to the 22nd session of the UPR Human Rights Council in 2015. We outlined 12 recommendations to the RMI government, and I am pleased to say that my country has been proactive and has addressed some of those, including establishment of a government body to address the needs of people adversely affected by US military testing and establishing a national commission on human rights.

Although there have been some advances, certain challenges remain.

(Challenges)

1) One of our biggest challenges is **Health Care**

We face intergenerational impacts of trauma and illness regarding long term low dose exposure to radiation including high rates of hepatitis, NCDs, depression, and even hearing loss. My family also suffers from many radiogenic cancers, and illnesses related to our displacement and lack of quality healthcare.

Our hospital does not have the funds for emergency evacuations from our island to the capital of Majuro, and many of my family have died or suffered permanent damages because of this.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon the RMI government to conduct a full review of the history, performance, and needs of the 177 health program.
2. We call upon the RMI government to intensify its actions for providing health care services for nuclear affected peoples in the Marshall Islands
3. We call upon the RMI government to ensure adequate available budget for emergency and referral services for nuclear affected peoples
4. We call upon the international community to provide monetary and technical support to the RMI government in achieving these recommendations to provide essential health services for nuclear affected peoples

2) Directly linked to our health is our right to **Adequate and Safe Food**

Through the Compact of Free Association with the United States, we are entitled to quarterly food distributions to supplement our local food sources which have unknown amounts of contamination. However, the food we receive is often expired and damaged including moldy rice and rusty cans of meat. In Enewetak, we often face nitta – famine – which impacts our health, particularly for us children.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon the RMI government to fully enforce the Food Safety Act of 2010 to provide oversight of our quarterly food distributions to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the Enjebi and Enewetak peoples
2. We call upon the RMI government to conduct a full review of the history, performance, and needs of the Enewetak Supplemental Food Program

3. We call upon the RMI government to evaluate and monitor food distributions to ensure on-time deliveries
4. We call upon the RMI government to support local efforts of citizen science initiatives to monitor amounts of radionuclides in our food systems by advocating at high levels and procuring monetary and technical assistance for such activities

3) The **Nuclear Claims Tribunal**

The Nuclear Claims Tribunal was established under both US and RMI laws, and historically served as a de facto truth commission but has no more funding. In 2006, the Tribunal awarded us \$341 million for the loss of use of our islands, cleanup, and hardships. Until now we have only received one half of one percent of this amount. In our 2015 UPR report, Elimondik recommended the RMI seek full funding for the Nuclear Claims Tribunal, however, that has not yet been accomplished.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon the RMI government to intensify its efforts toward transitional justice to include Nuclear Claims Tribunal awards
2. We call upon the RMI government to support the Enjebi and Enewetak peoples in finding other legal pathways to access our adjudicated claim

4) **Free Prior and Informed Consent**

For decades, my islands and my family have been used for testing grounds and many types of research. This continues to today without free prior and informed consent. It is as though we are still guinea pigs. Of all the studies and missions to my islands, nothing has directly improved our lives, and we continue to suffer without proper healthcare and adequate and safe food.

We are not regularly included in decisions for our island and almost all activities are done outside of our traditional protocols and without consent of our Traditional Leaders, our Iroij. This directly undermines our traditional systems and our abilities to effectively steward our islands and violates our rights as Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendations:

1. We call upon the RMI government to ratify the Universal Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

2. We urge the RMI government to develop projects, programs, policies, and advocacy tools through the UNDRIP lens of Free Prior and Informed Consent
3. We encourage the RMI government to follow Enjebi and Enewetak protocols, and further encourage the RMI government to engage with Elimondik as a mechanism for liaising with both Traditional leaders and community members of Enjebi and Enewetak.

(Conclusion)

While the Marshall Islands government did not cause the issues I have raised, the RMI bears the duty of caring for the needs of all citizens, including Enjebi and Enewetak peoples. In closing, I urge the international community to support the RMI in seeking partnerships to respond to the continuing impacts of radiogenic and other toxic contamination resulting from military use of my country. Kom kanuuj en emol.

Enewetak is about 805 kilometers from the RMI capital of Majuro, which is about a 4–5-day boat trip. We do not have regular scheduled airplanes as it is too expensive for my people. The only airplanes that come to our island are for government missions or people who want to see Runit dome. We are very far from essential services.

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