

CONGRESS OF WORLD HMONG PEOPLE

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TO: Committee on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

FROM: Congress of World Hmong People, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

STATEHOLDER: Congress of World Hmong People Human Rights Division
Human Rights Council resolution 5/1

DATE: 6 March 2014

RE: Lao PDR and Hmong Indigenous in the Xaysombun Special Zone -
Phou Bia Region

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Congress of World Hmong People is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) monitors the Hmong Indigenous conflict with the Lao PDR government since 2005.
- 2 The ethnic war between the Hmong and the Lao PDR erupted for more than 3 decades ago when the Lao PDR took power and revamped their secret internal policy to exterminate of the Hmong people who sided with the West during the Vietnam War which came into ended in 1975.
- 3 Many of these people are pushed into the remote jungle of Mountain Phou Bia.
- 4 The Hmong Indigenous community there is having democratic system believing in free speech, freedom of assembly, culture and with diverse religions in which contradicting to the Lao implemented practice internal policy.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) 2010

- 5 Pursuing to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2010, the UPR Committees made numerous and lengthy finding recommendations that the Lao PDR government to comply accordingly with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Protocols.
- 6 Congress of World Hmong People appreciated very much that the Lao PDR Government continues changing and initializing the ideal of democratic system for the people and working toward achieving the human right mechanisms for the 21st century and beyond.
- 7 We are very pleased that most of the concerned recommendations have been implemented and accepted by most of the UPR Committee Members.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONCERNS

8 Congress of World Hmong People recalling that the Lao PDR government continues to refuse of accepting one very important principal recommendation to “Consider extending an open invitation to the special procedures” and “Deepen dialogue with UNHCR regarding the situation of individuals belonging to the Hmong minority returned from third countries” in which others committee members of the UPR recognized as the important factors prompting the human right violations in the Lao country.

9 In this regard, since the UPR in 2010, the Lao government continues committing crimes against humanity in the Xaysombun Special Zone, Phou Bia Mountainous Region. Communication between the President Chong Lor Her in the region:

(a) Phone Kham Camp and Pha Lack Camp reported from anonymous individual that there is no equal treatment. Many of the refugees there still not receiving their travel documents; soldiers on the military based closed by often come and harass and taking young girls for sex. Parents cannot do anything about it and faced death threat if they do. Many families in these refugee camps are now escaped to the unknown locations as reported to Congress of World Hmong People.

(b) Reports from President Chong Lor Her from the Phou Bia regional that military activities over there are on going till today. Fighting and clashes are often as the Lao PDR is trying to invade their territorial and the Mountain Phou Bia. During those fighting, many of Lao soldiers died and injured and the crying out was “Vietnamese language”. The Hmong indigenous people, children, and elderly also died from starvation, military clashed, and faced unknown chemical agents sprayed from Lao air-craft flown into the refuge region . President Chong Lor Her also reports that the Lao military also used dog hunt his people.

(c) Reports from President Chong Lor Her that today the region is heavily surrounded by Lao military. This military flooded villagers’ villages, and incidents of rapes and murders facing farmers and young girls according to the report. Villagers’ reports seeing Vietnamese military presents with Lao military heading to corner the Hmong in the Phou Bia.

(d) A military officer sent a message to President Her that, “the Xaysombune Special Zone will be naming a new province called Xaysombune Province with a Hmong ethnic governor in order for military to maintain orders of the Hmong in the zone peacefully without a trace from the awareness and attention of the international. And any future upraising or conflicts raise, it is the responsibility of the governor so that way the Lao government has nothing to do with it. It is like Hmong on Hmong.”

CONCLUSION

10 The Hmong Indigenous people in the Phou Bia region are facing starvations and severely lacking of medical supports. The right to food is not an option because the Lao government continues chasing them. These people are moving constantly place to place from the Lao aggressions.

11 Congress of World Hmong People cannot stretch enough but would like to ask the committee to put a special mechanism proposal with procedure to the Lao government for the consideration of opening an invitation to the special procedures as noted. And also address of allowing the UNHCR fully to participate and engaging on working closely with the returnee Hmong refugees from the third countries.

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