

**General Assembly
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Ninth Session
Agenda Item 3**

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

Interactive Dialogue: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, S. James Anaya- Summary of cases transmitted to Governments and replies received (A/HRC/9/9/Add.1)

Statement by Society for Threatened Peoples, delivered by Mr. Tenzin S. KAYTA

Thank you, Mr. President.

We make this comment with regard to the 3 October 2007 joint communication to China by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights of indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, on the "alleged severe impact of resettlement programs and forced evictions that are currently being implemented in Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China (PRC)."

While welcoming China's response on this matter, we believe the issue of consent of the Tibetans involved is fundamental. And, given the human rights crisis prevailing on the Tibetan Plateau, an independent analysis here would be impossible. However, a documentary called, "*Dispatches-Undercover in Tibet*" released this year by Channel 4 British Television revealed that "the nomadic way of life being forcefully wiped out as native Tibetans are stripped of their land and livestock and are being resettled in concrete camps."

This documentary hears a Tibetan who volunteered to be interviewed. In this interview, the Tibetan says the following: "Life here is incredibly hard. People are suffering from hunger and hardship. They have no jobs and they have no food...no land. The only way they can fill their empty stomachs is by stealing. Nobody wanted to move here. But if you ask questions dressed like a Chinese, they won't dare to tell you the truth. They will only have good things to say because we live in terror...Its just like living through the Cultural Revolution. Everybody is so depressed, they look awful, their faces have become pale, and their eyes are sunken. Everyone is afraid of speaking the truth. I could be arrested tomorrow if they knew what I've just said."

Mr. President, recently the Chinese authorities announced that in the next five years 73,000 Tibetan nomads will be moved in the Gannan (Tib: Kanlho) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), a region where Tibetans were in the forefront of the Spring Uprising on the Tibetan Plateau.

Given this alarming development in the Land of Snows, we urge the Special Rapporteur to closely monitor the situation in Tibet, including by seeking a fact-finding mission to ascertain the fate Tibetans evicted from their ancestral lands.

I thank you, Mr. President.