

# OceaniaHR

A Grassroots NGO Movement  
For the Promotion & Protection of  
Global Human Rights in the Pacific

Aloha, I am Joshua Cooper a lecturer at the University of Hawaii. FAIRA and OceaniaHR are pleased to participate in the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review process. It is in this historic session that the human rights situation in Oceania – the liquid continent – is being part of the global dialogue in this new body.

## **FRANCE: Focusing Specifically on Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific**

France is one of the birthplaces of human rights inspiring people around the planet to aspire toward the values enshrined in declarations written in Paris in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. France also has ratified the core human rights instruments and institutions of the UN. One area of concern is that the special mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council do not have an open invitation to visit Tahiti and Kanaky.

Would France be willing to issue a standing open invitation for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People to visit Tahiti and Kanaky? Also, how does France plan to implement the recently adopted UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP).

France should issue a standing invitation for the UN special rapporteurs to be able to visit Tahiti and Kanaky.

The indigenous peoples of Oceania are pleased that France has stopped nuclear testing in the Pacific. It is imperative that France fulfill its promises to the Tahitian workers in Moruroa and Fangataufa. One important part of this promise is the releasing of the “fiches de sante” (health records) of the workers so they can continue their treatments to secure the basic right to health.

As a country that believes in the right to health, would France please release the “fiches de sante” to the employees that worked in the nuclear testing sites of Moruroa and Fangataufa?

In Kanaky (New Caledonia), the issue of land rights in general and specifically in relation to impact on right to health and environment is an imminent issue. In the past and currently at the Goro Nickel mining project, the pollution from the mining is impacting the indigenous Kanaky living in their historic homeland since time immemorial.

Would France assist the Kanaky to ensure the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the UN DRIP in relation to current and any future mining projects in Kanaky?

France ensure the rule of law and the specific articles dealing with land rights in Kanaky to ensure the protection of the indigenous peoples living on their lands and also to ensure the right to health and a clean environment.

The people of Tahiti are very interested in learning more about human rights. There are very little opportunities for the people of Tahiti to learn about their basic rights and fundamental freedoms. If they do not know their rights, they cannot realize their rights.

Would France be willing to work with NGOs in the region to sponsor trainings, seminars and workshops in Oceania to enrich the dialogue of human rights in the Pacific?

France should collaborate with regional governmental and non-governmental organizations to sponsor a training for how NGOs can access the UN Human Rights mechanisms such as the charter and treaty bodies. France would also sponsor a seminar on Human Rights in Oceania to bring together advocates for human rights in the region.

Thank you for your consideration on these important issues in Oceania  
We thank France for her future cooperation for the indigenous peoples of the Pacific.