

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations,
CH - 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Sir:

It was an honor to meet you at the side event during the 30th Human Rights Council meeting in September. Your report to the HRC was very good. All people have the right to know if they are living near a dangerous situation.

The purpose of this complaint and report is to ask for your help to expose and help ameliorate a very dangerous situation regarding radioactive pollution in North America caused by more than 15,000 abandoned Uranium mines.

In mining lore in England and the United States, the underground miners took little canaries (birds) in small cages into the mines with them. As poisonous gases increased in the mines, the canaries breathing in the gases would either become unconscious and pass out, or die. The miners would know to leave the mine for their own safety.

The Sioux Nation is only a little miners' canary trying to awaken the people of the world to the hazards of radioactive pollution as detailed in the attached report. As the miner's canary, we are also trying to wake up the millions of Americans who are being exposed as well. The larger exposure to the world is through the agricultural and other products that are being exported. Are they being tested for radioactive pollution? This is what I mentioned during my intervention at the HRC meeting in Sept., 2015.

Thank you for your consideration of this complaint. As the miners' canary, my nation is experiencing many health problems caused by the radioactive pollution. As my people die from the highest cancer rates in the USA, this is genocide.

We are an ancient and distinct nation with our own language, culture, and values. Other Indigenous nations also experiencing similar effects include the Navajo, Pueblo, Havasupai, Shoshone, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Spokane and Colville to name a few.

Your assistance in studying and exposing these hazardous waste situations in the United States is vital for the survival of my nation and other first nations of North America. It is also vital for the health of millions of other people in the United States and the world.

If there is any further information you need, please let me know and I will gladly comply. My email address is cwhiteface@gmail.com .

We look forward to your continued excellent work for the human right to life and good health for the people of the world.

Sincerely,

Zumila Wobaga (aka Charmaine White Face), Spokesperson

cc: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN Environment Programs Chemicals & Waste
Special Rapporteur on Water
Special Rapporteur on Health
Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples
Secretariat, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Chairperson, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
International Committee on the Indians of the Americas
North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Organization of American States
Amnesty International
Human Rights Watch
Physicians for Social Responsibility

**Report to the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of hazardous substances and wastes
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Uranium contamination of the Northern Great Plains of the United States of America

Geographic Area

The geographic area of this complaint is the Northern Great Plains in the northern, middle geographic area of the United States (U.S.). This same area includes the Fort Laramie Treaty territory of 1868, a treaty protected territory set aside for the people of the Great Sioux Nation. [See Figure 1.]

Who is the alleged victim(s) (individual(s), community, group, etc.):

This complaint is being sent on behalf of the Sioux Nation, an Indigenous nation of approximately 90,000 people. However, all of the people residing in this area are also alleged victims as they are also being affected by the radioactive pollution. For the Sioux Nation, this is certain genocide as the majority of the Sioux people live in western South Dakota on four of the largest American Indian Reservations in the U.S. More than 25,000 Sioux people also live in surrounding cities and towns in western South Dakota and the southern portion of North Dakota.

The Sioux Nation is an ancient, Indigenous nation that at one time covered nearly half of the North American continent. During the influx and forceful occupation by European-American colonizers, the Sioux Nation signed many treaties with France, England, and finally the United States. The final treaty with the United States, the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 contained a provision for a land base that was a small area in which the Sioux nation could continue to survive. Article 2 of the Treaty states that the area shown in Fig. 1. would be for “the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation” of the Sioux nation. However, with the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874, the U.S. government allowed miners and settlers into the area.

