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**We help tribal peoples defend
their lives, protect their lands and
determine their own futures.**

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

December 15, 2010

Re: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Dear Mr President,

Survival International calls upon you and your government to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a matter of urgency. Since Canada adopted the Declaration last month, the United States is now the only country in the world to oppose it formally.

The Declaration sets a benchmark against which the treatment of tribal peoples can be judged. It is an important instrument in eradicating abuse of tribal peoples, but the United States risks undermining these hard-won and vital rights.

As you know, the Department of State has been leading a review of the Declaration since April this year. No doubt you have received many meaningful submissions from indigenous organizations and other interested parties.

I urge you to conclude the review and adopt the Declaration as a priority, in recognition of the historic and continuing injustices meted out to tribal peoples around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Tess Thackara,
Director, Survival International USA

**Survival International USA is a
501c3 nonprofit organization.**

**Survival International:
Founded 1969.
Right Livelihood Award 1989.**

Registered office as above.