



NEWS RELEASE
Thursday, August 12, 2010

Vice Speaker Cruz Introduces Resolution 420-30 (LS) to Support the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Rights of Indigenous Chamorro People

Vice Speaker Cruz introduced Resolution 420-30 (LS) to support the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration is an international human rights document that recognizes the world's indigenous peoples under international law. The Declaration is a significant tool toward eliminating human rights violations against over 370 million indigenous people worldwide.

Resolution 420-30 (LS) fully supports the rights of indigenous Chamorro people as the intended beneficiaries of the Declaration's provisions. In light of the military buildup, Resolution 420-30 (LS) asserts the buildup's effect is to imperil the self-determination rights of the Chamorro people, to reduce their voting power due to drastic colonial population increase, and reduce them to a minority in their ancestral homeland. Resolution 420-30 (LS) states the adverse impacts of the military buildup from the possibility of land condemnation to the eradication of 70 acres of coral reef, the desecration of 3,500-year-old burial sites, and over-tapping of Guam's water system.

In Resolution 420-30 (LS), Cruz supports H. Res. 1551 introduced by Representative Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, of American Samoa, to urge the United States to promote respect for the full application of the Declaration's provisions. Resolution 420-30 (LS) calls upon President Obama to support H. Res. 1551, to sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to halt a military buildup that may result in the ethnocide of the indigenous Chamorro people of Guam.

- 30 -

For more information, contact the Office of Vice Speaker Cruz at 477-2520/1.