

Economic life of The Cham Ethnic Group in central Viet Nam

Human Rights Council
Forum on Minority Issues
"Minorities and effective participation in economic life"
Geneva, December 14 - 15, 2010

. RECOMMENDATION:⁷

Madam Chair,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The International Office of Champa is an NGO whose aim is to defend the interests for the Cham minority and to preserve their identity.

Viet Nam has 54 ethnic groups including the Cham ethnic minority who are the descendant of the ancient, kingdom of Champa in central Viet Nam. Today, their population remains about 130,000 people. The Cham minority are full fledged citizens of Viet Nam. They have the right to participate in economic development.

Viet Nam is classified as the first country in the world, that implemented a policy to eradicate the poverty which no one denies. However, the Cham minority remains below the poverty line.

In order to solve this economic issue, The International Office of Champa exercises its mission to propose the following recommendations:

1. .

Before 1975, the Cham minority possessed a territory reserved to economic activities of this ethnic. The abolition of this status had significant impacts on the social economic development of the Cham minority.

2. We are asking the Vietnamese government to restore this status in compliance with the United Nations declaration on the Right of The Indigenous people in 2006. This will ensure the sustainability economy of the Cham,, ethnic minority.

Before 1975, the Cham minority benefited the affirmative action policy allowing their integration into the society. We are asking the Vietnamese government to reinstate this affirmative action policy. This will increase the Cham representation in all level of government agencies and provide access to all level of educations.

3. .

The nationalization of the land is the prerogative of the state but it cannot be implemented without recognizing the fundatmental rights of the people in compliance with the United Nation resolution in 1960.

We are asking the Vietnamese government to consider a fair and just compensation for the private land owned by the ethnic Cham that has been nationalized after 1975.

4.

The poverty of the Cham minority caused by 5 factors: precariousness, inequality, exclusion, indebtedness, and population displacement.

We are asking the Vietnamese government to consider the issues of minority poverty to be the national priority.

5. .

Today, the rural Cham is facing a spate of crimes and misdemeanors caused by high unemployment and no social protection from the government.

We are asking the Vietnamese government to develop an urgent plan to prevent the rural banditry in order to create a favorable conditions for the Cham minority to develop economic activities.